



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 4/3/2013

AGENDA OF: 4/9/2013

DEPARTMENT: City Council

SUBJECT: Public Safety ad hoc Citizen Task Force (CN)

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to confirm the Mayor's selection of participants for the Public Safety Citizen Task Force, establish the scope and charge of the Task Force, and authorize the Mayor to directly appoint replacement participants if vacancies occur.

BACKGROUND: During its January 29, 2013 meeting City Council approved the formation of a six-month Ad Hoc Citizen Task Force to help address public safety issues and concerns affecting Santa Cruz.

The concept of developing a Task Force was brought forward in early 2013 when Santa Cruz was experiencing an increase in the number of illegally discarded needles being found in our parks, open spaces, beaches and neighborhoods. Santa Cruz residents, business owners, and students—community members of all political persuasions, backgrounds and demographics—wrote, called and emailed City Council about the need to address these issues which are impacting citizens' quality of life.

The Task Force is an important vehicle to better understand the problems facing our community and provide a platform for members of the community to work together to find common sense solutions.

The charge of the Task Force is to clearly define the underlying safety issues facing the City of Santa Cruz and present their findings and recommended solutions to City Council, utilizing quantitative and qualitative evidence and best practice research to support that work. The Task Force will be tasked with exploring the deep rooted issues affecting our public safety, including, but not limited to: drug abuse and treatment; drug related crimes; transients; inappropriate social behaviors; mental illness; gang activity, and the impacts our local justice system that is grappling with increased calls for service. These complex issues require deep thought and analysis, and most importantly, open minds and plenty of room for disagreement and collaboration. Ultimately, the Task Force will develop a report on these issues and provide recommended short-term and long-term actions to City Council to include programmatic, budgetary and policy-oriented solutions.

These solutions may be local and regional in scope and will be designed so that community groups, concerned residents and members of the local business community will have ample opportunity to participate in the dialogue and implementation of solutions.

City Council further directed the Mayor to select participants for the Public Safety Citizen Task Force (Task Force) in a manner that broadly represents the local community and to bring those selections back to City Council for approval.

City Staff developed an application for the Task Force, which was released to the general public on March 12. Upon closure of the application period on March 27, the City had received over 120 applications from interested community members.

DISCUSSION: The following City of Santa Cruz residents are recommended for the Task Force as they provide a well-balanced representation of our community, including members from public safety (past and present), local non-profits, schools, university and community groups:

Jeff Cole, Fire Captain, City of Mountain View
Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center
Renee Golder, Teacher, Santa Cruz City Schools
Jim Howes, Asst. Director Regional Occupational Program, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, (retired Santa Cruz Police Officer)
Rod Libbey, Executive Director, Janus of Santa Cruz
Danielle Long, Social Worker, Santa Cruz County
Kristin Long, Family Attorney (retired Asst. District Attorney)
Kris Reyes, Director of General Services & External Relations, Santa Cruz Seaside Company
Reyna Ruiz, Commission member, Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women
Steve Schlicht, Marketing Director, Ezonthei
Dennis Smith, Commission member, Santa Cruz Port District Commission, (retired Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Lieutenant)
Kim Stoner, Real Estate Appraiser and Consultant
Bernie Tershy, Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz
Deborah Tracy-Proulx, School Board Trustee, Santa Cruz City Schools
Patty Zoccoli, Business Co-Owner, Zoccoli's Deli

The Task Force will have 6 months following its first meeting to complete its work and present findings and recommendations to City Council. The Task Force meetings, which are open to the public for observation only, will convene in late April/early May. The Task Force shall select its own chair and vice chair and work internally to develop a feasible work plan and schedule, in collaboration with City staff, to accomplish its mission.

Staff from the City Manager's Office and other departments will provide support to the Task Force. Staff duties include establishing meeting locations, providing background information and research, coordinating guest speakers and other supporting duties.

FISCAL IMPACT: Approval of the recommendation has no fiscal impact.

Submitted by:
Hilary Bryant
Mayor

ATTACHMENTS: None.