

October 21, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
Members of the City Council

From: Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee

SUBJECT: SUMMARY
Meeting of the Public Safety and Public Services Standing Committee
Thursday, October 20, 2011, at 10:11 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates and Councilmember Boozé

Absent: Councilmember Ritterman

Consider recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution designating the City of Richmond as a participating jurisdiction in and authorizing the adoption of the Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan (CCCHMP) and accepting Volume 1 and the City's portion of Volume 2 of the CCCHMP.

Planning Director, Richard Mitchell, and Planner, Kieron Slaughter gave an overview of the matter.

A motion by Councilmember Boozé, seconded by Councilmember Bates, recommended the item to the full City Council.

Study Session to discuss and direct staff regarding traffic concerns, street lights and other community matters relative to the Southside neighborhood.

City Engineer, Edric Kwan gave an overview of the issues presented by the Southside Improvement Group (SIG): (Mr. Kwan's responses to each item are in parenthesis)

1. Signal light needed at the intersection of South 37th and Center Streets. The SIG was advised that funding was available for this project in 2008. However, the funds were diverted to another area. (No funding is available currently and a \$350,000 has been applied for. The data collected does not support a signal light at this location).

2. Improvement of the pedestrian crosswalks at the intersections of South 34th Street, Stege Avenue and Cutting Blvd. The SIG suggested that flashing lights and signage be installed at the crosswalk. (Will work with neighborhood to re-evaluate).

3. A pedestrian overpass at the improvement of the railroad crossing at Carlson and Cutting. (Will continue to try to obtain grant funding. There has been opposition for an underpass or overpass at this location due to a very high pressure Kinder Morgan gas line which runs underground and would be very

costly to re-route).

4. Resurfacing of the upper side of Cutting Blvd. (This area will be re-surfaced in 2013 between Kennedy High School and Interstate 80).

5. Resurfacing of Ohio and Florida from Carlson Blvd. to South 37th Street (This area is not currently on the paving list).

6. Curb cuts on Potrero Ave. from S. 50th to Carlson Ave. (Need to follow Americans with Disabilities Act plans and criteria and there is currently no funding for all requested curb cuts).

7. The Southside Improvement Group Plus One wants to go on record opposing (1) Cutting Blvd. being reduced from four lanes to two lanes and (2) no installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Carlson Blvd. at Cutting Blvd. near the railroad crossing. (Councilmember Boozé asked staff to research what other cities currently have roundabouts installed).

8. The illumination of street lights is very dim. (Staff has identified \$16 million worth of street light improvements needed throughout the city and is working with the Master Plan to install series lighting and replace current lighting with LED lights. Staff is trying to obtain additional funding for the lighting needs).

The following individuals gave comments: Myrtle Braxton, Naomi Williams, Jackie Thompson, Harold Johnson, James Oakley, and Texanita Bluitt.

The City does not have enough money to address all of the issues asked for by the SIG and Councilmember Boozé will convene a meeting with the neighborhood group to discuss these issues further.

Discuss and direct staff regarding establishing checkpoints throughout the City of Richmond.

Councilmember Boozé gave an overview of the matter and stated that the checkpoints need to be done on a regular basis. Police Chief, Chris Magnus stated that per court ruling; only DUI checkpoints can be conducted and the next one is planned in the next 30 days. There were 3 DUI checkpoints last year. The police department doesn't have enough funding to be able to conduct a lot of checkpoints throughout the year.

The following individuals gave comments: Apolonio Morales, Jovana Vasquez, Roberto Reyes, and Eduardo Martinez.

4. Discuss and direct staff regarding strategies to strengthen gun control.

Councilmember Bates gave an overview of the item. Chief Magnus stated that the city works with various jurisdictions and uses the CompStat program to help identify where gun crimes have occurred in order to focus on these areas. The city does not have funding to participate in a gun buy back program.

Councilmember Bates requested that the Chief report back regarding the Office Of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) not cooperating with the police department regarding a recent violent incident involving some members of ONS staff.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

_____ Gorettha Johnson expressed concern over the lack of street lighting along the Richmond Parkway.

Jackie Thompson stated that the rescue helicopter lands too close to the fence near Friendship Manor and the fumes are bothersome to the residents. Ms. Thompson also stated that there are gunshots heard often in the area of Cutting Boulevard between Carlson , 37th Street, and Stege Avenue on a consistent basis.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.