



**CITY OF VALLEJO
AD-HOC CITIZENS PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012
6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
555 SANTA CLARA STREET, VALLEJO**

This AGENDA contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The posting of the recommended actions does not indicate what action may be taken. If comments come to the Committee without prior notice and are not listed on the AGENDA, no specific answers or response should be expected at this meeting per State law.

Those wishing to address the Committee on any matter for which another opportunity to speak is not provided on the AGENDA but which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee may address the Committee during the "COMMUNITY FORUM" portion of the AGENDA.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. COMMUNITY FORUM

Anyone wishing to address the Committee on any matter not listed on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee to resolve, may speak after stating his/her name and address for the record.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2012 MEETING

6. OLD BUSINESS

No reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. REPORT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

B. PRESENTATION BY LIAT METZENHEIMER – FORMER MEMBER OF THE CITY OF VALLEJO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

a. Ms. Metzenheimer is scheduled to make a presentation.

C. REPORT FROM VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. Brief update on department activities and initiatives. (10 minutes)

D. REPORT FROM VALLEJO FIRE DEPARTMENT

a. Brief update on department activities and initiatives. (10 minutes)

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Reports from subcommittee chairpersons. Staff report enclosed regarding potential action on Operations Subcommittee reports.

F. AGENDA TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

a. Discussion of draft schedule of agenda topics for future meetings and by motion adopt schedule of agenda topics. Staff report enclosed.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

a. Written communications from Victoria Preciado and Robert Schussel. Staff report enclosed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF VALLEJO
AD-HOC CITIZENS PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 17, 2012

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Schivley.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

A roll call was conducted:

Present: Kathy Beistel, Karol Heppe, Kevin Kelley, Joanne Schivley, Robert Schussel, William Tweedy, Burky Worel, Sid DeJesus, and Pat Dunn.

Absent: None.

Staff present: Dawn Abrahamson and Alan Cohen.

4. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

Speakers: Patrick M. Cecchini

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Committee member Worel and carried unanimously by members present, approval of the agenda and consent calendar of the October 3, 2012 minutes as amended to reflect the following corrections: (1) change the date of December 12, 2012 to December 30, 2012 as noted in the second paragraph under Agenda Item E, and (2) removal of the dates of December 5 and 19, 2012 from the third paragraph under Agenda Item E as they were not discussed.

A. Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2012 Meeting.

Action: Approved minutes

6. **OLD BUSINESS** – None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. REPORT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – None.

B. PRESENTATION BY MARK CORREIA, Ph.D. – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STUDIES, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Correia provided a presentation on Police and Community Relations and responded to questions from Committee members.

The meeting recessed at 8:43 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

C. REPORT FROM VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Committee member DeJesus provided a report.

D. REPORT FROM VALLEJO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committee member Dunn provided a report.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Reports from subcommittee chairpersons. Staff report enclosed regarding potential action on Community Subcommittee reports.

Community Subcommittee – Committee Member Beistel reported on subcommittee work to date which included the following subject areas: Technology, Public Safety Community Partnership, Media, Public Safety Transparency, Volunteer Resources, and Public Safety Procedure Access. Committee members provided feedback.

Finance Subcommittee - Committee Member Worel reported that they are waiting for information and will have a report at the next meeting.

Operations Subcommittee – Committee member Heppe reported that the reports have been completed and will be included in the next meeting agenda packet for discussion.

F. AGENDA TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The schedule of agenda topics and meeting dates was discussed and confirmed.

Chair Schivley informed the Committee that the Richmond Police Chief would not be available to address the Committee and that Vice Chair Schussel is working to get another one or two speakers to address the Committee.

Chair Schivley requested that a third meeting date of December 12 be added along with the other two dates in the month of December. All three dates in the month of December will serve as built in buffers in case meetings are needed.

Lastly, Chair Schivley reported that the Committee' final report is scheduled to be presented to the City Council Public Safety Committee on December 20, 2012.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



NEW BUSINESS E

Date: November 7, 2012
TO: Ad-Hoc Citizens Public Safety Advisory Committee
FROM: Craig Whittom, Assistant City Manager *W*
SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

Receive reports from subcommittees.

Review five Operations Subcommittee reports and approve by motion the inclusion of these reports in the final Committee report to the City Council Public Safety Committee.

DISCUSSION

The five Operations Subcommittee reports are attached for review and potential action.

Verbal reports from the other subcommittees will be presented at the meeting.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

Operations Subcommittee reports.

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OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT AREA

Operations

ISSUE

AB109 (Assembly Bill 109)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief of Police continue to work with County Law Enforcement Agencies and meet with the State appointed Committee of Seven to solicit funding for the hiring of as many police officers the Chief determines is (minimally) required to keep on top of the influx of parolees into the City of Vallejo and to monitor their probation compliance in an effort to minimize recidivism and to protect the residence of Vallejo.

BACKGROUND

As early as last year the State of California began early release and transfer of California Department of Corrections inmates from the CDC to the County and back into the community into probation. The Solano County Sheriff established a plan for the influx of inmate into the County Jails and is establishing probation programs to handle the increase in the probation population. Many of these probationers will end up in residents of Vallejo and prior to the subcommittee's meeting with the Police Chief it was unclear what if anything the VPD has done to address this issue.

The Police Chief said currently strike teams are being deployed county wide (through state funding) to conduct searches and probation checks on these new offenders in our area(s).

At the Operations Sub-committee on Sept. 17, 2012 VPD Chief Kreins reported that he has been involved with this transition through his involvement with Marin County (Chief Kreins' prior assignment was with the city of Novato in Marin County). Chief Kreins said a Committee of Seven was established by the State to oversee funding distributions to Counties that will be handling the custody, probation management and outreach programs these probationers will need for such things as housing and treatment Chief Kreins said no money was designated for frontline local communities/cities law enforcement agencies. Chief Kreins intends to pursue a meeting with the Committee of Seven to solicit funding to hire officers to accommodate local Vallejo law enforcements needs related to the transition and influx of probationers. Chief Kreins said he will be working with other County Law Enforcement agencies in this endeavor.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Ad Hoc Public Safety Advisory Committee community forum

Meeting with VPD Chief Joe Kreins

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**OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY
COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT AREA

Operations

ISSUE

METHOD/ALTERNATIVES FOR HANDLING COLD CALLS FOR SERVICE.

RECOMMENDATION

The VPD explore how police cadets or qualified volunteers can be used to assist with nonemergency responses to received crime reports from residents.

BACKGROUND

During the public comment section of several meetings members of the community expressed their concerns that due to the current staffing of the VPD many crimes are not receiving immediate police attention and/or if the crime is not in progress these residents are being referred to the police station to file their own police reports.

VPD has admitted that due to understaffing police officers often do not have the time to respond to people's homes and take reports of certain types of crimes and/or crimes not in progress.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Ad Hoc Public Safety Advisory Committee community forum

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OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT AREA

Operations

ISSUE

5-YEAR CRIME REDUCTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Seek out funding grants to hire a consultant to work with staff to develop a 5-Year Crime Reduction Plan for the City of Vallejo.

BACKGROUND

During the public comment section of the meeting a member of the community expressed their opinion that if the VPD does not have a 5-year Crime Reduction Plan it would be important to develop one.

At the Operations Sub-committee on Sept. 17, 2012 VPD Chief Kreins reported that he strongly supports pro-active policing and adoption of a 5-Year Crime Reduction Plan but that current VPD resources and personnel do not allow for such a plan. Chief Kreins said, "We are in crisis planning."

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Ad Hoc Public Safety Advisory Committee community forum comments
Ad Hoc Public Safety Advisory Committee correspondence
Meeting with VPD Chief Joe Kreins

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OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT AREA

Operations

ISSUE

PLAN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

RECOMMENDATION

That Chief Kreins continue to work with downtown stake holders to find a way to fund a dedicated officer and prioritize enforcement efforts in the downtown area.

BACKGROUND

During the public comment section of the meeting a member of the community expressed their concern that the downtown area has become an increased target for vandalism, burglary and theft and the need for VPD to establish a plan, policy and procedure for addressing these unique needs.

At the Operations Sub-committee with VPD Chief Kreins on Sept. 17, 2012 he reported that he has recently met with local downtown groups who are looking into finding a way to fund a downtown patrol officer with a possible cost offset funded by the VPD.

The chief indicated he had private funding currently for one full time position downtown; though it was not clear to him at the time if that funding only extended to the end of 2012.

His intent was to meet with the stakeholders and obtain a clear picture of funding through 2013. Concurrent with that meeting, the chief was going to recommend in lieu of one full time position, using the allocated funds to staff various configurations (vehicle, bike patrol, foot patrol) in the area that would allow for flexible deployment.

It was the chief's position that in terms of impacting crime patterns a wide array of enforcement options at his disposal would be most effective.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Ad Hoc Public Safety Advisory Committee community forum
Meeting with VPD Chief Joe Kreins

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT AREA

Operations

ISSUE

STAFFING CHALLENGES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief of Police be authorized to recruit for officers immediately in response to the anticipated attrition of 10-15 officers over the coming year (2013). Once the attrition is documented with a formal resignation letter from an officer, that the Police Chief be authorized to hire a new officer to ensure that there is no gap or reduction in force as a result of the attrition.

That the City Council consider a goal of 125 officers on the force by 2016.

That the City Council consider a patrol workload study and the findings of the POST report that is under development in establishing its targeted number of sworn officers on the force.

That the City Council retain any budget savings from unfilled approved sworn police officer positions in the Police Department to be used exclusively for the hiring of police officers.

BACKGROUND

As of October 2012 the City of Vallejo Police Department currently had 93 sworn positions. Of those, 8-9 are on long term disability; ten are funded/allocated outside of patrol functions. That brings the total officers that are general funded based and available for local unrestricted deployment to @75 officers. As a point of reference, at the agency peak of staffing the total sworn was 158. In the era where council and the mayor requested CHP support (Operation Safe Streets – twelve CHP officers on loan) the staffing (absent CHP personnel) was 133.

The department is anticipating an exodus of 10-15 veteran officers over the next seven to eight months. The normal timeline for bringing new officers "on board" varies from agency to agency with a worst case scenario of eight months. That statistic does not take into account the challenges Vallejo will face in recruitment due to well publicized issues and events. Lateral candidate acquisition will be extremely problematic.

SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Community Forum input

Meeting with VPD Chief Joe Kreins
Committee members Kelley and Worel (historical data)

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NEW BUSINESS G

Date: November 7, 2012
TO: Ad-Hoc Citizens Public Safety Advisory Committee
FROM: Craig Whittom, Assistant City Manager *W*
SUBJECT: WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

The following two written communications are attached:

1. E-mail from Victoria Preciado
2. Letter from Committee member Schussel to the Mayor, City Manager and City Council. Committee member Schussel will discuss this communication and the Committee's interest in supporting the recommendations in his letter.

DOCUMENT ATTACHED

E-mail from Victoria Preciado
Letter from Committee member Schussel

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Craig Whittom

From: Victoria Preciado <jmvpreciado@gmail.com>
To: <citizenspublicsafetyadvisorycommittee@ci.vallejo.ca.us>
Date: 10/14/2012 12:33 PM

To: The Citizens Public Safety Advisory Committee

Dear members of the Advisory Committee:

The purpose of my email is to describe to you the problems that exist in my neighborhood.

Over a decade ago I left the area to accept a job offer in the Sacramento. In 1989 when I purchased my home, my neighborhood was safe and quiet. Now that I have retired and returned to my neighborhood I am witnessing so many illegal activities that I don't feel safe. Some of my neighbors who are receiving Section 8 benefits are supplementing their incomes through illegal activities such as dealing drugs, or buying and selling stolen property. There is an apartment building nearby where drug deals also take place. My neighbors have told me that people come from out of town to commit crimes in Vallejo because they know that the police force has been scaled back.

The first month that I spent at my home in Vallejo I had an out of town visitor. At 2:00 A.M. her automobile window was shattered, her car was ransacked, and her battery stolen. That same night a neighbor's car was stolen. Needless to say, that is the last time I have invited a friend for an overnight stay.

I feel so unsafe in my neighborhood that I have decided to accept a temporary contract to work overseas and return control of my home to the property management company. My goal is to save money so that when I return I can make the decision to stay in Vallejo or to sell my home and move to a safer community. That decision will largely depend on whether Vallejo can rebuild its police force and whether the community can come together to create a safe environment. I have thought about whether I should decline the job offer and become a part of that community, but I live alone and on my retirement income I cannot afford any security upgrades on my home, I can't afford to build a fence around my property, and I can't afford to have a dog. I can't even be confident that the police might be able to respond to a phone call in time to assist me in an emergency.

There are still many families in my neighborhood that make their living through honest means. Many of them intend to stay, but some of them are talking about moving. Some have concerns about crime, but one neighbor told me that she was moving because her daughter has reached school age and she felt that the schools in Fairfield have a better reputation than the local schools. The balance of the neighborhood in the next couple of years is crucial. My property managers in the past have been diligent about inspecting my property and charging my tenants for maintenance if they are irresponsible, but numerous families are renters who are unemployed and don't maintain the properties they live on.

There is still hope for Vallejo. I have been relieved to read in the paper that some community leaders are doing some great things in Vallejo. I was also relieved to read that the mayor is requesting that more police officers be hired. My hope is that when I return to Vallejo, I will find an improved situation in my neighborhood. If that is the case, I plan to stay and become a volunteer retiree in my community.

I hope that your committee is willing to look at ideas that have brought about improvements in other troubled cities. The New York Times carried a story about how Detroit has greatly improved it's city through community gardens. One citizen was quoted as saying that the gardening projects have put the "neighbor" back into the "hood."

I hope to see you at the meeting on Monday night.

October 25, 2012

To: Vallejo City Manager, Chief of Police, Mayor and City Council members

An open letter

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the City of Vallejo to collaborate with the Department of Justice Studies at San Jose State University. (see attached letter from Dr. Correia) It is my hope that a long-term partnership between the City of Vallejo and San Jose State University will occur. I am willing to help facilitate the initial meeting.

Purpose

The purpose of this joint effort would be to help heal our community by rebuilding trust and reestablishing the legitimacy of the police in the eyes of the community. The goal is more effective policing and better community relations

Background

As part of his presentation about Community Policing and Communications to the Ad Hoc Citizens Public Safety Committee on October 17, 2012, Dr. Mark Correia, Chairperson of the San Jose State University Department of Justice Studies offered his department's to the City of Vallejo.

Specifically, Dr Correia offered to conduct surveys in the community and police department, hold focus groups, make recommendations and issue a report under the aegis of the University. (See below for more details.)

Dr Correia conducted a similar type of effort for the City of Oakland. Attached is a PDF of the *Oakland Police Department Resident Opinion Survey* issued January 2010. In addition, Dr. Correia provided consultation services to the Oakland Police Department and authored a report for them in 2009 entitled *Final Report of the Oakland Police Department's Area Command Patrol Strategy*.

In a follow-up discussion to his presentation, Dr Correia stated that he had also conducted interviews with the City of Oakland administrators/officials and over 250 police officers. He also conducted focus groups with community leaders. Follow-up surveys were conducted to determine the effect the changes made had on public perception.

Advantages of a Collaborative Effort

Advantages of this collaboration for the City of Vallejo are having a highly credible organization conduct surveys, focus groups and interviews at relatively little cost. Dr Correia and his department has the experience and expertise to assist our City and develop long term solutions to solve the conflicts and communication issues we are currently facing. .

For San Jose State University, a collaborative effort would help the University accomplish its mission to provide service/help to communities in California. The effort would also provide an opportunity for their students to conduct and publish research findings.

Proposed Effort

Dr Correia feels the following methodology would provide the information required for better understanding of the current problems so that appropriate changes can be implemented:

- 1) Go to the community sessions and open forums being provided by the Department of Justice to get a feel for the community's issues/concerns.
- 2) Conduct focus groups with community leaders.
- 3) Survey residents, police officers and city administration (including city councilmember).
- 4) Issue reports and recommendations based on the above. Consult with the various constituents involved.
- 5) Track changes over time and offer additional input based on these new recommendations.

Mr. Keen, please let me know what would be a good date and time to get people together to discuss Dr. Correia's proposal further.

Robert Schussel PhD.

cc Mark Correia PhD.



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Department of Justice Studies

- *Center for Justice Research,
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- *Forensic Science Program*

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October 23, 2012

To: Robert Schussel
Ad Hoc Citizens Public Safety Committee
City of Vallejo, CA

Robert,

Thank you for inviting me to present to the Ad Hoc Citizen's Public Safety Committee on October 17, 2012. I believe our discussion was informative and I want to follow-up with an offer to continue our dialogue.

As discussed during the meeting and in following-up conversations, I believe we have a unique opportunity to develop a collaborative partnership to address the challenges facing the City of Vallejo regarding the relationship between the community and the police. Through the use of interviews, focus groups, observations, and surveys, I believe we can collect data necessary to develop a deeper understanding of the issues and provide recommendations for moving forward.

Much of my research focuses on policing and communities, especially the role communities play in the co-production of order, citizen perceptions of the police and the legitimacy of the police, organizational adaption to change, and the role civic engagement has on the overall health of the community.

A few brief comments about our evaluation tools and techniques:

1. The primary purpose of this collaborative research project would be to assess those informal social processes (social capital, collective efficacy and sense of community) and the perception of the legitimacy of the police. Knowing "what" is experienced by members of the public as fair or unfair is key to developing and maintaining public views that the police are legitimate. In addition, these have also been shown to directly impact crime and other social problems in the community. Importantly, we know from the research that these informal social processes also affect the willingness and capability of citizens to work with the police to solve these problems, therefore, those areas that have "loose" or "weak" informal social processes, tend to be less willing and capable of working with the police. This is an important consideration in developing a better understanding of the various neighborhood cultures throughout Vallejo, in developing more positive community relationships with the police and in improving the overall health of the community.
2. Our techniques and tools allow us to conduct our evaluation at the neighborhood level, allowing us to "link" our research with crime rates, patrol areas, as well as officer behavior in the area. This level of specificity provides a much deeper understanding of the informal social processes



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and their impact on policing specific places throughout the City.

3. Embedded in our methods are valid and reliable tools that evaluate citizen perceptions of the Vallejo Police, which allow us a better understanding of the varying perceptions throughout the city, the variation in residents' needs and expectations, and the overall impact of current policing strategies on crime, disorder, and perceptions of the police. I have worked closely with several other cities and police departments on similar projects, enabling them to more effectively meet citizen needs and expectations.

4. In regards to crime, our research would look for neighborhood patterns of crime over time, thus, allowing us to develop a better understanding of crime in Vallejo (as you know, it is much more complicated than reported by the media).

5. Lastly, such an evaluation would be incomplete without an understanding of the internal challenges the Vallejo Police Department has faced. Clearly, policing in Vallejo has undergone dramatic shifts over the last several years due to the changing economy. Developing a thorough understanding of these changes and their impact on officers and the department, will help in the development of more effective policies and strategies.

Data collection through the use of focus groups and interviews with city residents, community leaders, police officers, government officials, coupled with a community survey and officer survey, will allow us to develop recommendations that may be used to develop healthier relationships between the residents and the police.

I have worked closely with several other police departments on similar projects, thus providing experience in conducting this research in complex organizations undergoing change. Most recently, we conducted research in Oakland that included a community survey, focus groups, and surveys of nearly 250 officers. The findings of our research helped inform the department on the impact shift changes had on the officers and the community. I can forward the final report if it is of interest.

As you can see, our evaluations are incredibly thorough and can provide a richness of data that would help develop a deeper understanding of the diverse communities throughout the city of Vallejo as well as the within the Vallejo Police Department.

My affiliation with San José State University assures that our research meets the rigors of social science techniques and protects those involved in the research, especially in regard to anonymity and confidentiality. We strive to build collaborative relationships with the community, which benefits both the community as well as our students. We have a diverse population of students who would be assisting with the project, many who



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speaking several languages, enabling us to tap into the rich diversity found throughout Vallejo. Importantly, some of our students live in Vallejo, and are deeply invested in the research and overall increased health of their neighborhoods.

I know you are busy with numerous obligations but hope that we are able to speak about the potential of this research. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chair, Department of Justice Studies