

May 22, 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, May 3, 2007 at 10:31 a.m.

Present: Chair Marquez, Members Sandhu and Thurmond. Vice Chair Bates
arrived late. Member Thurmond left early.

Absent: None

Discuss and recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the city manager to sign a letter of intent to support the formation of the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS) governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for Contra Costa and Alameda Counties that includes one less city manager JPA board position and one more elected official JPA board position than originally proposed to the City Council on March 20, 2007.

- Fire Chief, Michael Banks, gave an overview of the item. He stated that back in march we had a study session regarding the East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS). The system is a two county system consisting of an inner operable system using a P25 infrastructure and P25 compliant radios. Upgrading to this system would facilitates joint operations, shares data and resources, improve efficiency and safety in fire fighting operations, and improve response into out of county areas as well as in county areas. P25 is open standard radio system. The City of Richmond's current system is a proprietary system, basically communicates within members of same system only. Costs involved require signing a letter of intent with the EBRCS and pay \$100 per radio. There are currently approximately 570 radios to upgrade at total costs of \$57,700 to move forward with letter of intent. Richmond is one of the only two cities in Contra Costa County that has not joined the EBRCS. Joining the EBRCS would be a costs savings of approximately 1 million as apposed to upgrading our current system alone.
- Member Thurmond asked what costs Richmond would incur.
- Chief Banks replied approximately 1.5 to 2.5 million dollars. The amount needed would also depend on grant money received as well.
- Chief of Police, Chris Magnus, stated over the past two years they have been upgrading the current radio communication system. The two county communication network is really a key add on in making sure we are not the only agency that cannot talk back and forth with other agencies. Any new equipment

purchased needs to be industry standard P25 compatible. The City will not be able to obtain federal dollars for upgrades unless they are part of the EBRCS network.

- Member Thurmond asked the Chief Magnus to supply comparable information.
- Member Sandhu asked how the system will work in case of a major disaster.
- Chief Banks replied the system will be set up to feed from other antennas in case of an emergency.

OUTCOME:

On motion of Councilmember Thurmond, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, referred the item to full Council with a statement that the Public Safety Committee supports the goals of inner operability and the goals of the JPA and that there be a staff report included that includes costs analysis of using our current system or new system.

Update on small business crime prevention programs (Richmond Reclamation Plant and other businesses).

- Vice Chair Bates gave an overview of the item.
- Fred Glureck, Plant Reclamation, talked about the continued break-ins and petty theft of materials at his business. He stated break-ins have been occurring one to two times a month for several years.
- Member Thurmond asked what advice he has received from the police department.
- Mr. Glureck replied that the police department has given them several suggestions. Lights, an alarm and fencing have been installed.
- Corky Booze stated he is having problems with graffiti and theft at his business.
- Simms Thompson stated his concern for the theft going on at the business. He stated small business need to install cameras as a security measure.
- Chief Magnus stated that the metal theft and graffiti is an ongoing problem that is not limited to the City of Richmond. We have an opportunity to work with our City Attorney office and other jurisdictions to look at a model ordinance that might be imposed regionally that puts tougher requirements for how individuals selling copper and metal items are tracked. He stated that a graffiti work group has been organized to look at ways to deal with it. He also stated that it is important that incidents of theft are reported to the police department.

Update by staff and others on possible strategies to improve lighting conditions in the City of Richmond.

- Vice Chair Bates gave an overview of the item.
- Rich Davidson, City Engineer, stated he will contact Todd Lewis to see a demonstration of the proposed LED lights. He also stated that PG&E has offered to demonstrate different types of lights by installing them in different locations, i.e., Harbor Way at MLK Community Center. He stated they are also putting

- together street light guidelines for developers to use.
- Simms Thompson stated there is bad lighting at the town houses on Carlson, and the lights are not working at the 9th and McDonald underpass.
 - Chair Marquez suggested that maybe the demonstration of lights could be installed at the town houses on Carlson instead of the MLK Center.
 - Corky Booze stated that there is bad lighting on Center Street.
 - Chair Marquez stated that he would prefer a demonstration light be installed at the 9th and McDonald underpass.

OUTCOME:

Rich Davidson will prepare a summary report for the full Council.

Presentation by BART Police Chief Gary Jee on criminal activity and security measures at the Richmond BART Station.

- Councilmember Sandhu gave an overview of the item and introduced BART Police Chief, Gary Jee, who gave a presentation. He stated BART Police have had a presence at the BART Stations since January 1973. The BART Police do not have fixed stations. Officers are assigned to a geographical area called a beat. There are overlapping patrols of officers throughout the BART line. There are no set patterns of police patrols of BART Stations. The police officers are aware of the problems at the Richmond BART Station. Officers are required to walk through the stations twice a day.
- Member Sandhu asked where officers are stationed.
- BART Police Chief replied, officers report to a substation at Del Norte Station. The number of officers covering the entire Richmond Line, 3 beats, varies. BART Police Chief, Jee, supplied statistics of crimes reported at the Richmond BART Station. He will supply statistical information for the El Cerrito Station as well. BART Police as well as Richmond Police will be stationed more frequently once the new Richmond BART substation is in place.
- Vice Chair Bates asked if AC Transit or Amtrak provided any security.
- Ed Medina, Deputy Police Chief, replied that the Sheriff's Department contracts several deputies to patrol the AC Transit Line. They also supply one deputy to the West end for AC Transit crimes.
- Chief Magnus stated he will meet with Chief Jee to get all the BART and Richmond Officers responsible for patrolling the area together to share data on crimes committed and to coordinate solutions. Chief Magnus will also speak with Captain Griffin and lieutenants and sergeants responsible for the area around the BART stations to increase the presence in terms of drive-through and walk-through.

OPEN FORUM

Vice Chair Bates asked that an additional item be added to the agendas in the future to give the Committee members a chance to agendaize items.

Naomi Williams thanked Michele Seville for having the mural on Ohio restored. She also mentioned that she requested that the City continue to put up fences from Broadway to Ohio. She asked for clarification of when changes to the Police Commission Application would go before the full City Council. Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, and Diane Holmes, City Clerk, stated that the change would most likely be handled administratively without going before the Council.

Simms Thompson stated the City Council should consider going on a tour at night to observe the overall safety of the City.

Corky Booze talked about the continued graffiti happening in the same places.

Chair Marquez stated that the next Public Safety Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.