



PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, May 29 2013

6:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

DRAFT MINUTES

I. Chair Reyes Call to Order

1. Chair Reyes opened the meeting to at 6:05 p.m. with a brief discussion about the meeting's flow. The TF agreed to hold substantive questions until after the City's presentation.

II. City Staff Presentation on Public Safety

1. Susie O'Hara introduced staff presenters including:
 - a. Eric Marlatt from Planning and Community Development
 - b. Mary Arman from Public Works
 - c. Mauro Garcia from Parks and Recreation
 - d. Jason Hajduk from Fire
 - e. Kevin Vogel and Steve Clark from the Police Dept.
 - f. City Manager Martin Bernal
2. Susie discussed the categorization of the critical safety issues and noted that the City presentation will be focused on the behaviors, activities and victimization that influence public safety. The root causes will not be discussed in detail.
3. Eric Marlatt discussed the role of Planning and Community Development in public safety. Salient points included:
 - a. With total budget around \$4.5M, about half is devoted to safety programs which include building permits, code enforcement and rental inspection.
 - b. Code enforcement is avenue typically used to eliminate drug houses. This can be a long process.
 - c. Code enforcement works on blighted areas of town, but most of the funding is designated to a small portion of the City with Federal grants.
 - d. Code enforcement is in triage mode.
 - e. Planning handles alcohol outlet permits, both low-risk and high-risk.
4. Mary Arman discussed the role of Public Works in public safety. Salient points included:
 - a. PW is largest Dept. in the City with an annual budget of \$45.5M (most Enterprise Fund).
 - b. Most critical public safety issues impacting PW include:
 1. Illegal camping, dumping
 2. Vandalism

3. Improvement to capital projects
4. Downtown garages and bathrooms
5. Campers and RV illegal dumping
6. Scavenging of recycling (estimated City loss of revenue of \$250,000/year)
7. Individuals sleeping in trash enclosures and bike lockers
5. Mauro Garcia discussed the role of Park and Recreating in public safety. Salient points included:
 - a. 10-15% of staff time is devoted to public safety
 - b. Most critical public safety issues impacting Parks and Rec include:
 1. Camping
 2. Vandalism
 3. Vegetation management
 4. Infrastructure repair
 5. Fencing
 6. Raking and sifting beaches
 7. Restroom management
 - c. Parks and Rec has increased security systems
 - d. Parks and Rec has removed 54 tons of refuse/debris since Oct. 2012 from parks, open spaces, beaches, etc.
6. Jason Hajduk discussed the role of the Fire Dept. in public safety. Salient points included:
 - a. 100% of Fire budget is devoted to public safety
 - b. Illegal camping attributed to at least 15% of wildland fires
 - c. 5% of EMS calls to 115 Coral Street in 2012
 - d. Many calls related to drugs and alcohol
 - e. Increased calls for service particularly in Beach area, San Lorenzo River levee and Downtown
 - f. Large impact on capacity of Fire to do routine training and proactive safety programs
7. Kevin Vogel discussed the role of the Police Dept. in public safety. Salient points included:
 - a. 100% of PD budget is devoted to public safety
 - b. Issues causing the largest impact to PD include:
 1. Crimes of violence
 2. Gangs
 3. Drugs
 4. Alcohol fueled violence
 5. Increase arrest rate
 6. Mental health issues
 7. Public nuisance behaviors
 8. Increase in transient population
 9. Lack of adequate judicial recourse for municipal code infractions
 10. Dept struggles to obtain optimal staffing
8. Martin Bernal gave closing remarks and discussed opportunities. Need for a community-based approach.

III. Task Force Question and Answer Period For Eric Marlatt

1. JEFF COLE - for Planning, do we have a definition for blighted commercial property? What is Planning able to do? Without RDA what are we able to do?
Answer –There is no blight definition for commercial properties without RDA.

Midas property most recent example. We have to be creative as code enforcement officers.

2. RENE GOLDER – With regard to churches and HSC, other shelters: are they subject to the same regulations as any other landlord, other code enforcement that can go on there and is the City liable? Answer - They are not subject, because they are not residential per se. Congressional act, cities and counties cannot overregulate churches. We cannot single them out as far as our regulations go. The HSC is on city property. We can enforce conditions there if need be.
3. KIM STONER – Regarding churches, is there a maximum numbers of RVs that are permitted at churches? Answer - 3. All vehicles must be registered. We send employees out to the Circle church on a regular basis. If the vehicle is on property is it different than parked on the street No camping exemptions when the RV is parked on the street.
4. REYNA RUIZ – Are the focus code enforcement areas similar to the RDA program? Answer – They are somewhat similar. Focus on residential per federal rules.
5. BERNIE TERSHY – Regarding prioritizing on code enforcement, do they work with police? Answer, yes we do. Storage facilities in the Harvey West area, issues for the Police Dept., code enforcement working with PD to come up with a comprehensive approach to deal with those properties. Can we rescind liquor license for the public good? Answer - ABC grants liquor licenses, planning deals with violations. We can do this through a public hearing process, but we must make findings (calls for service happening in the area).
6. KRISTIN LONG – Are there means to recoup costs of investigating and abating drug houses and other problem properties? Answer - yes. Title 4 of Muni Code, must go before an independent hearing officer however to determine amount and whether we are successful. The process does take a lot of resources (only go after the most egregious cases due to staff time).
7. STEVE SCHLICHT - How much revenue is collected by code enforcements for violations that they have to pay? Answer - not exact figures, it fluctuates...lien properties, never know when the money will come in. Never recoup our costs, maybe \$50K a year.
8. KRIS REYES – Regarding high risk alcohol, are there an appropriate number of liquor stores, citing oversight, how we relate to other cities? Answer - we have more outlets per capita, citing criteria is it standard? Answer - not sure if cities regulate like we do.

For Mary Arman

1. BERNIE TERSHY – Do we have statistics of illegal behavior how it compares to other cities? With regard to recycling loss, is there a mechanism to dedicate resources to PD to recoup those losses? Answer - not sure, do not know how we would figure that out. We have learned from other cities that are addressing the same problems. Going after scavenging would not be an efficient use of our time, we should address the problems behind it, transients and court issues. Kevin noted the fact that scavenging is an infraction, civil process, no accountability.
2. RENE GOLDER – Can we focus on the recycling facilities? Answer – There is a lot of interest in controlling these facilities (Costco and one near Fair). State code, require ID and verification, at the same time, exempt everyone for less than \$100. Redemption Centers have restrictions to keep the clean and free of camping.
3. REYNA RUIZ – Regarding illegal camping, post redevelopment. Who is the City entity for creation of affordable housing units? If they do not have housing,

where do they go? Answer - housing program in Economic Development, we have far less resources available. Nonetheless we leverage HUD and CDBG to fund affordable housing. State has housing assistance (rental assistance). Is there enough? Rents are relatively high here, long waiting list for affordable housing.

General Questions/Feedback

1. How do we compare to cities in terms of affordable housing.
2. DENNIS SMITH – Regarding infill development, increasing the population. Mitigate costs for developing larger housing developments? Answer - We have gone denser, though we are not sure if there is a connection between population and crime. Working with rental managers to address issues. Impact fees are paid by developers related to traffic and other impacts.
3. STEVE SCHLICHT – Regarding bathrooms, 24 hours, vandalism, remodels...is the City considering more 24 hour bathrooms to address defecation and urination? Answer - We have not had much success with public restrooms, with the exception of the remodels. City Council has asked us to look closely at this issue. Some areas it is difficult to place them (Pogonip, river levee).
4. CAROLYN COLEMAN – Regarding increase for calls for service, what is your sense of what is causing this: economic downturn, what else? Answer by Kevin - we have encouraged the community to call 9-1-1, that is probably driving a lot of this...dealing with a lot more issues related to homeless (42% of arrests related to self-identified homeless). Do not know what else is driving the increases.
5. KIM STONER – Regarding repeat offenders? What can be done to address repeat arrestees? There is no room in the jails for arrestees.
6. DEBORAH TRACY-PROULX – Do calls for service include emergency and non-emergency? Yes, also includes PD self-initiating calls.
7. JIM HOWES – Does reduction in social services playing a role? Answer - We provide more social services than most cities. A lot of folks we arrest are not interested in social services. In terms of AB109, definitely having a huge impact on PD.
8. ROD LIBBEY – Regarding other infractions, do we have data on AB109? Answer - Includes any violation of the muni code....regard to AB109, PD does not have data, it's a challenge with Probation, have yet to receive a comprehensive report from them.
9. DANIELLE LONG – Is the jail making room for arrestees? Answer - no room, no custody time.
10. CAROLYN COLEMAN – Can you link calls for service to the tourism industry? Fire - lots of behaviors dealing with drinking and drugs, definitely up in the summer. Deal with this issue year around.
11. KIM STONER - Party houses and student population create the same issues as the tourists around drinking and drugs.
12. RENE GOLDBERGER – What would happen if I got a muni code infraction ticket? What happens to with the civil process? Kevin - it will affect your credit rating. Why is the city not liable for HSC, what is the way to check on the people who go there? PD does not check for IDs for folks to obtain social services.
13. BERNIE TERSHY – If each Dept. had an additional budget, what would you do to increase public safety by department? Steve Clark - we can take advantage of technology. Initiate a law enforcement video access system.

- IV. June 26, 2013 and July 10, 2013 Areas of Focus-Chair Reyes will lead discussion on what issues should be studied for the two meetings following the June 12, 2013 Public Comment meeting.
1. Chair Reyes suggested having a County focused meeting at the June 26th meeting. The TF agreed.
 2. Chair Reyes suggested having meetings related to social service providers, gangs, drugs, etc.
 3. Chair Reyes requested that TF send questions to staff. Staff also will do outreach to get people aware of the public comment meeting, and arrange the County June 26th meeting.

Adjournment – Chair Reyes adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room.

The City of Santa Cruz does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the City Clerk's Department at 420-5030 in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance. The Cal-Relay system number: 1-800-735-2922.