

May 19, 2006

**To:** Honorable Mayor Irma L. Anderson  
Members of the City Council

**From:** Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee

**SUBJECT:** SUMMARY  
Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee  
Thursday, May 18, 2006 @ 10:43a.m.

**Present:** Members Bates, McLaughlin and Rogers

**Absent:** Chair Marquez

**Approve staffs recommendation to make Medical Marijuana Dispensaries a non-permitted use in the City of Richmond**

- Based upon discussion with various law enforcement agencies, Richard Mitchell, Planning Director, stated that at this time the current ordinance should not be amended. Currently, the City has no tools for determining what is or is not being sold.
- Under Federal Law any use of marijuana is illegal.
- Chief Magnus stated that establishments that sell medical marijuana would create a negative impact on the neighborhood and the City should not go forward with granting the use of these establishments. The monitoring aspect of these establishments is very difficult. In May 2005 the medical marijuana establishment currently on Macdonald reported theft of cash and an unknown quantity of marijuana. There have also been numerous calls reported regarding the Hilltop location and a surveillance camera was used to monitor the area and it was concluded that this was a problem.
- Anna Matheson, Legal Counsel San Francisco Field Representative, DEA, stated that under the Controlled Substances Act, the possession and distribution of Marijuana is prohibited under federal law irrespective of any state law. There is currently no medical value associated with marijuana.

**OUTCOME:**

On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Rogers recommended to the City Council that this matter be referred to the General Plan Update process.

**Review & Discuss the Richmond “camping” ordinance and direct staff to prepare amendments to the ordinance requiring that office enforcing the “no camping” rules inform violators of where there is available shelter as an alternative**

- Councilmember Bates asked the City Attorney to review the legality of the City of Richmond’s ordinance.
- Currently, the City does not arrest those homeless persons who are contacted for illegal camping.
- Councilmember McLaughlin suggested that the ordinance be repealed or amended.
- Councilmember Bates stated that the homeless issue is a County matter.

**OUTCOME:**

On motion of Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin recommended to the full City Council that the City Attorney draft amendments to the current ordinance to include that the camping ordinance include language stipulating that the officer making contact determine if there is an available space at a shelter and provide transportation. The vote was 2-1, with Councilmember Bates voting “no”.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.