CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Memorandum

TO: Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee

FROM: Robert L. Davis

SUBJECT: **RENAMING OF POLICE AND COMMUNICATIONS (PAC) BUILDING**

DATE: March 12, 2008

Approved Christine S. Shippey Date 3-12-08

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide
SNI AREA: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee accept and approve the recommendation to rename the Police and Communications (PAC) Building the "Bobby Burroughs Police and Communications Center."

OUTCOME

Approval of renaming the PAC to the "Bobby Burroughs Police and Communications Center" will formally acknowledge and honor Sgt. Bobby Burroughs, whose personal dedication and efforts resulted in the planning, building, and creation of the existing PAC.

BACKGROUND

In 1969, the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) moved into its current three-floor facility on Mission Street. Two years later, in 1971, San Jose hired a new police chief by the name of Robert Murphy. At the time, the Department was undergoing a number of changes and challenges. The new Chief knew he needed to assign someone from within the organization who knew the Department well, someone who was highly respected by the rank and file and, most importantly, an individual he could trust. One name surfaced over and over: Sgt. Bobby Burroughs.

A veteran Homicide investigator who joined the Department in 1957, Bobby was in the middle of a murder case when he was called into Chief Murphy's office. The Chief explained that he needed an individual as an administrative assistant who would answer solely to him and do whatever was necessary for the good of the Department. Almost immediately, Bobby was reassigned from Homicide to the Chief's Office.

In his new role, Sgt. Burroughs, referred to all as "Bobby," handled everything from managing the vehicle fleet and acting as the Department's media contact, to handling a multitude of jobs as the Department's facilities manager. When a problem arose that didn't fall under the responsibility of a particular division, unit or individual, it was handled by Bobby.

In 1976, Chief Murphy was replaced by Joseph McNamara, a former Kansas City police chief who began his police career as a New York City cop. McNamara maintained Bobby's position as the Chief's administrative assistant and was soon convinced he had made the right decision. Bobby proved more than capable of handling virtually any problem or situation that arose.

In 1979, with continued City growth, it soon became apparent that the Police Department was outgrowing its existing police building. Using matching federal funds, Sgt. Bobby Burroughs was the driving force behind a construction project that expanded and literally doubled the size of the Police Administration Building (PAB).

In the early 1980s, police communication services were handled under contract with Santa Clara County. When City staff decided that San Jose should have its own communications facility, planners at City Hall had made the decision to purchase a piece of land on the south side of Mission Street, across the street from the PAB. The plan was to construct a relatively small, three-story building to house City dispatchers and communications equipment.

As Chief McNamara's administrative assistant, Bobby felt strongly that such a facility at the proposed location would pose a serious security risk due to its immediate proximity to Mission, San Pedro and Asbury streets. Bobby felt that any new communications facility should be physically located within the Police compound itself. Bobby developed a proposal to address his concerns. Working late into the night on personal time, within two weeks he had developed plans and began lobbying for a new four-story facility that could be built atop the existing Police Garage located next to the PAB. This plan not only positioned the new building within the Police compound but the building was designed to be a new home to the entire Patrol Division as well as provide badly needed additional parking for the Police Department's vehicle fleet.

Sgt. Burroughs met with the Mayor, members of the City Council and heads of numerous City departments that would be affected by the building's construction. Dozens of memos were prepared, numerous meetings were held, hundreds of phone calls were made, and Bobby spent an untold number of uncompensated hours going over the basic design of the new building. In finished form, the facility would be four-stories tall, with the two bottom floors housing the vehicle fleet and maintenance bays. The third floor would fill all of the needs of the Patrol Division, thereby freeing up badly needed space in the PAB next door. This third floor would also house the men's and women's locker rooms as well as a fully-equipped work-out room. The fourth floor would provide ample space for a full police and fire communications facility, an emergency operations center, and the necessary administrative offices. This design also eliminated the need to purchase additional land by the City. Bobby also worked hand-in-hand with personnel who sought federal funds for public safety purposes and was successful in obtaining matching funds to help cover the costs of construction. The completed building provided the Department with its own secure, state-of-the-art Police and Fire Communications

Center and additional room to house the entire Patrol Division, which eased the crowding in PAB.

ANALYSIS

If any building or facility within the city limits of San Jose deserves to be named after an individual, it would be this facility. The time and effort this one individual devoted to its design, approval and construction went far beyond the call of duty. Quite literally, if it had not been for the efforts of Sgt. Bobby Burroughs, the existing PAC would not exist as it does today.

Sgt. Burroughs succumbed to cancer in 2005. This posthumous recommendation is long overdue. I strongly support Raymond "Jay" Wendling's nomination to re-name the PAC building in honor of Sgt. Burroughs.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

N/A

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

Members of the Association of Retired San Jose Police Officers and Fire Fighters and current members of the San Jose Police Department feel that due to the two-year period in which Sgt. Bobby Burroughs worked on the design, construction, and successful completion of the PAC, Sgt. Burroughs deserves the recognition to have this building bear his name.

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

N/A

CEQA

Not a project.

D/c Carrillo for RLD

ROBERT L. DAVIS
Chief of Police

RLD:LR:CE:ce

For questions please contact Laurence Ryan, Police Lieutenant, 408.277.5200