

February 29, 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, February 21, 2008, at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Chair Bates, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Councilmembers Sandhu and
Thurmond

Absent: None

Discussion on light outages in the Marina area and efforts to discourage copper theft

- Supervisor John Gioia stated there has been a surge of copper wire thefts along the Bay Trail and Marina areas. Brigitte Bankay, Marina Bay resident, stated she does not feel safe walking along the trail due to the lack of lighting in the area.
- Detective Joe Silva, Property Section Supervisor, gave an overview of how copper wire thefts occur over the past year, local media have flyers have been sent to recyclers throughout the County.
- Vice Mayor Marquez stated that he is Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee of the National League of CA Cities and suggested that a resolution be proposed to the City Council that would require recyclers to take a picture of the person coming to sell metal and then have payment made to them via check. Once adopted by the City Council, the resolution can be presented to the League of California Cities and if the policy is approved then it can move forward to the Legislature for consideration to propose as a bill. Detective Silva suggested that the County Board of Supervisors also be involved.
- Yader Bermudez, Public Works Director, stated that since July 2007, the cost to the City for replacement of damages incurred due to wire theft has been \$423,000. The most affected areas have been the Richmond Parkway, Country Club Estates, Marina Bay Park and other City parks. Ralph Lloyd, Electrician, stated that many preventive measures are being explored, such as covering boxes with epoxy or asphalt to prevent future theft.

OUTCOME:

This matter will return, for an update and review of a draft ordinance, to the Public Safety Committee at the March 20, 2008.

Review & Consider recommending adoption of a draft resolution in support of initiating dialogue with Bay Area cities to formally explore re-establishing the East Bay Public Safety Corridor Partnership so that there is regional collaboration to reduce violence

- Councilmember Thurmond stated that on February 2, 2007, the City Council convened a special meeting of elected officials from Bay Area cities. The meetings focus was to examine and possibly re-initiate regional programs such as gun suppression, domestic violence prevention, and anti-truancy, which the East Bay Corridor Public Safety Partnership used in the late 1990's to reduce homicide and other violent crimes.
- A proposed allocation of \$50,000 is suggested as seed money to support forming of the collaborative and an example of the commitment that other jurisdictions may be expected to provide.
- The recommendation also includes directing staff to send a formal letter to all East Bay Cities, school boards, and County, State, elected officials to join a regional violence prevention collaborative and also directs staff to correspond with public agencies such as ABAG, the West County Mayors, local Police Chiefs and other stakeholders to request their support.

OUTCOME:

Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, made a motion to recommend this item to the full City Council for approval.

Discuss & Consider recommending approval of the 2008 EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) and approval of the 2008 Continuity of Government City Council Standby Officers Resolution

- Kathy Gerk, Emergency Services Manager, stated that according to State and Federal regulations, an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) should be revised every five years. Revisions to the 2008 EOP include compliance with all Federal and State regulations, National Incident Management System (NIMS), Presidential Homeland Security Declaration (HSPD) and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

OUTCOME:

Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, made a motion to

recommend this item to the full City Council with any changes that Councilmembers may have to their list of standby officers.

Status report regarding the contract between the City of Richmond and the District Attorney's Office including review of responsibilities of both parties

- Chief Chris Magnus stated that it has been a tremendous asset to have the collaboration of Derek Butts, Deputy District Attorney to assist the police department in many areas such as police report writing and helping police personnel improve their working knowledge of the law and criminal procedure. Mr. Butts has reviewed, assessed, and provided feedback for nearly 500 felony cases over the past year. Mr. Butts is cross trained to prosecute criminal cases at the federal and state level.
- Chief Magnus stated that police sergeants are currently attending mandatory training on what they are expected to do to better the quality of report writing and many other matters related to better the quality and efficiency of their work. Councilmember Thurmond suggested that there be a goal established to mark improvements and then report back to the Council on the department's accomplishments in improving deficiencies.

OUTCOME:

A motion was made by Councilmember Sandhu, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, recommended approval of the continuation of the contract between the City of Richmond and the District Attorney's Office.

Discussion regarding establishing a strategic plan on safety measures during City Council meetings at City Hall

- Chair Bates stated that the City of Richmond should consider establishing preventive measures concerning security at City facilities in light of the shooting that took place at the City Council meeting recently in Kirkland, Missouri. Some options are the use of metal detectors and surveillance cameras.
- Chief Magnus stated that usually the same officers attend the Council meetings in order to become familiar with attendees in order to note unusual behavior and anticipate trouble. There needs to be a formalized protocol for police involvement during meetings and potentially expand police presence at other public meetings. The limitation of public access during meetings to other areas of City Hall needs to be addressed. Written protocols and training should be conducted with employees on how to respond in an emergency.
- Chair Bates stated that the use of key cards by employees should be considered.

- Vice Mayor Marquez expressed concern over comments made about Councilmembers in an untrue and derogatory manner. Attorney Mary Renfro replied that as public officials there are some insults that officials have to endure.

OUTCOME:

This matter was referred to the police chief and city manager to return with policy recommendations.

Approve summary notes of the Public Safety Standing Committee held on January 17, 2008

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

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Future Public Safety Committee meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. The next Public Safety Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.