

December 26, 2007

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, December 20, 2007, at 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chair Marquez, Members Sandhu, Thurmond and Vice Chair Bates.

Absent: None

Receive a status report regarding the WEST NET Drug and Narcotic Operations Program

- Deputy Chief Ed Medina stated that the police chief decided to contribute three officers to the WESTNET (the West County Narcotics Enforcement Team). Some of the benefits include access to training and other technical resources available through the State Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), which manages WESTNET; a full-time lieutenant with extensive narcotics experience who directs and supervises WESTNET.
- So far this year, WESTNET has generated 134 cases. 73 cases took place in the City of Richmond. 135 arrests were made during this time period, 60% of which occurred in Richmond.
- Jim McMillan expressed concerns regarding neighborhood activities and requested that an incident in his neighborhood be investigated.

Discuss & consider recommending approval of the installation of two-hour parking at 15th Street north of Macdonald Avenue, Nevin Avenue, east of Marina Way, and the east curbside at Marina Way between Macdonald Avenue and Barrett Avenue, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. except Sundays and Holidays

- Rich Davidson, City Engineer stated that MetroWalk residents are experiencing problems with long term parking along Marina Way, Nevin Way, and 15th Street. Some of the units on Marina Way are live/work units. A survey was conducted of the residents regarding the approval of two hour parking and possible permit parking. The following people spoke on the matter: Carolyn Sherry, Anthony Colbert, Karen Colbert, Nathalio Gray, and Kieron Slaughter.

OUTCOME:

Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond forwarded this matter to the next City Council meeting with the recommendation that the two-hour parking zone proceed as recommended by the MetroWalk residents and the possibility of a permit process be referred to a committee to be formed with the Police Department, Redevelopment Agency, Metro-Walk residents and staff.

Discussion regarding a proposal from Omega Pacific Electric Company on street lighting in the City of Richmond

- Mr. Todd Lewis, Omega Pacific and Mr. Marshall Dunbar, Lighting Systems gave a demonstration of a new LED lamp innovation proposed for the City of Richmond. This new technology is 53% less costly to operate.

OUTCOME:

Vice Mayor Bates recommended that this be referred to the full City Council and recommend that test sites be identified in the City for installation of the LED light fixtures on a trial basis. Councilmember Sandhu requested that a report be prepared when this matter is discussed before the City Council regarding the lighting requirements needed for the cameras that will be installed in the City also.

Discussion regarding complaints from neighbors regarding loitering and traffic near the West County Community Mental Health Center located on 25th Street

- Many neighbors have complained about drug transactions, public urination, loitering, prostitution and homelessness in the area. Many efforts have been made to curtail the problems, including speaking with the owner of the boarding house in the area, but the problems persist.

OUTCOME:

Vice Mayor Bates requested that this matter be referred to Deputy Police Chief Medina and the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Discuss complaints from neighbors regarding the excessive noise from St. Cornelius Church located at 201 28th Street

- Councilmember Marquez stated that the Police Department, priest, and community members are working together to resolve the issues of noise.

Discuss options to mitigate abatement concerns on the 300 block of Pacific Avenue

- Councilmember Marquez read portions of the letter sent by the City's building inspector which indicated to the homeowner that numerous complaints have been

received regarding construction materials, debris, and the deteriorating condition of the roadway and that the permits have expired. The City has requested that the owner renew permits, address the concerns immediately and write a work plan regarding the project to be submitted to the City's Building Department.

Discuss & consider recommending to the City Council approval of the reimbursement of funeral service expenses for Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley to IAFF Local 188

- Local 188 provided \$12,832 for the usage of the Paramount Theater, \$5,000 for the caterer and \$738.73 for late charges associated with the memorial service for Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley who died in the line of duty. The total reimbursement request is \$18,570.73.
- The Fire Department was informed by the Finance Department that there was no fund earmarked for such expenditure.
- Mary Renfro, City Attorney's Office, stated that in order for the City to be able to pay the expenses, there should be an MOU that requires the Police or Fire Department to pay funeral expenses under certain circumstances. The City should have a policy that is generally applicable. If it is shown that historically the City has paid for certain funeral expenses, in other instances, a portion of the expenses may be reimbursable. However, the department should have a line item dedicated for such an expense.
- Chair Marquez stated that the City has paid for many funerals over the years at the Civic Auditorium of current and former employees.

OUTCOME:

Chair Marquez, seconded by Vice Mayor Bates referred this matter to the full City Council for discussion and policy decision.

Discuss & consider recommending authorizing the Executive Director of the Housing Authority to execute a contract with the security firm OSS International, Inc. to provide security services for Nevin Plaza and Hacienda, which are Richmond Housing Authority Public Housing senior residential properties, from November 1, 2007, through October 31, 2008, with a City option to extend the term for an additional year, at a cost of \$295,300 annually

- Tim Jones, Housing Authority Director, stated that this matter was before the City Council on November 2007 and was rejected and the Council directed sending it out to bid again. The three issues that need to be addressed are the composition of the evaluation panel, the possibility of using armed guards, and the exclusion of Friendship Manor in the bid process.

OUTCOME:

This matter was held over to the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee who requested a copy of the modified RFP. The committee asked for a copy of the current contract with DP Security in order to clarify if the contract has expired.

Discuss & consider recommending to the City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board the adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of an Operation and Maintenance Agreement by and between DTSC, the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and the City of Richmond – (Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency) Steve Duran 307-8140.

- Steve Duran, Community & Economic Development Director, stated that the purpose of the DTSC monitoring agreement is to document sites that have been cleaned up in Marina Bay and assigns responsibility to the Redevelopment Agency through December 31, 2009.
- Kyle Flores, PES Environmental stated that there are eight areas in Marina Bay that are encapsulated and being monitored under the agreement. The areas have material enclosed and covered. Primarily, the substances are motor oil, grease, or lead and are not mobile. Part of the remedy requires ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the cap, which is done on a continuous basis.

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu to continue to monitor the sites and perform the required maintenance and forward the matter to the full City Council. Councilmember Thurmond requested that this matter be held over for 60 days and once the 5 year monitoring report/plan is completed, return for additional discussion at the Public Safety Committee meeting on February 2008.

Discuss & consider policy issues and policy implementation strategies to achieve affordable housing policy goals

- Patrick Lynch, Housing Director, stated that a review of inclusionary housing and housing in-lieu fees will be conducted. Staff is seeking input on potential changes intended to increase the number of moderate or low-income housing units built and to also increase the geographic distribution of moderate and low-income units throughout the City. Staff will evaluate revision options, analyze impacts and seek additional input from the public, the Planning Commission and the City Council.

OUTCOME:

This matter will return to the Public Safety Committee for an update in 120 days.

Discuss & direct staff to study how to provide funding for first responders' home purchases and staff to research the feasibility of a workforce housing program for public safety employees and teachers working in and for the City of Richmond. (This item was referred to the Public Safety Committee by the City Council at their meeting of 12/11/07).

- Councilmember Sandhu stated that in case of a disaster, it would be very beneficial to have first responders, i.e. police and fire personnel to live with the City due to the possibility of those that may live outside the City not being able to get here and suggested that the City may assist these individuals with a first time buyer incentive program loan or a down payment toward the purchase of a home in the City of Richmond.
- Councilmember Thurmond also requested that the incentive be directed not only toward police and fire personnel, but also be extended to attract teachers to the City.

OUTCOME:

Patrick Lynch, Housing Director, stated that he will incorporate the committee members' suggestions and return to the Public Safety Committee in 90 days with options to consider. A motion was made by Councilmember Thurmond, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, to direct staff to bring back a proposal on how the proposed housing program can be established with financing options for first responders and other public safety personnel and workforce housing for teachers. The motion also included the formation of a workgroup involving Councilmember Sandhu and members of the police, fire, finance and housing departments.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public speakers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.