



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Planning Commission

SUBJECT: K.O.N.A. SNI
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
PLAN AMENDMENT

DATE: October 27, 2008

COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 7 & 8
SNI AREA: K.O.N.A.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission voted 7-0-0 to recommend that the City Council:

Consider the Environmental Impact Report in accordance with CEQA, and

- 1) Accept the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) *King Ocala Neighborhood Area (K.O.N.A.) Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* as the renewed community vision for the future of the K.O.N.A. SNI Planning Area; and
- 2) Encourage K.O.N.A. area residents, property owners and community members to continue to dedicate their time, energy, and resources towards the *Plan* and this *Amendment* while continuing with their community-building activities.

OUTCOME

City Council acceptance of the *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* will demonstrate support for the K.O.N.A. Strong Neighborhoods Initiative community that Council, City staff and Agency staff will continue to partner with the neighborhood to achieve its renewed goals and support the newly developed Top Ten action agenda.

BACKGROUND

At the October 8, 2008 Planning Commission hearing, several members of the K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC) and other community members spoke in support of their renewed Top Ten list and asked for the Commission's support for the *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment*. Laura Arechiga, current President of the K.O.N.A. NAC, stated that four of the original Top Ten had already been accomplished and addressed the need for K.O.N.A. youth afterschool and summer program participation (updated Action Item #10). Volanda Candelaria stressed the need for both improved security and other improvements at the retail centers within K.O.N.A. (updated Action Item # 4) and sidewalk repair (updated Action Item # 8). Beatrice Thomas addressed the need to reduce bulky waste (updated Action Item #3) in the neighborhoods, especially since there are so many vacant homes now. Commissioner Campos asked when the last

clean up bin was brought out to the community and Ms Thomas responded October 2007. Cristina Galaviz-Vasquez stated the need for traffic calming (updated Action Item #1). Chuck Scott reiterated the need for traffic calming and said he would like to see Waverly Avenue, Nassua Drive and Cunningham Avenue added to the list of streets which need traffic calming. Mr. Scott also addressed crime prevention (updated Action Item #2). The last speaker, Gloria Rivera, addressed the need for collaboration to improve the schools (updated Action Item #5), which would also improve school children's self esteem. Ms. Rivera also spoke about the needs for affordable housing (updated Action Item #6), a K.O.N.A. community facility (updated Action Item #7), and increased landscaping and street trees in the neighborhood (updated Action Item #9). Ms. Rivera stated that the community received a small grant for a clean up day which would take place on October 18, 2008.

No one spoke in opposition to the proposed *Plan Amendment*.

The Planning Commission then closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Platten commended the neighborhood's dedication. Commissioner Kalra commented on the commitment of the neighborhood. Commissioner Jensen remarked on all the hard work and accomplishments of the neighborhood and offered her congratulations. Commissioner Campos encouraged the community members to push hard for what they want in their community. Commissioner Zito commented that the community's Top Ten are necessities for the neighborhood.

The Commission then voted 7-0-0 to recommend to the City Council to accept the *Plan Amendment* and strongly recommend that Council assist with getting bulky items bins for clean up in the community.

ANALYSIS

The proposed *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* is consistent with and a natural extension of the original Strong Neighborhoods Initiative *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan*, which was approved by City Council on December 3, 2002. The *Plan Amendment* allows the community to continue to implement the vision for the K.O.N.A. SNI Planning Area. Further analysis is presented in the September 25, 2008 staff report (attached).

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Subsequent, individual Strong Neighborhoods Initiative *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* action items will be brought to City Council for consideration before implementation.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. (Required: Website Posting)

- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Although this item does not meet any of the above criteria, staff followed a similar approach to public outreach as in the 2002 *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan* process. In 2007 and 2008, staff conducted a series of five meetings for the Renewing the Action Agenda process with extensive community outreach. All residents within the K.O.N.A. SNI Planning Area were notified by mail about the Renewing the Action Agenda process and were invited to attend the meetings. In addition, staff sent out letters to residents on the mailing list, sent e-mails to neighborhood associations for distribution to their members, walked door-to-door with reminder flyers, and made reminder phone calls to community members that regularly attend the K.O.N.A. SNI NAC and community meetings.

COORDINATION

The preparation of the SNI *K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* was coordinated with the District 7 Council Office, District 8 Council Office and various city departments, including the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services; Department of Transportation; Department of Public Works; Environmental Services Department; San José Police Department; City Manager's Office; and the San José Redevelopment Agency.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

Not applicable.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable at this time.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable.

CEQA

Resolution No. 71045.


For JOSEPH HORWEDEL, SECRETARY
Planning Commission