



CITY OF HAYWARD
AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 09/10/02
AGENDA ITEM _____
WORK SESSION ITEM WS 2

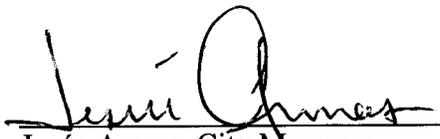
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: Project New Hope

In July, the Council received comments from residents, church officials, property owners and others regarding a shooting incident in the Forselles area. In the attached report, the Police Chief describes steps taken by the Police Department to address the problem, as well as additional steps that can be pursued on an on-going basis. With regard to the latter, further discussion seems appropriate prior to determining whether or not to pursue them. Consequently, tonight the Council is asked to receive the report, but defer any action until there is an opportunity to obtain feedback from the community.

I suggest that the Council consider holding a meeting at one of the schools (for example, Tyrrell) to make it convenient for the public to participate. Further, inasmuch as both the South Hayward Neighborhood Improvement Committee and the South Hayward Neighborhood Collaborative (SoHNC) are actively involved in various activities designed to improve the same general area, it would seem reasonable to invite either or both organizations to participate in the aforementioned community dialogue. These organizations are specifically noted as their membership includes a cross-section of the neighborhood, and both organizations represent an established framework by which neighborhood issues can be examined and addressed. By building on this foundation, it would avoid "reinventing the wheel." Accordingly, following the worksession, we propose to forward this agenda report to both organizations and to invite them to participate in the community meeting, once it is scheduled.

It is often mentioned that in addition to law enforcement measures, the City should consider creating meaningful alternatives for young people as a way of discouraging anti-social behavior. Thus, in addition to the items mentioned in the Police Chief 's report, I suggest that the Council consider authorizing staff to approach the Boys and Girls Club, the Eden Youth and Family Center and HARD to determine if these organizations can, working together, develop a single proposal to provide recreational and other activities for young people. These organizations are mentioned in light of the fact that each has facilities in the area, which facilities are in close proximity to one another. Further, by working with all three agencies, it avoids duplication and builds on the strengths of each entity to develop a more comprehensive

product or service. Assuming this approach is acceptable, a specific proposal can then be developed and presented to you for consideration.



Jesus Armas, City Manager

Attachment



CITY OF HAYWARD
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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Project New Hope

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on this report.

DISCUSSION:

During the last year, the Police Department has continued efforts to suppress violence in the South Hayward area. To accomplish this, it has been necessary to utilize resources from the Special Duty Unit, Patrol Bureau and Narcotics Bureau to exclusively address this area. Despite these efforts, increased violence in the Forselles area recently emerged. Gunshot incidents have been reported and a pattern of incident-retaliation occurred in July and resurfaced again in August. This type of activity is very similar to the drug problems recently experienced in the Vermont Plaza area and of the gang violence experienced early in 2001.

What the Police Department has Done:

- The Police Department assigned additional officers to the Forselles area on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day. Frequent foot patrols were deployed to increase police visibility. Overtime has been utilized to supplement the efforts provided by beat officers. Additionally, resources have been garnered from each division in the Department to supplement staffing in the Special Duty Unit, and the Narcotics Bureau has been directed to focus their efforts exclusively in the South Hayward area.
- A zero tolerance approach has been established pertaining to drug activity and criminal activity. Over 300 arrests have been made in this area over the last three months.
- The Police Department has held forums with neighborhood groups to discuss recent events.
- Three Community Collaboratives (Citizen Academy) were held in the Forselles/Shepherd/Tyrrell area during the last 18 months.
- Ongoing meetings have been held with the South Hayward Neighborhood Improvement Committee.

- A very successful multi-cultural "Spring Safety Fair" was held at Tyrrell School. This fair was organized and presented by the South Hayward Neighborhood Improvement Committee.
- Meetings have been initiated with a group of landlords, who are very interested in forming a "landlord association," that will work collaboratively to address common issues in the Forselles area.
- Efforts to form new Neighborhood Watch groups in this area have been ongoing; however, the development of active sustainable groups has been relatively unsuccessful in this neighborhood. This has been attributed to the high transience rate in this neighborhood, as well as a general safety concern that arises because of the nature of the problems in this neighborhood.
- Street lighting has recently been increased to the maximum allowable wattage along the entire block of Forselles Ave.
- Neighborhood cleanups have been conducted in the Tyrrell/Forselles area. The second annual cleanup, sponsored by the South Hayward Neighborhood Improvement Committee, is scheduled for October 26, 2002.

What Still Needs To Be Done:

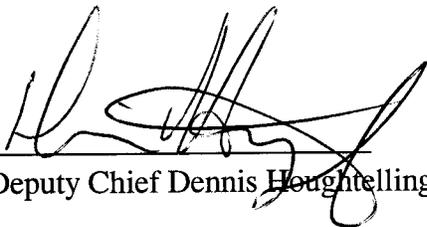
- It is imperative that high visibility patrols and enforcement continue in this area. Enforcement must be focused and sustained on a long-term basis.
- In the upcoming months, a "Street Level Narcotics Team" must be implemented. This type of team must be established to effectively enforce laws that pertain to those who buy drugs, as well as those who sell drugs at the street level.
- Community involvement is a key aspect of developing a police plan that will have a long lasting effect. We will continue to work closely with the South Hayward Neighborhood Improvement Committee, the new Landlord Association and the schools in the area. Additionally, attempts must continue to organize Neighborhood Watch groups in this area and to involve more citizens in problem solving efforts in their neighborhood. We will also continue to provide the Community Collaborative program in this area. New participants for this program will be aggressively recruited and community involvement will be strongly encouraged.
- Community leaders have expressed a desire to hold job fairs in this neighborhood. The Police Department will support this effort and participate in these events as much as possible.
- Environmental design changes in this area must be explored. Added lighting has helped; however, more must be done. Signs indicating "Drug Free Zones," should be installed throughout this neighborhood as soon as possible. Changes in the design of the roadway need to be considered to discourage drug trafficking. An all out effort needs to be made to provide a positive image change for this neighborhood.
- If feasible, a local ordinance should be considered that would allow officers to tow the vehicles used by those who are arrested for buying or selling drugs. This would be an effective deterrent to those who might be inclined to return to this area to continue illegal drug activity. Some cities are currently following this practice. Research will be conducted to determine how this can best be accomplished by the City of Hayward.

CONCLUSION:

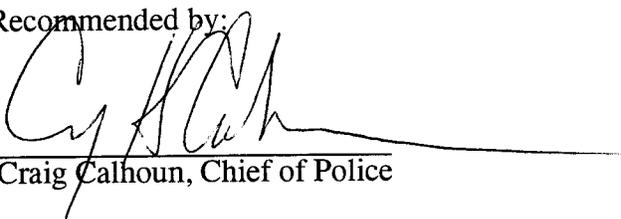
As mentioned in previous reports, the Department intends to employ the motor home as a mobile "police station" and to provide a positive presence in the neighborhoods. The motor home is undergoing repairs, which are expected to be completed by the end of the month. Once the repairs are completed, this vehicle will be deployed in this and other neighborhoods as a means of increasing access to and visibility of police personnel in the community.

It is very obvious that reassigning additional personnel to address serious problems has been very effective in the past; however, it often leaves a void that causes other problems to surface elsewhere. Maintaining a sustained presence in the area is key to ensuring that similar problems do not resurface in the future. We anticipate that increasing personnel to address drug and violence problems will yield positive results, very similar to those achieved recently when dealing with serious drug problems in the Vermont Plaza area. Also key to implementing a long lasting solution is heavy community involvement and participation in the problem solving process and implementation of positive solutions.

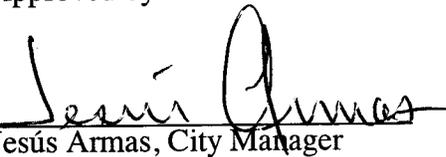
Prepared by:


Deputy Chief Dennis Houghtelling

Recommended by:


Craig Calhoun, Chief of Police

Approved by:


Jesús Armas, City Manager