

March 21, 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, March 20, 2008, at 10:08 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Member Sandhu

Absent: Councilmember Thurmond

**Discuss & consider recommending changes to Richmond Municipal Code 9.22
“Public Nuisances” and Richmond Municipal Code 2.62 “Administrative Citations”**

- Police Chief Chris Magnus stated that the proposed amendment would give appellants additional opportunities to appeal the merits of Code Enforcement administrative citations and allow the full Council or Council Committee to hear evidence presented by the appellant and City staff regarding citations.
- The current procedure provides recipients of Code Enforcement administrative citations with an appeal process that requires the recipients to request an appeal within 14 days from the date of the administrative citation. The hearing is heard by an impartial private attorney paid for by the City. Recommended new procedures would allow the appellant to request a case review with the Code Enforcement Supervisor within 10 days of the date of the administrative citation and the appellant could then request an appeal with the Administrative Hearing Officer within 14 days after the Code Enforcement Supervisor’s determination.
- Richmond resident Crystal Wilkins detailed her unpleasant experience with code enforcement citations she received.

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu to recommend staffs’ revisions to administrative citations proposed by staff and recommend that the appellant have the right to request a second appeal to the Public Safety Committee.

Report regarding police involved vehicle accidents in the last six months

- Police Chief Magnus stated that there were 27 at fault motor vehicle accidents involving officers of the police department during the period of January 1, 2007-February 28, 2008. The average age of officers involved in the accidents is 31 years of age. Officers involved in the 20 at fault accidents during 2007 had an average of 13 years of service.
- One of the processes underway currently, in the police department, is disciplinary and counseling given to those officers involved in accidents often. Training will also be an essential component to minimizing the occurrence of accidents.
- Vice Mayor Marquez suggested that officers receive hands on driving training tactics.

Discuss & consider recommending adoption of an ordinance amending Richmond Municipal Code 7.28 “Junkyard” pertaining to the payment by check to sellers of scrap metal and a two day waiting period for scrap metal recyclers

(This item was heldover to a future Public Safety Committee Meeting)

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

- Deborah Dias, Office of Neighborhood Safety, stated that the neighborhood change agents have been hired and are involved in training and field exercises. There is an active advisory committee now also. The California Gang Reduction Intervention and Prevention Program (CALGRIP) awarded the Office of Neighborhood Safety \$400,000, Neighborhood House of North Richmond received \$160,000 and the Employment & Training Department received \$400,000. The major components of the grant are school and street level outreach, crisis response team, life skills training, case management, transitional housing service referral, and employment.
- Chair Bates stated that Proposition 63 has allocated approximately \$7 million to Contra Costa County in dealing with mental health problems in the criminal justice system that currently is being underutilized.

Approve summary notes of the Public Safety Standing Committee held on February 21, 2008

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, approved the summary notes.

Chair Bates stated that he would like to schedule the next Public Safety committee meeting between 4/7 and 4/15 in order to have elected officials from Shimada, Japan in attendance.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

Naomi Williams gave comments regarding safety issues of the Cutting/Carlson Blvd. railroad crossing. This matter was referred to the City Manager and Public Works department for review.

Marsha Tomassi, member of the Pt. Richmond Business Association, gave comments regarding panhandling issues in Pt. Richmond and along Richmond Parkway. This matter was referred to the City Attorney's Office, City Manager, and Police Chief to draft an ordinance regarding panhandling.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.