

July 19, 2013

**To:** Honorable Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and Members of the City Council

**From:** Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee

**SUBJECT:** SUMMARY of the Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee, Thursday, July 18, 2013, at 10:09 a.m.

**Present:** Chair Bates, Councilmembers Boozé and Myrick

**Absent:** None

1. Update report regarding concerns of excessive water runoff from the Greenway at the property located at 41st Street at Ohio Avenue. Mr. Yeung stated that there is a small mound behind the house at the back of the greenway that may have caused some of the flow that is supposed to go around the lot to get into her back yard. The mound was removed by the Public Works Department personnel to allow appropriate flow of the water. Andy Yueng, Civil Engineer, provided the report.

***OUTCOME: A motion by Vice Mayor Boozé, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, the matter was continued to the September 19, 2013, Public Safety Committee meeting, in order to obtain a report from the Risk Manager to assure that the mold problem in the home has been remediated.***

2. Councilmember Bates gave an overview of the recommendation of approval of the installation of four-way stop signs at nine intersections in the North and East and Belding/Woods Neighborhoods. Deputy City Clerk, Ursula De Loa, read the following letter into the record: *Dear Council Members Booze, Bates, and Myrick: I've lived on Esmond Avenue for over 30 years, and during that time there have been many, many parents of growing children on my street who have asked for more stop signs on the street between 23rd Street and San Pablo Avenue. It is a long stretch of street, and has frequent speeders. In fact, you may recall that a wheelchair-bound resident was struck and killed by a hit-and-run speeder on Esmond only a few years back. Other residents on other streets in my neighborhood have had similar longstanding concerns about public safety in the absence of badly needed stop signs. I'd pretty much given up hope of the Esmond Avenue residents' voices ever being heard on this issue. But I hear that now nine new stop signs have been proposed, including a couple on my street. They are: 24th and Esmond, 24th and McBryde, 28th and Roosevelt, 32nd and Esmond, 34th and Roosevelt, 36th and McBryde, 15th and Coalinga, 15th and Visalia, 17th and Visalia. As a longtime resident--and as someone who knows she speaks for many others in our neighborhood--I ask you to do everything you can to have*

*these stop signs put in place. Our public safety is worth it. Sincerely, Kate Gilpin Monday, July 15th, 2013. Supported by N and E residents Steve Seskin, Ellen Seskin, Felix Hunziker, Melanie Myers, Rich Brabham, Roger Fahr, Janice Mignone, Auna Longpre, Laurel Eber, Erica Smith, Joel Koosed, Craig Niebaur, Sarah Stanke, Evan Smith.*

Steven Tam, Senior Civil Engineer, stated that all the requested stop signs will be installed in approximately 3 weeks.

Steve Seskin and Jackie Thompson gave comments.

***OUTCOME: A motion by Vice Mayor Boozé, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, recommended approval of all requested stop signs including an additional one on 35<sup>th</sup> Street and Clinton Avenue.***

3. Discuss Richmond Municipal Code 11.78 Repair, Storage and Parking of Motor Vehicles in Residential Areas and consider recommending an amendment to Section 11.78.20 relative to storage of said vehicles.

***OUTCOME: Vice Mayor Boozé requested that this item be continued to the September 19, 2013, Public Safety Committee meeting to allow for additional input and research.***

4. Receive a report on the productivity of the FlashCAM Systems. Code Enforcement Manager, Tim Higaes and Captain Mark Gagan provided an update report. The City currently has two Flash Cams deployed in the worst illegal dumping hot spots. The cameras hold up to 800 photos but staff reviews and deletes images on an as needed basis. There has been an immediate decrease of illegal dumping activity at these locations. There are also six Flash Cams deployed in the North Richmond Mitigation area. Two of those cameras are located within our city limits. These cameras are maintained by the Contra Costa County Environmental Services department and the Contra Costa County Sheriff. These cameras have been deployed for over a year and based on information obtained from the county, have prevented 28 incidents of illegal dumping. There has been a 90% reduction in illegal dumping at the locations where the Flash Cams have been deployed.

***OUTCOME: An update report will be provided on the progress and movement of the flash cams in the City and the status on the camera located at the skate park in Nicholl Park at the September 19, 2013, Public Safety Committee meeting.***

5. Appeal by Charles and Jiarmin Zhou, owners of property located at 5711 Amend Road, of Administrative Citation issued for failure to comply with Richmond's public nuisance code Richmond Municipal Code 9.22.090 (3) (H) and 15.04.810.037. Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Higaes and Code Enforcement Officer, Nicole Ewing, provided the report. A Notice of Violation and Demand to Abate was mailed on March 28, 2013 by first class mail with a compliance date of April 8, 2013. A follow up inspection was conducted on April 10, 2013. The

property owners failed to abate the violations and the property was still in violation. An Administrative Citation was issued and mailed on April 10, 2013 by first class mail. Property owner Charles Zhou, stated that he no longer lived at the property and that his mail was being forwarded to his new address in Walnut Creek which caused a delay in receiving mail. He also stated he received the Notice of Violation and Demand to Abate after the compliance date. On April 23, 2013, a Hearing Appeal and fine deposit was received by the Code Enforcement Unit. On April 30, 2013, a follow up inspection was conducted and it was determined that the property owners had brought the property into compliance. On May 23, 2013, an administrative hearing was and it was determined that the City followed all notice requirements and the fine of \$500 was upheld by the hearing officer. On June 14, 2013, a Request for Appeal of Hearing Officer's Decision was received by the Code Enforcement Unit.

***OUTCOME: A motion made by Vice Mayor Boozé, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, approved the appeal by Mr. Zhou and directed staff to correct the process in the ordinance that does not allow for a hearing to be cancelled even if the property owner has abated the issue prior to the scheduled hearing.***

#### **OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.