

March 18, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
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, March 18, at 10:09 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates, Councilmember Ritterman & Bates

Absent: None

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

Discuss & consider denying an appeal by Kanri, LLC of fines imposed for administrative citations issued for property located at 10879 San Pablo Avenue and UPHOLD upholding the decision of the Hearing Officer reducing the total fines due from the appellant to \$3,750.

- Tim Higaes gave an overview of the matter. The owner of the property was issued several administrative citations for failure to comply with the Building Officials *Notice and Order to Repair or Demolish* the fire-damaged structure on this site from October 2005 to December 2009. On October 29, 2009, the owner protested the citations at an administrative hearing. The Hearing Officer reduced the total fines imposed from \$43,750 to \$3,750. The owners appealed the decision of the hearing officer and is requesting that the Public Safety Committee dismiss all citations and reduce the fines to \$0. Property Owner Athan Magganas stated that he was not the owner at the time of the fire. He also stated that he had complied with the City's demands and had submitted plans for the property in a timely manner and also requested a demolition permit, which took a very long time to receive. Police Chief Magnus spoke on this item. A motion by Councilmember Viramontes for property owner to pay the first fine of \$1,250 died for lack of a second.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Vice Mayor Ritterman, seconded by Chair Bates upheld the hearing officer's decision to impose the \$3,750 fine with Councilmember Viramontes abstaining.

Public hearing regarding medical marijuana dispensaries.

- City Attorney Mary Renfro gave an overview of the item. The following individuals gave comments: Leland Hunt, Bill Koziol, Jeremy Mayfield, Kirk Wood, Ray Smith, Mark Goodnow, John Clay, Corky Booze, Dale Gieringer, Jason Newell, Larry Thomas, Wil Velasquez, Ryan Baker, Armando Soto, Daniel Costa, Lisa Hirschhorn, Angele O'Daniel, Matthew Surrence, Robert Mitchell, and Jennifer Bird.

OUTCOME:

Chair Bates referred comments and organizations to city staff. There will be a study session in April 2010.

Received a report on the status of ongoing projects in the Pullman neighborhood that are directly related to crime prevention, public safety issues, and road and sidewalk improvements.

- Engineer Steve Tam gave an overview of the item. Chief Magnus, Naomi Williams, Corky Booze, and Jackie Thompson spoke on this item. Ms. Williams stated that the International Hotel is a historical building and needs repair.

OUTCOME:

The Public Safety Committee requested that the Engineering Department send a letter to Pullman residents, property owners, and neighborhood council advising them of the City's findings. Chair Bates stated that the staff would continue to work with citizens to solve issues.

Withdrew from the agenda the matter to receive a report from the Police Department regarding the effectiveness of the Camera Surveillance Program.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER: recommending adoption of an ordinance that makes it unlawful, with certain exceptions, for any minor subject to compulsory education to be in or upon any public street, highway, road, alley, park, playground, or other public ground, public place, place of amusement, eating establishment, or vacant lot 30 minutes after school commences until 30 minutes before school concludes on days when said minor's school is in session.

- Police Chief Magnus gave an overview of the item. Corky Booze and Jackie Thompson spoke on this item. Jackie requested committee consider stores near public schools, specifically 37th Street and Cutting Boulevard.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Vice Mayor Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes include school district by unanimous vote.

RECEIVE: an oral report from Richmond Police Department relative to recent ticketing of residents for parking across the sidewalk.

- Police Chief Magnus gave an overview of the item. Jackie Thompson spoke on this item. She recommended that staff notice the neighborhood to recognize narrow streets

CONSIDER recommending approval of a contract with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office for the dedicated services of a Deputy District Attorney who would specifically be assigned to handle Richmond gun crime cases. This two-year contract would be for the period starting April 5, 2010, through April 4, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$290,000.00 (or \$145,000.00 a year).

- Chief Magnus gave an overview of the item.

OUTCOME:

The Public Safety Committee recommended the item to the full Council on motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Chair Bates by unanimous vote.

Withdrew from the agenda the matter to discuss and direct staff regarding illegal parking and trash dumping in North Richmond).

DISCUSS and direct staff regarding traffic concerns near 26th Street and Downer Avenue in the vicinity of Grant Elementary School and blight concerns in the North and East Neighborhood.

- Steve Tam gave an overview of the item. Felix Hunziker expressed his concerns regarding the traffic concerns near Downer. He stated that he collected 77 signatures on Downer Avenue that support a three-way stop sign at 26th and Downer. The Public Safety Committee directed staff to administratively go out and access the situation and work with the neighbors; and those issues that are not expensive to go ahead and respond. Jim Jenkins and Corky Booze gave comments.

OUTCOME:

On motion of vice Mayor Ritterman, seconded by Chair Bates recommended engineering staff install a stop sign; and staff to work with the North and East Neighborhood Council by unanimous vote.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregory Cantrell requested that the Public Safety Committee look into supporting bingo nights increasing the days of operation to seven.

Jackie Thompson stated that a Public Safety Meeting that was supposed to take place at Friendship Manor and never happened. She also expressed concern that the helicopter used by the Fire Department and lands at the Fire Training Facility shakes the Friendship Manor building and also the fumes from the propeller fill the building.

Tony Martin of American Legions encouraged the Public Safety Committee to support extending bingo to seven days. He stated that the Grand Opening was April 1, 2010.

Corky Booze spoke regarding a town-hall meeting in Parchester Village. He also stated that there are rats on atlas road and requested that the city take a look at the holes near the fence.

Gonzalo Rucobo spoke in support of the American Legion's Bingo Hall.

By consensus of the Public Safety Committee referred the issue of amending an ordinance to modify the days of operation for the American Legion's Bingo Hall to seven to the full Council for the March 23, 2010, meeting if possible.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(Seal)

Approved:

Mayor