

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
April 8, 2009  
Fort Bragg Police Department Conference Room

The Public Safety Committee met on the above date at the hour of 3:07 p.m. in the Fort Bragg Police Department Conference Room, 250 Cypress Street, Fort Bragg and the following items were discussed in the order presented.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Committee Members Jere Melo and Dave Turner.

Staff present: Mark Puthuff, Police Chief; Steve Orsi, Fire Chief; Linda Ruffing, City Manager; Dave Goble, Public Works Director; Brandon Lee, Police Sergeant; and Debbie Desmond, Police Services Technician.

Staff absent: None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of November 12, 2008 Meeting were approved as received.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Rusty Coverston presented concerns about the alley in the 100 block between Harrison and McPherson Streets. There are no "No Parking" signs and cars continue to park in the alley. It is very cluttered and youth are often working on their cars. Beginning around 10:00 p.m. it is very noisy. Sergeant Lee recently drove through the alley, is aware of the problems and will be addressing them soon.
- Steve Funk made a request for more direct access to Police Department Administration.

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:**

**1. Discuss Cedar Street Traffic Concerns**

At the request of many residents living on Cedar Street, the Committee was asked to hear concerns about speeding and safety on their street.

Public comment on this item was received from: Harry Shafsky, Steve Funk, Jean Mann, Paul Clark, Chris Carterette, Bud Sallinen, Gisell Reaney, Rusty Coverston, Al Urbani and Selby Drew.

Discussion: The following items were noted during discussion by the public and Committee:

- Noise, especially in the evenings, speeding, and parking problems on Cedar Street are affecting the quality of life for residents and the safety of children and pets. The blind intersection at Cedar and North Harold is of particular concern.
- Some suggestions to improve the situation include widening the sidewalks, going to a one way street with parking on both sides, bulb outs, striping, speed tables, lower speed limit, red curbs and doing a traffic model to review and evaluate the issues.
- Sergeant Lee asked citizens to communicate with the Police Department about their concerns through e-mail, voice mail and Dispatch. He reminded them they can request extra patrol if they feel it is necessary and that their calls can be anonymous.
- Chief Puthuff will mention the Cedar Street concerns on the Crime Prevention Bulletin on the City's web site and will access the Police Department's Computer Automated Dispatch activity to capture data for the problem areas.
- The Police Department will have a motorcycle officer patrolling Cedar Street in the near future, will set up the speed trailer, and will ask the School Resource Officer to speak to students about things they can do to minimize their contribution to the problems. Knowing peak problem times will help prioritize when the motorcycle officer is most needed in the area.
- City Manager Ruffing will mention the Cedar Street concerns in her weekly column in the Advocate News.
- As many of the drivers speeding down Cedar Street are high school students, Al Urbani, the High School Principal, is going to pass the community's concerns on to his students through their homerooms.

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- Public Works Director Goble will consider signs, striping, speed tables and other suggested solutions. He will also check for vegetation blocking existing signs on Cedar Street.

**Police presence on Cedar Street will be increased and stronger enforcement of traffic laws will be implemented. Speeders and noise violators will be targeted during the early morning, noon and around 5:00 p.m. Improvements to Cedar Street will be included in the upcoming update of the City's Residential Streets Safety Plan. The Committee will review options discussed for action in the future.**

### **MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF**

- City Manager Ruffing stated that the Fort Bragg High School Interact Club and Key Club will be doing the previously discussed curb painting in the City as a fundraiser. Before beginning the project staff needs to identify the correct type of paint, purchase stencils and supplies, train the students and obtain safety equipment. All addresses in residential areas will be painted for free although the students will be accepting \$5 donations. Fort Bragg Rotary is covering the insurance and encroachment permit. The project will go from mid April until the end of the school year and then begin again in the Fall. It should be completed within the next year.
- Committee Member Melo asked for an update on the contract with Lee Welty to do engineering work on the Fire Station. Goble stated that the administrative draft report is done and it was concluded that the station can be retrofitted and will not need to be torn down. Goble will review the report with the Associate City Engineer before it is finalized and presented to the Fort Bragg Fire Protection Authority.
- Fire Chief Orsi stated that he is happy to hear about the progress with the curb address painting as that is a fire code issue. Also, the new siren is on the fire station; it has a different pitch than before and is now going off for fire calls but is being turned off at night.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.**