

April 24, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor Irma L. Anderson
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, April 20, 10:43a.m.

Present: Chair Marquez and Members Bates, McLaughlin and Rogers

Absent: None

Review response by the Police Department regarding proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Ordinance

- Richard Mitchell, Planning Director, stated that the planning Commission developed a map showing C-3 sites where marijuana dispensaries may be located. The police chief has not been able to provide any written feedback pertaining to this matter. The ordinance requires that the dispensaries obtain a conditional use permit and only be allowed in the C-3 Commercial Zoning District. The locations are also limited to minimum distance standards from sensitive uses such as parks and elementary schools, daycares, churches, and residences.
- Chair asked if the 38th and Macdonald shop is zoned for the medical dispensary use. Richard Mitchell stated that that particular shop is out of the permitted zone.
- Councilmember McLaughlin asked if a location is already in operation and has had no reported problems, if that business may be grandfathered in or be assisted in relocation. Richard Mitchell replied that the location would have to be notified that it is a nonconforming use and would have to address the Council to grant her an entitlement to be able to operate.
- Councilmember Rogers asked how State and Federal Law may affect this marijuana dispensary ordinance in the City of Richmond and may expose the City to lawsuits. Trish Aljoe, Attorney replied that at this point it is still unclear.
- Cleveland Brown stated he will work with the Planning Department to come back to the Committee with a recommendation. Dispatch data can be gathered to indicate if problems have been reported at the existing medical marijuana dispensary on Macdonald and 38th Street.

OUTCOME:

This matter will return to the Public Safety Committee agenda on May 18, 2006 in order to obtain additional information from the Police and Planning Departments.

Discuss and recommend the placement of stop signs at 26th Street and Andrade Avenue

- Rich Davidson, City Engineer, stated that a traffic consultant was hired to survey the intersection and it was determined that a two-way stop is warranted on 26th Street.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Bates, forwarded to the full City Council for the meeting of May 16, 2006.

Discuss & Recommend to direct staff to convene and host a regional working meeting of Bay Area cities and counties, including law enforcement, elected and public officials, and policy experts to establish regional strategies and outcome measures for dealing with drugs and guns and other issues contributing to Bay Area crime

- Deputy City Clerk, Ursula De Loa read the background information provided by Councilmember Thurmond. This item seeks to promote increased regional cooperation in reducing violence, particularly as it relates to dealing with drugs and illegal guns and their impact on crime and homicides in Richmond and the Bay Area.
- Invitees can include Bay Area City Mayors, City Councilmembers, Police Chiefs, School district officials, foundation and non-profit organization representatives, clergy, business leaders, policy groups, and representatives from county, state, and federal government.
- Corporate sponsorships could be pursued to cover food and space costs, i.e. use of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium or City Council Chamber.
- Councilmember Bates thinks that this is not a *regional* problem, but rather an internal City of Richmond issue and other cities may not be interested in participating.
- Councilmember McLaughlin suggested that this issue be handled by the future Violence Prevention Coordinator.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Bates forwarded to the full City Council for the meeting of May 16, 2006. Councilmember Rogers suggested that Councilmember Thurmond look for a group to convene the regional meeting.

Future Items:

- Update on the 23rd Street and Bissell Avenue traffic signals
- Consider placement of a 4-way stop sign on 37th Street and Center Avenue

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.