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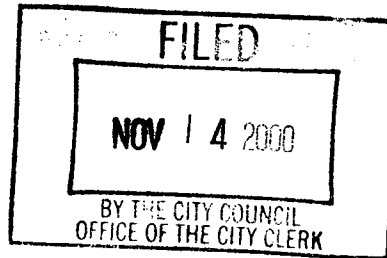
DEPARTMENT OF
CONVENTION, CULTURE
AND LEISURE

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November 6, 2000

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: OLD SACRAMENTO SECURITY UPDATE

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Old Sacramento, District 1

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for City Council information only

CONTACT PERSON: Barbara E. Bonebrake, Director; Convention, Culture & Leisure Department– 264-7733
Captain Jim Hyde; Police Department – 566-6460

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: November 14, 2000

SUMMARY:

This joint report from the Sacramento Police and Convention, Culture and Leisure (CCL) Departments provides an update on Old Sacramento security and public safety issues. Immediate issues have been resolved through, 1) the short term security plan implemented by the Police Department; and 2) a settlement agreement with Tabloids regarding the issuance of a nuisance abatement notice. Longer term solutions are under way involving Old Sacramento stakeholders, Police, CCL, and Old Sacramento Management. In addition, the applicable City enforcement ordinances are under review.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

None

BACKGROUND:

On September 26, 2000, Chief Venegas presented a proposal to Council to address public safety concerns in Old Sacramento in response to a crowd control incident on September 23rd and in general to the increased loitering and vehicle cruising problems on Friday and Saturday nights. The crowd control problem occurred outside of Tabloids night club, which had been identified by the Police as well as merchants in Old Sacramento as a nuisance.

The public safety proposal included both short term and long term actions. Short term measures, which have been implemented for the past six weekends, included closing vehicular access to Old Sacramento on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:00 p.m. to 3 a.m.; limiting access to the lower level parking in the 2nd and I Street parking lot; assigning additional officers including bike officers, traffic officers, and Incident Commander, and SWAT team officer; exploring enforcement actions for Tabloids; and continuing the creative problem solving process. These actions were reviewed, discussed, and evaluated by a committee of stakeholders including merchants, property owners, Old Sacramento Management staff, and City departments. Notice of the Friday and Saturday evening public safety actions was given to all business owners.

The City Attorney's office in conjunction with the Police Department, investigated whether problems at Tabloids warranted a public nuisance abatement action. On October 3, 2000, a notice of violation and order to abate nuisance was issued to the owner of Tabloids, C. Leonard Giordano. An appeal of the notice was filed, with an appeal hearing scheduled for November 8, 2000. A settlement has been reached with the owner, with the following key conditions being attached to his dance permit effective November 10, 2000:

- Owner, manager, or responsible representative of the permit holder shall be on the premises at all times during hours of operation;
- Owner or management and employees shall present all events; no outside promoters or presenters will be allowed;
- Owner or management shall employ state licensed uniformed security guards for times specified in the settlement agreement based on occupancy numbers (i.e. 151 to maximum will require four uniformed security); security shall be responsible for patrolling the parking lots and adjacent areas to prohibit loitering, excessive noise from individuals, vandalism, and other disruptive or illegal acts; security shall ensure orderly dispersal of the crowd from the area including street, on-site and off-site parking lots;
- Live music and dancing events shall begin no earlier than 5:00 p.m. and end no later than 1:30 a.m.; music shall be "phased-out" (5 minute, no music breaks) beginning at 1:20 a.m.;

City Council
Old Sacramento Security Update
November 14, 2000

- If crowd control is not being maintained, or any other condition of the permit is not being complied with, determined by the watch commander of the Police Department, the establishment will be immediately closed;
- Area must be maintained free of litter; noise or sound shall not be excessively audible beyond the area of control of the owner;
- If police must respond and control the crowd waiting in the queue line or exiting the dance, the permit will be modified to increase the number of security guards;
- If anyone needs medical or police assistance, the owner/management shall make telephone services available.

In addition to the increased police presence, street closure, and nuisance case, it was determined that the City's dance permit ordinance, in place since 1936, should be reviewed and updated. Staff from CCL, Revenue, Police, Old Sacramento Management, and City Attorney's office have been meeting and are drafting a new ordinance to bring forward.

It should be noted that City staff have received tremendous cooperation from Old Sacramento merchants and property owners, representatives of the community, and others involved in developing solutions to these problems.

In light of the success of Old Sacramento becoming an 18 hour venue and tourist destination, we need to reevaluate how we deploy resources to accommodate the increasing number of people who desire to visit and enjoy Old Sacramento. Specifically, a long term plan will be developed which will consider street closures, lighting, parking, police presence, and other security issues. This plan will be developed by the committee which assisted in reviewing the short term plan, and will be presented to Old Sacramento Management Board for review and approval, followed by presentation to Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The above effort is consistent with the City Economic Development strategy.

City Council
Old Sacramento Security Update
November 14, 2000

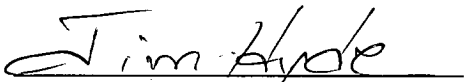
ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

None

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. Bonebrake, Director
Convention, Culture & Leisure

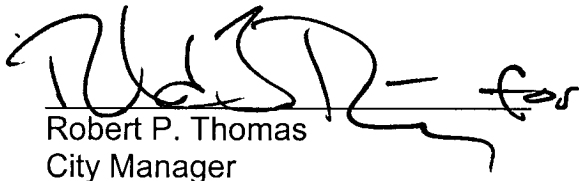


Jim Hyde, Captain
Sacramento Police Department




Arturo Venegas, Chief of Police
Sacramento Police Department

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



Robert P. Thomas
City Manager

APPROVED:



Richard J. Ramirez
Deputy City Manager