

City Manager's Weekly Update

December 22, 2017

PLANNING

Cannabis Retail Licenses: This week, the cannabis retailer license selection panel reviewed all the cannabis retail license applications submitted between the designated time between December 5, 2017 and December 14, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Sixteen applications were received, and with only three licenses available, it was a highly competitive process and a difficult decision. The selection panel awarded licenses to three applicants, consistent with the Municipal Code procedures. The three entries awarded licenses were Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana(WAMM), West Cliff Wellness, and Reefside Health Center. Letters notifying the applicants of their status went out Wednesday, December 20th.

One of the proposed business locations is within the Coastal Zone, so they will be affected by the Coastal Commission's requisite and pending certification of the cannabis retail ordinance for those areas within the Coastal Zone. All three new cannabis retailers will need to complete an Administrative Use Permit process and get their State cannabis retailer license before they can commence operations.

In its discussion of the cannabis ordinance, the City Council indicated a desire to revisit the limitation on the number of cannabis retailer licenses in the next year or two. Should the Council approve additional opportunities for cannabis retail licenses, the City will advertise the availability and accept applications during a new application period.

PARKS AND RECREATION

San Lorenzo Park

The short-term homeless encampment at San Lorenzo Park is periodically closed for 24 hours for cleaning. Campers are required to leave the area in the morning. Parks and Ranger staff remove the trash and debris, fix the temporary fencing, and restripe the campsite lines prior to allowing reentry. On this occasion, camp sites were numbered and an inventory of who are occupying the sites was completed.



Star of the Sea Park

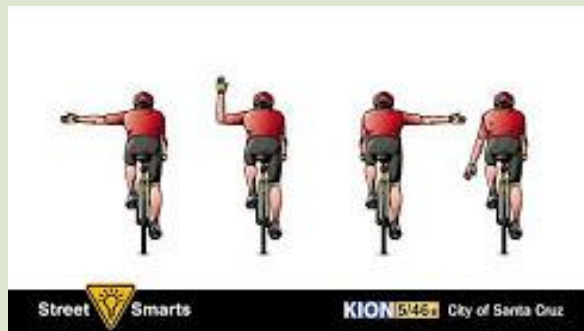
A fence is currently being installed at Star of the Sea Park to deter illegal activities. The City's Neighborhood Safety Team held a neighborhood meeting last year to hear from concerned residents about the recurring safety and security issues at the park. One of the suggestions received from the neighbors was to prevent access during the night.



PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Engineering/Community Relations

Pointers for cyclists to better share the road with drivers and maximize safety are the subject of our new Street Smarts [video](#) which is now airing on KION. The [Spanish](#) version is now playing on Telemundo.



We posted one new story in our City Beat Santa Cruz Waves column: [Less Stuff/More Peace: How To Reduce Holiday Waste and Stress](#)



Statistics support MavRik's Street Smarts admonition below to slow down. Speed is the leading cause of traffic collisions in Santa Cruz. Let's change this and create a safer community to live, work and play in. The long version of Mav's message, this week's Street Smarts safety tip, can be viewed [here](#) in English and Spanish.



Parking Services

A new pay station machine at the River-Front parking garage was damaged during a failed break-in/theft attempt on Saturday, December 16th around 1:30 AM. Video of the incident has been sent to SCPD for investigation. The equipment is unusable and will need to be replaced at a cost of \$43,000.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Mechanics are continuously working on maintaining various equipment throughout the facility. They've tackled replacing headers on our secondary cogeneration unit and performed a routine oil change on the barscreen equipment. Electricians and Operations teamed up to test an Automatic Transfer Switch, as part of verifying the reliability of the plant's electrical transmission lines. Testing this piece of equipment required placing various automatically controlled equipment in hand while the electricians did their part of redirecting power through the transfer switch.



Resource Recovery - Waste Reduction

Waste reduction staff partnered with Save Our Shores to present a program on our environmentally acceptable packaging ordinance with an emphasis on plastic straws and other small disposable items. The audience was the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. The group wanted to learn what is happening throughout our region to address plastic straws and other small disposable plastics.

Waste Reduction staff is working with a company called the Recyclist, to develop an online 'Ultimate Recycling Guide' for our Waste Reduction and Recycling web page. This dynamic, interactive guide will replace our old 'What do we do with all this STUFF?' guide - a 20 page PDF document. With newer small screen and mobile technology, the PDF format is outdated and difficult to keep up to date. The new guide will be launched in January, 2018.

Resource Recovery - Green Business

There have been five new businesses certified through the City's Green Business Program this month, including the City Manager's office. Congratulations and thanks for your commitment to green practices.

The Green Business Program is transitioning to the new and improving state wide website and data base. Everything should be completely changed over by the end of January, 2018.

<https://greenbusinessca.org/>

Operations

Public Works Streets Crews, PD and Parks staff are cooperating to clear and re-landscape a traffic median on Olive Street near Mission Street to mitigate illegal camping and drug activity. The area has been cleared of dense brush and trash. Following replacement of damaged curbs, boulders will be placed in the area and wood chip ground cover will be added.



Engineering

Measure H street paving continued with installation of preliminary striping (“cat-tracking”) on California St., Delaware St., Escalona St., Goss St., Market St., Natural Bridges Dr., and West Cliff Dr. This work is part of the 2017 Overlay Project and Fall 2016 Overlay Project. Both projects are expected to be completed by December 29th.

The Brookwood Drive Fire Access Road Repair Project continued with the installation of 4-ton rock and 15-pound quarry stone layers for the Rock Slope Protection (RSP).

