

MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1993

CALL TO ORDER

The Neighborhood and Public Safety Issues Committee was called to order by Chairman Steinberg at 7:10 p.m. on the above date at the Robertson Community Center, 3525 Norwood Avenue, Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ortiz, Steinberg
Absent: Councilmembers Kerth, Pannell

1. District 8 Strike Force - overview of successful Strike Force in South area and potential for additional strike forces in other areas. (D-All)

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: FOR COMMITTEE INFORMATION ONLY

Mike Hanamura, Manager, Neighborhood Improvement Division, presented the objectives and results of the Code Enforcement Strike Force in Council District 8. Thirty days after the strike force, the program was still successful. Mr. Hanamura went over recommendations that included a specific strategy for each neighborhood, continuous proactive work in the neighborhoods, reduce the strike force areas to maximize the improvement efforts, coordinate with other City department projects as well as coordinating with other citizens and agencies. The next strike force will be held in District 2.

Councilman Steinberg directed staff to report back with a timeline for implementation of the strike forces for the entire City.

2. Concept Paper - Neighborhood Improvement Districts - proposed fee program for property owners in specific districts to be administered by neighborhood associations to complete various improvement projects. (D-All)

- A. Approve and forward to the City Council with recommendation to direct staff to conduct community meetings for input with a return to City Council for action.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: APPROVE

Karen Shipley, Public Works Department, explained the proposal to establish "Neighborhood Improvement Districts" (NID) within the City. The districts would be formed in cooperation with established neighborhood associations. The formation of the districts would require a petition signed by a minimum of 60 percent of the proposed district's property owners and a public hearing and adoption of resolutions by the City Council. The property owners within each district would pay an annual assessment which would be collected with their County property taxes. The districts would operate year-by-year with an annual report approved by the City Council in June of each year. Each neighborhood organization would determine the needs for their own NID. Possible uses of NID would include security, neighborhood cleanup, neighborhood beautification, repair/rehabilitation of soundwalls, organization newsletters, youth programming, park amenities, and graffiti removal. Ms. Shipley stated that policy issues may arise during the community meeting phase. Those issues will be presented to the City Council for consideration. The staff will present recommendations for further Council consideration in approximately 90 days.

Councilwoman Ortiz talked about the neighborhoods in her district who don't have neighborhood associations.

Councilmembers Ortiz and Steinberg talked about the communities being able to decide where their money would be spent. They expressed concerns over inequities among neighborhoods and directed staff to address these issues.

Members of the audience, Dot Busher and Dick Walker, expressed their concerns about additional fees for people who cannot afford it. They want to see what the City can cover and what would then be covered by the NID. They are willing to look at it and see how it goes.

The subcommittee approved staff recommendation to forward this report to the full City Council and directed staff to conduct community meetings to obtain input regarding the concept of Neighborhood Improvement Districts.

3. Pay Telephones - Use Related to Illegal Activity - potential regulation of public telephone booths' locations and limiting use to credit card operation. (D-All)

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDATION

David Martinez, Deputy City Manager, stated that Councilman Rob Kerth has received numerous complaints about the use of pay telephones in his district. The report from the City Attorney's Office states that the City can regulate pay telephones within the City limits under appropriate circumstances, and an ordinance can be adopted to do that. Staff is asking this committee to determine if they want an ordinance that regulates the location of public pay telephones and/or prohibits coin-operated pay telephones.

Ken Ortega, who lives in the neighborhood, spoke in favor of having the pay phones monitored. He stated there is a lot of drug activity going on at the pay phones in the neighborhood.

Councilmembers Steinberg and Ortiz, along with the Police Department discussed the concerns with eliminating coin-operated telephones or requiring credit cards to make telephone calls because of the need to make emergency calls. They discussed the possibility of store owners turning phones off when they close.

Pat Shelby, North Laguna Creek Association, suggested that if the City owned the phones they would have the right to set a trap on the phones and monitor who the calls are going to. She talked about the problem of not having a credit card and being eliminated from using a pay phone.

Gary Little, City Manager's Office, stated that if there was a requirement for pay telephones to be accessed by credit cards only, the City would be able to obtain information about telephone calls. Several years ago the City adopted an ordinance regulating pay telephones. If there is evidence that a pay telephone is contributing to illegal activity, the current law allows the City to take some action. It can be removed for up to one year. The Committee is being asked whether or not the City should have a special permit process, restrict incoming calls only, require that new telephones be restricted to credit cards only. If the direction of the Committee is to go forward, this would be taken to the full Council.

Franklin Burris, Administrative Assistant to Councilman Kerth, talked about the problems when a pay phone has been removed because of problems at one location only to have another phone installed down the block. One particular problem location cost \$5,000 for three months to police it. The City needs some way to know where these phones are being installed and asked the Committee for their support in getting some control.

Councilwoman Ortiz wanted to know if there was some other way to do that. She asked about an ordinance to regulate use of pagers.

Bob Slobe, North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, said there are a lot of problems in the business district with pay telephones. He would like to see flexibility in any kind of regulations. He suggested having the pay phones located inside the business establishments; there are a number that open 24 hours.

Councilman Steinberg stated the special permit process would allow flexibility. He asked the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that specifically deals with the special permit issue and allows us to impose a special permit on public telephone uses in this City.

Dave Marcio, member of the audience, stated he had a problem with constitutional rights of privacy if the City were allow to listen to his conversation on the phone.

The Police Department spokesperson explained that a warrant would be required to "tap" any phone line.

The subcommittee approved staff recommendation and asked the City Attorney's Office to draft an Ordinance that deals with the Special Permit issue of pay telephones.

4. Illegal Parking of Commercial Vehicles - current method of enforcement, strategies, costs, and considerations for increased enforcement. (D-All)

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: FOR COMMITTEE INFORMATION ONLY

Mike Hanamura, Manager, Neighborhood Improvement Division, presented the report outlining the city's efforts to help eliminate commercial trucks parking in residential neighborhoods. The Council adopted increased parking fines to \$100.00 to act as a deterrent for parking in residential areas. He discussed the problem of staffing to handle the citizen complaints and suggested we might allow other City staff who work in the field to cite illegally parked vehicles.

Ed Lapp, Golf Course Terrace Estates Homeowners Association, and other members of the audience talked about about the problems of commercial trucks parked in residential areas.

Mike Hanamura said that if there is a specific problem, residents should call that complaint into his office. They will investigate.

Dennis Shanahan, South Sacramento, talked about the problem of giving authority to other City staff to cite commercial vehicles. He owns a towing company and the employees park their tow trucks on their residential streets. They need to have immediate, 24-hour, access to the tow trucks due to response time for emergencies.

There was discussion about writing exemptions into the ordinance for certain equipment.

Gary Little, City Manager's Office, explained the report tonight does not address the specific types of equipment you can park in residential zones. Staff can go back and address these questions and bring back to the committee exemptions for emergency equipment.

Information received and filed outlining the City's efforts to help eliminate commercial trucks parking in residential neighborhoods.

5. Towing and Storage of Vehicles (D-All)
 - A. Receive informational status report concerning issues related to City initiated towing and storage of vehicles.
 - B. Provide comments as to options provided.
 - C. Direct staff to return in February 1994 with specific recommendations and an implementation plan.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Margaret Freeman, Revenue Manager, explained that due to concerns of both the City Council and City staff, a committee was formed look at the issue of public-initiated tows. The report includes the scope and current statistics of tows initiated by the City (approximately 14,500 tows a year). Ms. Freeman said there are approximately 400 complaints each year related to City-initiated tows. Particularly, owners of stolen vehicles feel they are a victim twice. She discussed the following two options: (1) Changing the City's rotation list agreement procedures to provide better control over rates charged to the public; and (2) establishing a City-operated tow service and storage yard. The second option is not recommended due to costs. Ms. Freeman suggested that City staff sit down with the tow company representatives to get their input and recommendations. She said they would like to get general direction and feedback and come back with a plan in February.

David Marcio and other tow company representatives discussed the problems they face including people who are notified their vehicle has been towed and is being stored and not

picking it up. The vehicles may be vandalized to a point that is isn't worth picking up. Some of the vehicles are insured and the insurance company pays for the towing and storage. The tow companies cannot tow and store vehicles for free; they are willing to talk about a possible reduced rate for theft towing.

There was discussion by the Councilmembers and City staff about the procedures for notifying owners of stolen and recovered vehicles. The Police Department is required to notify by mail within 48 hours that a vehicle has been towed and where it is being stored. If time permits, they attempt to call the owners of stolen vehicles when the vehicle is recovered. That is a problem when someone is called and says they will be out in 30 minutes and they don't show up for 2 hours; that ties up the officer.

Dot Busher, member of the audience, discussed the problem of recovering her vehicle which had been stolen three times. The tow company would not accept a personal check, she had to have cash.

Councilwoman Ortiz said she was concerned about the noticing provision. She feels there should be a system that is realistic. Every means should be utilized to notify the owner.

The Subcommittee approved staff recommendations. Staff to meet with tow company representatives and report back in February 1994.

6. Anti-Graffiti Master Plan - approve and forward to the City Council with recommendation to implement master plan. (D-All)

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Mike Hanamura, Manager, Neighborhood Improvement Division, presented the Anti-Graffiti Master Plan and the need for a Special Program Coordinator position to coordinate the clean-up projects throughout the City and explore means of funding the clean-up activities. He said there are neighborhood associations, Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods and the California Paint Council who are interested in helping. The City spent \$170,000 to paint out graffiti last year.

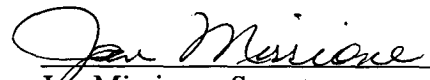
A representative from the California Paint Council discussed their commitment to helping by providing supplies needed for graffiti abatement. They are against the spray paint cans locked up due to loss of sales.

Councilman Steinberg asked the City Attorney to look at the paint industries' comments, the tax on aerosol cans, and take it to the full Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Steinberg, seconded by Councilwoman Ortiz to approve staff recommendations to approve the Anti-Graffiti Master Plan and forward to the full City Council with recommendation to implement the master plan.


ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted:



Jan Mirrione, Secretary

Approved:



Darrell Steinberg, Chairman

~~ITEM NO.~~ _____
ATTENDANCE

ROLL CALL

NEIGHBORHOOD AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES COUNCIL COMMITTEE

MOVED BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____ DATE: 11-10-93

MOTION: _____

		AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
KERTH	D2				✓
ORTIZ	D5	✓			
PANNELL	D8				✓
STEINBERG	D6	✓			

NOTES: _____

SEQUENCE ORDER: _____