

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SAN JOSE
PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009

The Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee of the City of San José convened in Special Session at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Council Wing, City Hall to elicit feedback on the City's effort to address issues related to public safety and policing in San José.

PRESENT: Council Member Madison Nguyen, Council Member Peter Constant, Vice Chair, Council Members Pierluigi Oliverio and Kansen Chu.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Debra Figone, Chief Deputy City Attorney Danielle Kenealey, Deputy City Manager Deanna J. Santana, Senior Executive Analyst Vilcia Rodriguez, Assistant City Clerk Dennis Hawkins and Legislative Secretary Susan Davis.

Documents Filed: Agenda, Speaker Card and Staff presentation of the Special Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee Meeting dated October 14, 2009.

OPENING COMMENTS

Council Member Nguyen provided introductory remarks.

Dr. Shawn Spano, Ph.D., San José State University Professor explained the format of the meeting.

City Manager Debra Figone highlighted efforts to address public concerns regarding policing in San José through community engagement. She added that four areas of focus are community relations, training, police accountability and innovations.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

(1) What reactions do you have to the City efforts to date?

Kathleen Flynn said she was proud of the efforts of the City and the Committee, but expressed disappointment because the Committee did not provide the public with a mechanism to support the Police and victims rights advocates.

Scott Knies, San José Downtown Association, remarked that the changes in 2009 have produced a positive trend in Downtown San José.

Rick Beats, C.R.O.S.S. Motorcycle Club and Ministries, observed that there has been positive interaction with the Police Department.

David Parker expressed appreciation to the City for community outreach.

Raj Jayadev, De-Bug, applauded the Police Department and the City of San José for the reduction in the number of arrests for public intoxication and suggested using audio video recorders in lieu of tasers.

Bob Sippel stated that the City and the San José Police Department took the issue of public intoxication seriously and dealt with it.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke off topic.

(2) What ideas do you have for addressing policing issues?

Bob Sippel expressed satisfaction with what the Police Department and the Committee has accomplished.

Kathleen Flynn suggested that the City hire more police officers, place victims rights advocates on every committee and task force, and include more public disclosure with regard to who the Independent Police Auditor's Office is collaborating.

Scott Knies, San José Downtown Association, urged the Police Department to continue to be diligent in moving forward.

Issa Ajlouny suggested that that Police Department be more transparent and to use a consent form before searching vehicles.

David Parker stated that his Latino friends did not feel that the Police Department is representative of the people of San José and suggested sending police officers to street fairs and festivals to recruit more officers.

Betsy Wolf-Graves spoke about the generous act of a police officer who brought her husband home after he was struck by a car while he was riding a bicycle.

(3) What do you want to know about Police services?

Kathleen Flynn asked what is being done to involve citizens in policing, i.e. Neighborhood Watch Program. She suggested bringing youth together with the police officer and peer counseling.

Barbara Boone commended the City for the work accomplished thus far, however she expressed the need for early intervention to identify problems.

In response to Ms. Boone's questions, Deputy City Manager Deanna J. Santana reported that there will be a one year evaluation of the Citizen Arrest process, including identification of what is needed to strengthen the early intervention system. She added that the report is linked to the website, Item (d)(2), October 15, 2009 meeting of the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- (1) Christian Hemingway suggested more sunshine for the groups that the Police Department is collaborating with.
- (2) David Parker invited members of the public who have concerns to also come to the Human Rights Commission.
- (3) Kathleen Flynn expressed her support for the San José police officers.
- (4) Francisco Nanez stated he would like viable solutions to help those people who have drug or alcohol abuse problems and other dependencies, become a part of the community.
- (5) Bobby Lopez, President, San José Police Officers Association (SJPOA), noted that the SJPOA has never been asked to be a part of the Human Right Commission and they would welcome that chance; and also to meet with members of the community.
- (6) Paul Alvarado expressed his support to the Committee and the City Council for making a difference in the community by trying to find out what is going on and working on those issues.
- (7) Cathy Brandhorst shared personal observations.
- (8) Issa Ajlouny expressed support for San José police officers, but added he would like officers to use the consent search form before performing a search.

In response to Mr. Ajlouny's concerns about consent search forms, Police Chief Robert Davis stated that under many circumstances when there is a consent search, there is a form called, the "consent search" that officers can make available to individuals so they can read and sign it. He clarified that sometimes individuals choose not to sign the form.

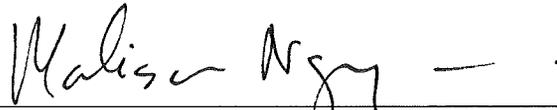
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND CLOSING

Council Members Nguyen, Oliverio, Constant and Chu thanked community members and expressed appreciation for their comments and suggestions.

Council Member Nguyen noted that the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee will hold another Special Meeting to hear from members of the community in April 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.



Council Member Madison Nguyen, Chair
Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee

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