

July 9, 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, June 21, 2007, at 9:09 a.m.

Present: Chair Marquez, Members Sandhu, and Thurmond. (Vice Chair Bates arrived later).

Absent: Vice Chair Bates.

This item was heard last. Vice Chair Bates arrived. Receive a presentation contained in the final report by The Mentoring Center (Office of Violence Prevention Development Team) concerning the establishment of the Office of Neighborhood Safety in the City Manager's Department and consider recommendations to the City Council.

- Bill Lindsay, City Manager, gave an overview of the item. Elements of the Mentoring Center's recommendations have been incorporated into the proposed fiscal year 2007/2008 budget. He stated that the scope of their work was to identify services and programs necessary to successfully combat violent crimes in the community, to look at outcome and measurement criteria for antiviolence programs, develop an inventory of pertinent services being offered and look at ways they could be leveraged to reduce violent crimes in the community, and complete a gap analysis that presents untapped opportunity for effective violence prevention and intervention activity.
- DeVone Boggan and Greg Hodge of the Mentoring Center gave a PowerPoint presentation of their recommendations.
- Chair Marquez asked, at the State level, would this program be able to look into the rehabilitation of prisoners being released back into the same community?
- DeVone Boggan answered, yes; it is certainly something that can be implemented into the program.
- Councilmember Sandhu asked about the implementation of police officers in their recommendations in the phase 1 budget.
- DeVone Boggan answered the focus was primarily on how to create capacity within the City and community to foster and facilitate better programmatic opportunities.
- Vice Chair Bates stated that when the issues surrounding our recreational programs are resolved, crime will be reduced. He also stated that duplicate crime prevention programs should be coordinated and combined to be more effective.
- The city manager stated that he and his department are very supportive of this program. The program brings into the city capabilities that are missing; it focuses on measuring root causes of violent crimes.
- Councilmember Thurmond asked what the time frame was in hiring for the positions and implementing the program.

- The city manager answered that the time table is mid-August for hiring. The director will be involved in selecting staff for the office.

OUTCOME:

The Public Safety Committee received the report on the Office of Neighborhood Safety and recommended to the City Council.

Discuss and consider recommending that the City Council approve a new Automatic Aid Agreement between the City of Richmond, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, the City of Pinole, and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District.

- Fire Chief Banks gave an overview of the item.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember Sandhu, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, approved and recommended a new Automatic Aid Agreement to the City Council for the July 10, 2007, meeting, by the unanimous vote of the Committee.

Discuss and recommend that the City Council introduces an ordinance amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 7.68 to authorize the Chief of Police to regulate the operation of taxicabs within the City of Richmond and to establish the maximum number of taxicabs permitted to operate within the City.

- Assistant Attorney, Everett Jenkins, gave an overview of the item.
- Thurmond asked how the Police Department will handle the additional duties.
- Chief Magnus stated that one of the code enforcement positions will focus on the regulation of alarms and taxi cabs.
- Lisa Hammon, Transportation Advisory Committee, introduced new language to add to the ordinance that would prohibit taxi cab drivers from asking for pre-payment in advance. She also addressed safety equipment and Para transit.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember Thurmond, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, recommended to the City Council by the unanimous vote of the Committee.

Receive a report on the Beautification Committee and discussion on proposed community forum.

- Councilmember Thurmond gave an overview of the item.
- Chief Magnus suggested combining the town hall meeting with a presentation from a gentleman that has done extensive work with graffiti abatement in the City of San Jose. He is willing to make a presentation. Councilmember Thurmond was open to the suggestion.

OUTCOME:

Councilmember Thurmond will forward this item on the City Council Agenda for a full discussion.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.