

February 19, 2009

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, February 19, at 10:09 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates, Councilmembers Ritterman, and Councilmember Viramontes

Absent: None

Discuss the safety problems at the Nevin Center

- Billy Wydermyer stated there are ongoing problems communicating with the management regarding problems at the site. There have been several serious altercations with individuals that live in the building and visitors and nothing has been done.
- Michael Davenport stated that several incident reports are given to management (Kathleen Jones), yet there is nothing done about the incidents. There needs to be a way of enforcing rules. There are illegal tenants living in the apartment for over 14 consecutive days that are not on the lease. Management receives a copy of all visitors that come in and out of the building. From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. there is no security in the building.
- Police Chief Chris Magnus stated that Housing Authority Director Tim Jones was not aware that the item was on the agenda, but was on his way to discuss the item.
- Darlene Thomas stated that most incidents happen at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. before DP Security comes on duty. She stated that there are just a few individuals causing problems. There is a resident manager that lives on site.
- Housing Director Tim Jones spoke on the item. He stated that the Housing Advisory Commission discussed some of Mr. Wydermyer's concerns. Mr. Jones stated many of the issues that were brought forward must be handled with the proper protocol. He will handle administrative issues immediately. Security has been increased for the first week of each month.
- Councilmember Viramontes suggested that a mandatory Tenant Association Meeting be set up to address the issues. She requested that Mr. Jones come back to the Public Safety Committee with suggestions of how to set up a system of prevention to include how the Tenant Association will call for a mandatory meeting for all tenants to attend. Also to discuss appropriate living quarters for

the mentally challenged. Mr. Jones was directed to submit a designated housing plan. Councilmember Viramontes will look into ending visiting hours.

OUTCOME:

This item was referred to the Housing Authority Advisor Council for resolutions and report back to the Public Safety Committee.

Updated report regarding the Police Department and the West Contra Costa Unified School District Safety Program

- Chair Bates gave a review of the item. Police Captain Allwyn introduced Rick Ramos a professor at Contra Costa College chair of administrative justice who gave an updated report of the program. Professor Ramos handed out an e-mail he received of Union's demands.
- Councilmember Viramontes asked if Richmond Police were contracted to oversee the school program. Professor Ramos stated, unfortunately, no! The contract is to provide school resource officers. The School District remains in control and has its own union rules and requirements. Richmond Police Department has made a series of recommendations.
- Councilmember Viramontes asked it would be easier to put under own police department.
- Chief Magnus stated no problem, but the School District has to agree. Local One has said they are not going to agree that these people can be on campus.

OUTCOME:

Police Chief Chris Magnus, Councilmember Ritterman, Local One Union, and the School District to meet for resolution. Important to note that the contract should not affect what is already in place. The Public Safety Committee will follow-up on this item.

Updated report regarding police checkpoints

- Chief Magnus stated that there are no police checkpoints during winter months. Checkpoints will resume traffic activities in the spring. He stated that the Police Department is looking at ways to improve and exploring ways to provide opportunities for unlicensed drivers to have a licensed driver drive their car away as apposed to having the car impounded.
- Naomi Williams stated she fully supports the police checkpoints and would like to see surprise checkpoints administered more often.

OUTCOME:

No action will be taken.

Review of the Police Department's policy on the use of Tasers

- Police Captain Eugene McBride gave a review of the Taser Policy. He stated that in 2008 the Police Department revised their taser policy. Tasers are used to control violent or potentially violent people and to prevent injury to our officers and the public. Officers are required to give a warning before activating a taser. Tasers use is prohibited on people that are handcuffed, under age 12, and off-duty officers. Richmond has the most restricted policy in the Bay Area. Anytime a taser is utilized, a Use of Force Report must be issued and an investigation is conducted. Each taser has a built in memory to keep track of when it was used. The Major Incident Review Board reviewed every taser incident in 2008 to present. There were no reported significant injuries.
- Naomi Williams spoke on this item and stated that the Police Commission also looks at the policy and made modifications so that training is mandatory.

OUTCOME:

No action will be taken.

Discuss regarding the Close Circuit TV Program (CCTV)

- Police Chief Chris Magnus gave an overview of the item. He stated that all cameras are active. There is a Study Session scheduled for March 24, 2009, and he will give a full report, including success stories.
- Administrative Chief Janet Schneider stated that the cameras became operational in September 2008, and training is ongoing. She stated that the plan is for the Public Safety Committee or other Councilmembers to visit the viewing room for a demonstration of how the cameras operate. She also stated that staff is preparing costs statistics.

APPOINT the Public Safety Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes appointed Councilmember Bates as Chair and Councilmember Viramontes as Vice Chair by the unanimous vote of the Committee.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers for Public Comment.

FUTURE ITEMS:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.