

CITY OF COMMERCE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2017, 6:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Chairperson Peraza called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Flag Salute and Invocation

Commissioner Equihua, Jr. led the flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Peraza, Baker, Equihua Jr., Gonzalez, Viesca

Commissioner Not Present: None

Staff Present: Liaison Tilley, Admin. Asst. Meneses

Staff Not Present: None

Public Comment

None.

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SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Viesca motioned to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 10, 2017 and October 12, 2017. Chairperson Peraza seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Yays: Peraza, Baker, Equihua Jr., Gonzalez, Viesca. Nays: None.

2. Duties of Community Services Officers, Code Enforcement Officers, and Sheriff's Deputies

Liaison Tilley explained the differences between Sheriff's Deputies and Community Services Officers (CSO). Since CSO's are not armed, they cannot approach suspects, cannot approach persons under the influence, and cannot detain them. CSO's cannot cite for moving violations or pursue suspects. Deputies can do those things. CSO's can assist Deputies with traffic control, towing vehicles, parking citations, reporting crimes in progress, and other functions that do not put the CSO's safety at risk. CSO's can also assist the public with vehicle jump starts, vehicle lockouts, and taking collision or theft reports that do not have workable information. CSO's also patrol the City and report observations to the appropriate divisions. Commissioner Gonzalez suggested that the parked CSO car at Bristow Park and that CSO's be more

friendly with residents and interact with them. Commissioner Viesca also suggested they drive around the park and not be parked behind a wall.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Ralph Vivero stated that the Code Enforcement Officers enforce City municipal codes, may summons violators to court, and may perform inspections, based on the court outcome. They work with City staff and other agencies to get compliance from persons or businesses in violation. The Officers can issue citations for code violations. They do not perform the functions of a CSO. Commissioners asked questions. The main type of complaints is people who leave trash cans out to save parking spaces. A Notice of Violation is sent to the violator. Another main source is property maintenance, such as trash, weeds, etc. Many complaints of trash are handled by Public Works. He stated that Code Enforcement Officers patrol the City to look for violations. He explained the power point slides provided and stated that residents need to report violations. An update was requested on the Washington widening project. Questions were asked about specific houses and the division is working on them. "Before and After" pictures were shown. The City Council created an Ad Hoc Committee to address more problematic issues. The Commission requested than an update be provided on trees that are creating safety hazards by lifting sidewalks.

3. **Ayers Neighborhood Issues**

Liaison Tilley stated that a Neighborhood Watch Meeting was held in October to address issues on Ayers. "No Truck Turn" signs were approved for Ayers. Q bus stop will be returned to the street. It had been removed during the widening project. A number was provided to report train horn blowing, however Commissioner Gonzalez stated that the number was not good because callers are told they don't handle those issues. The homeless persons who cut through the Cal Trans area are being monitored. Chairperson Peraza reported that lights are out under the tunnel, however that area belongs to Cal Trans. Public Works staff was asked to address the lights issue.

4. **Appointment of Persons to the Homelessness Ad-Hoc Committee**

Resident Daniel Cortez, 2477 Elkgrove Ave. was allowed to speak. He stated he is interested in being a member of the Ad Hoc Committee. He is an 8 year resident, a Block Captain, a Measure AA Member, on the Board of Sister Cities. He does a lot to help homeless people and feels there is a lot the Committee can do. He gave a few suggestions for ideas he has and hopes he will be considered to be selected as a member. Chairperson Peraza nominated Daniel Cortez to the Committee. All were in consensus. Yays: Equihua Jr., Baker, Peraza, Gonzalez, Viesca. Commissioner Gonzalez nominated resident Sandra Jimenez. The majority were in favor. Yays: Baker, Gonzalez, Viesca. Nays: Equihua Jr., Peraza. Commissioner Viesca nominated Lisa Espinoza. All were in favor. Yays: Equihua Jr., Baker, Peraza, Gonzalez, Viesca. The three selected members will be contacted.

5. **Security Cameras Rebate Program Update**

The rebate program has been a success although we still have funds available. Staff is allowing more time for participants to complete their paperwork and requirements for their inspections to be completed and for a check to be issued. The program is only for residents or properties in Commerce and is not available to businesses or non-profit organizations at this time. If residents are interested, they can still participate. Our goal is to have as many homes as possible be fitted with cameras to deter crime and assist the Sheriff's department in being able to view video of crimes committed in the area.

6. **Staff Reports**

Acting Liaison Garcia reported the following:

- **Military Banners Program** – Moyra Garcia, Social Services Coordinator is coordinating this program to highlight and honor military personnel by placing banners on City streets. We will have 20 applications available. The City Council may decide to increase the amount of participants. The design of the banners is being worked on. They will be displayed in May.
- **Neighborhood Watch Meeting** – Will be held Thurs., 6:30 p.m. as follows: 11/16, McBride/Noakes; 12/7 at Wilma/Harbot, 12/21 at Elkgrove/Jardine
- **Code Enforcement Home Decorating Contest** - We appreciate Commissioners who participated in this fun and successful event.
- **Children's Christmas Party** – Commissioners are invited to attend the annual party hosted the Commerce Casino. Details are noted on the memo to Commissioners.
- **Conferences for Commissioners** – Staff is researching appropriate conferences. Pls. contact Maria if you become aware of any.
- **Commission Picture** – We plan on having a picture taken at the December meeting.
- **6 Month Crime Reports** – This item will be placed on the December agenda, so that Sheriff's staff can be present.
- **Christmas Dinner** – Our December meeting will be adjourned to follow with our annual Commission dinner.

7. **Commission Reports**

Commissioner Equihua, Jr. reported the following:

- Traffic is bad at the Mixmaster between 4:30-5pm People coming from Telegraph to Atlantic.
- 5 Fwy North, off Slauson, when motorists try to turn left, many collisions occur there and the area is unsafe. Signals lights should be put there.

Commissioner Viesca reported the following:

- Inquired about the panhandler in front of the AM/PM. Liaison Tilley stated that an ordinance will be written to address these matters.

Commissioner Gonzalez reported the following:

- Asked for a status on the recognition of residents
- Participated in the clean up event.
- Many people run the stop signs in front of Bandini School in the morning.
Asked for more visibility of CSO's to act as a deterrent.

Vice-Chairperson Baker reported the following:

- Is concerned about speeding issues on Astor in the Bandini neighborhood.
He is concerned about kids during Halloween..

Chairperson Peraza reported the following:

- He attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting on Ayers.
- He participated as a Halloween Home Decorating Contest judge with Commissioners Baker and Gonzalez.
- He attended the Lions Club pancake breakfast with Commissioner Baker

Adjournment

Chairperson Peraza adjourned the meeting in memory of Edmund Gonzales, a long time resident of the City.