

May 23, 2008

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, May 22, 2008, at 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates, Vice Mayor Marquez, (arrived at 10:16 a.m.),
Councilmember Sandhu, and Councilmember Thurmond, (arrived at 11:11
a.m.)

Absent: None

Discuss & consider recommending the development and implementation of a strategic street lighting program in an effort to reduce crime in the City of Richmond

- Todd Lewis, Omega Pacific Electrical Supply, stated that his company specializes in street lighting and there is a new LED fixture that will be available in August for a cost of approximately \$400 each and has a life expectancy of about 100,000 hours.
- There will be a new test area site once the new LED light fixtures are available in August. Rich Davidson, City Engineer, stated there is a \$500,000 allocation in the capital improvement budget per year for the next three years to phase in new light fixtures. The Park Plaza neighborhood requested test lighting be installed in a two block radius on Ohio Avenue and Cutting Boulevard.

OUTCOME:

This matter will return to the Public Safety Committee at a future date.

Discuss & consider a report from Chief Chris Magnus regarding police check point stops

- Sgt. Andre Hill stated that the legal requirements before a roadblock checkpoint can be conducted are that the checkpoint location has to be approved at the command level; a predetermined mathematical formula must be used to determine which cars are stopped. There must be advance notice of the planned checkpoint general area via the local newspaper and there must be signage indicating there is a checkpoint ahead prior to reaching the checkpoint location.
- There were two DUI checkpoints, one at Barrett Avenue and Marina Way and one driver license checkpoint at Hilltop Drive at Shane Drive. There were 138 traffic

stops and there were 2,185 vehicles through the checkpoints. There were two arrests made, one outside warrant arrest and one recovered stolen vehicle.

- Chief Magnus stated that checkpoints are a significant deterrent to driving under the influence or without a license.

OUTCOME:

The Police Department will continue to conduct checkpoints in various parts of the City with the assistance of State funding also.

Discuss & consider directing staff to revisit the Richmond Municipal Code 10.08 Trimming, Pruning, Care, Planting, Removal and Moving of Trees, Shrubs or Plants and consider an amendment

- Chair Bates stated that large and overgrown City trees present a substantial public safety risk and the City should review the existing policy regarding the appropriate maintenance of large trees.
- Tony Norris, Parks & Landscaping Superintendant, stated that there is a very aggressive tree trimming program in the City and professional tree trimming companies are hired to maintain the larger trees.
- Chair Bates stated that the large Eucalyptus trees in Nichol Park pose a safety hazard to those attending and using the park. Pine trees also pose a hazard and nuisance because the roots lift sidewalks and shed needles. Mr. Norris indicated that Eucalyptus trees are identified as a problem weed in City of Richmond's Municipal Code. A complete upgrade of Chapter 10.08 of the Municipal Code, which deals with management of large City trees, including recommendations for dealing with pine trees, as well as other plant material, are currently, being conducted.
- Corky Booze gave comments regarding assisting homeowners, especially seniors, with tree related issues.

OUTCOME:

This matter will return to a future Public Safety Committee once the revised ordinance is complete. Councilmember Marquez asked Mr. Norris to check a tree located on the corner of 20th Street and Dunn Avenue, which has lifted the sidewalk.

Discuss & consider directing staff to place portable lavatories in the area of 3rd and 5th streets at Macdonald Avenue

- Chair Bates stated that due to the closure and renovation of Nevin Park there is a need for bathroom facilities in the area.
- Tony Norris, Parks & Landscaping Superintendant, stated that there were portable

toilets in the park when it was still open and there are bathrooms available at the Nevin Community Center during their normal hours. There is no room, nor funding for placement of portable toilets at this time.

- Corky Booze stated that it is necessary to provide portable toilets in Nevin Park to avoid the public urination and defecation that has taken place since the park's closure.
- Otheree Christian, Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council President, stated that the community does not want portable toilets in the area. This will encourage people to continue to "hang out" in the area and participate in illegal activities.
- Anthony Allen, Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council Vice-President, stated that he is against placement of portable toilets in the area. There are loitering issues already and does not want to accommodate and encourage persons to continue to loiter by providing portable toilets. Also, the leadership in the neighborhood needs to be contacted when issues such as this arise.

OUTCOME:

No action will be taken.

Discuss & consider directing staff to revisit Richmond Municipal Code 11.90 Loitering for Drug Activities and consider amendment to address panhandling and loitering

- Allwyn Brown, Police Department, stated that panhandling and loitering in shopping centers is difficult to enforce because it happens quickly and is not directly viewed by officers. The assistance of private security officers and better lighting in the area has been strongly recommended to help in curtailing this problem, especially in the FoodsCo shopping center.
- Police Officers are instructed to observe these activities as part of their daily patrols through the City. A warning is given to the solicitor that if observed again they will be arrested.

Update regarding a Request For Proposal to solicit security services for the Housing Authority's Public Housing Senior Sites

- Tim Jones, Housing Authority Director, stated that the current RFP has been modified per the prior recommendations from the Public Safety Committee. For FY 2008-2009, Housing Authority's are being mandated that HUD's operating subsidy and the rent revenues for a housing development must meet the operating costs for that development, therefore the security contract for Nevin and Hacienda will not be in effect until July 1, 2008 due to budgeting issues.
- Chair Bates stated that the security contracts should be executed immediately, even if the General Fund must cover the cost.

OUTCOME:

The matter of the members selected for the RFP interview and selection panel will return to the Finance Committee in June.

Discuss & consider recommending installation of two (2) Speed Control Undulations at the 1500 block of Merced Street

- Rich Davidson, City Engineer, stated that the Engineering Department has completed its review of the request from the neighborhood and decided it meets all the necessary criteria for installation.

OUTCOME:

This item will be forwarded to the full City Council for approval.

Update on the approved street undulations on Costa Avenue

- Rich Davidson, City Engineer, stated that installation of speed undulations on Costa Avenue has already begun.

Discuss & consider strategic and operational plans to address issues of crime and violence

- Devonne Boggan, Office of Neighborhood Safety, (ONS), stated that there is on going work with the parole board and PACT meetings attended on a monthly basis. ONS is working with between four and seven individuals identified by parole as needing assistance with transitioning back to Richmond. ONS continues to Work with the Richmond Project, which takes place inside San Quentin State Prison.
- Neighborhood Change Agents are working inside Helms Elementary, Adams Elementary, Richmond High, and Kennedy High with students that have been identified by teachers, counselors, and principals as being high risk. The Change Agents are also concentrating their efforts in the area of West of 23rd Street and North of Ohio Avenue to North Richmond.
- On Saturday, June 14th, the Office of Neighborhood Safety will be sponsoring its second Youth Sports Camp at Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Center.
- The City of Richmond has been chosen as one of the thirteen cities in the League of California Cities Thirteen City Gang Initiative. On May 23rd there will be a first of a series of joint regional outreach worker trainings with individuals from Oakland, Richmond and San Francisco.
- Councilmember Sandhu asked who is accountable to administer and oversee the proper use of the grants received. Mr. Boggan replied that the ONS is responsible for the oversight of the grants. The State Office of Emergency Services will give

a training session to grant recipients that will detail reporting requirements.

- Councilmember Thurmond asked if a regional violence prevention effort, such as the East Bay Public Safety Corridor Partnership, may be re-established. Mr. Boggan replied that more interactions with cities need to be made in this regard. The California Cities Thirteen City Gang Initiative, which involves the cities of Oakland, San Francisco can be the start of a similar regional effort.
- Chair Bates suggested that Mr. Boggan make contact with Lillie Mae Jones regarding a program she previously coordinated where a judge was assigned to sit and review cases. Students participated in the process and gained an understanding of the juvenile justice system.

Approve summary notes of the Public Safety Standing Committee held on April 14, 2008

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Councilmember Sandhu, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, approved the summary notes.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

Corky Booze gave comments regarding the 16-year old who was shot at the ARCO station on Cutting Boulevard and another two shot at the same time. No outreach workers from the Office of Neighborhood Safety contacted the families of the victims. Mr. Booze also requested that an item regarding regulation of the sale of food items without a health permit or a City peddler's license be placed on the next Public Safety Committee agenda.

FUTURE ITEMS:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.