Needle Exchange Reforms

1. County tightening oversight of the exchange program, instituting a 1 – 1 needle exchange, with few medical exceptions. County staff report that in recent weeks the needle exchange has received more needles than it has dispensed.
2. Fewer needles reported found by City staff and volunteers along the Lower Levee, Depot Park and West Cliff Drive areas over the past few months. Potential causes may be the enhanced patrols of the Beach Area and shutting down of the needle exchange site near Ocean Street.
3. County developing an advisory body, consisting of health officials and law enforcement representatives, to help oversee the exchange program implementation.
4. County considering a pilot kiosk program for safe needle disposal at targeted locations in the County.
5. Drafting ordinance changes to require local pharmacies that dispense needles to collect needles. The city will encourage countywide adoption of these changes.

Police Staffing

1. City Council to consider a hiring bonus for new police officers.
2. City Council to consider increasing the number of community service officers and park rangers.
3. Nine trainee police officer applicants currently in background process.
4. Two lateral police officer applicants will soon be moving into the background process.

Campsite Cleanups and Additional Sanitation Facilities

1. Between Feb. 11th – Mar. 11th City staff and volunteers collected over 8 tons of refuse during campsites cleanup and illegal dumping pickup operations (to include 35 mattresses).
3. City Council approved additional $50,000 for March – June 2013 (remainder of fiscal year) to aid cleanup efforts.
4. City staff in development phase for a web app (potentially smartphone app) to improve reporting of illegal campsites, trash disposal, and needles.
5. Evaluating adding a temporary bathroom near the Gateway Center area and the River Levee
6. Cowell Beach Cave – plan to fill the cave in the coming weeks (Coastal Commission approval has been obtained).

Partnerships with Community Organizations for Cleanups

1. City staff partnering with Regional Transit Commission to improve coordination of railway cleanups.
2. Parks Department is coordinating with Santa Cruz Land Trust to better maintain Antonelli's Pond.

3. City staff in regular communication with Clean Team and other community groups to create more efficient and safe cleanups.
4. Measure E funds aiding Save Our Shores led cleanups of the Levee.

Cooperation with Regional Partners to Address Public Safety Issues

1. This is ongoing, including the County Gang Task Force and Drug Task Force operations.
2. Sheriff's Department provided incredible support to the City following the recent tragedy.
3. Much of the work related to this area will be conducted with the help of the Citizen Task Force.

Citizen Task Force to Address Public Safety Issues

1. Public Safety Task Force will investigate the underlying issues troubling our community, including drug abuse, drug related crime, etc., and provide independent recommendations to City Council within 6 months.
2. Task Force application period opens today. Those interested have until Wed., March 27 to complete the application. The Mayor will pick a well-balanced Task Force and will submit those appointments to the City Council for approval. The Task Force will likely convene in April. The Task Force application is available at www.cityofsantacruz.com/safetytaskforce.

Miscellaneous Safety Efforts

1. City in discussion with Coastal Commission to explore imposing curfew on Cowell Beach.
2. Lighting improvements made in the Cowell Beach and Municipal Wharf areas.
3. City staff (including police officers) met with the Homeless Services Center staff to discuss security improvements to their facilities.