

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, April 24, 2007

The special meeting of the City Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Butt, Sandhu, Lopez, Marquez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Thurmond and Rogers.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item. The city clerk read a proclamation recognizing national Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Mayor McLaughlin thanked Community Violence Solutions and their work with the Rape Crisis Center and all groups and individuals helping to reduce and eliminate sexual assault in our society.

STUDY SESSION

In the matter to review the report prepared by Chief Chris Magnus concerning violence reduction strategies that are being implemented in the Police Department. Chief Chris Magnus gave an overview of the item. He introduced the following staff members involved in achieving the goals: Ed Medina, Captain Alec Griffin, Michelle Milam, Kevin Martin, and Larry Lewis. His report included a PowerPoint presentation which covered the following nine key points: (1) COMPSTAT Program, computerized statistics of crime activities, etc.; (2) Turning up the Heat, includes stepping up enforcement related to guns, drugs, and quality of life issues; (3) Candid Camera, includes implementation of smart cameras; (4) Empowering Residents, includes neighborhood watch groups; (5) Traffic, includes conducting more DUI, seatbelt usage, drivers license checkpoints, and red light cameras; (6) Improved Reports, includes report writing and investigative training for offices; (7) Tips and Rewards, includes assuring all residents know how to call in crime tips and information; (8) Expert Help, includes local regional state and national collaboration around violence and crime reduction efforts; and (9) Invest in Youth, includes truancy enforcement efforts and increased involvement with the school district. Following discussion, Mayor McLaughlin thanked Chief Magnus and staff for their efforts and the updated report to the Council.

In the matter to review and provide direction to staff regarding short-term actions to provide accessible restrooms facilities in City parks. Tony Norris, Parks Landscaping Superintendent, gave an overview of the item and introduced Debbie Landstoff, Chair of Parks Committee and Park and Recreation Commissioner, who gave a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included the current conditions, short-term response, long-term options, and recap of recommendations. Current conditions include: (1) seven parks with closed and inoperable facilities; (2) three parks with functional restrooms: all

in the Marina Bay area; (3) City-provided portable facilities in Marina Bay Park; (4) user-provided facilities for sports leagues and special events; and (5) no restroom facilities in all other parks. The recommendations for short-term response include: (1) contract for portable toilets; (2) provide security for the portables; (3) recommend more user contracts; and (4) remove unsafe permanent structures. The recommendations for long-term options include: (1) construct permanent restroom facilities; (2) encourage user-contracted portable toilets; (3) hire non-sworn Park Rangers; (4) ensure security, maintenance, and cleaning for city-provided facilities; (5) improve ordinance and signage; and (6) involve the community. A recap of recommendations included: implement a short-term response with portable toilets and contracted safety and maintenance services and work toward a long term solution which would include permanent facilities, park rangers, and enforceable park rules. The following individuals spoke on this matter: Myrtle Braxton-Ellington and Mel Davis. Following discussion a motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin, to refer the item to the city manager to prepare costs analysis and funding recommendations for short-term responses and recommendations for long-term solutions. A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes to have staff come back immediately validating the budget required for the implementation of the short term solutions beginning July 1, 2007, and on a later date come back with recommendations for funding for only two of the long-term options which includes a Park Ranger in the July budget and a time frame of when the improved ordinance would come back. The substitute motion failed for lack of a second. The original motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m., to meet again on May 1, 2007.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor