

Minutes of the City Council's Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 4:00 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Minutes City Council's Public Safety & Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee April 8, 2008

Committee Member Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

City Staff Present:

Kathy Berzins, Dep Comm Svcs Mgr
Brenda Buren, PD
Tom Canasi, Comm Svcs Mgr
Angel Carbajal, PD
Travis Dray, Dep Mgr, Recreation
Kate Hanley, TCC Exec Dir
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr
Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Mgr
Cliff Jones, Fire Chief
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Glenn Kephart, Pub Works Mgr
Jayson Matthews, TCC
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Tom Ryff, Police Chief
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Pgm Spec
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Dir

Guests Present:

Beth Fiorenza, TCAA
Courtney McCune, ASU Community Relations
Van Ornelas, ASU, Dir. Community Outreach
Stephen Sparks, TCAA
Stephanie Salazar, ASU

Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Institute

Rosa Inchausti summarized that staff has been approached with bringing the Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Institute to Tempe. She introduced Van Ornales with ASU to explain the request.

Van Ornales summarized that the Institute is in its fourteenth year and is housed at the Tempe campus. However, most of the programming and activities are done in Phoenix. In an effort to cut costs, it has been suggested that we partner with the City of Tempe and do various programs through the City. The program deals with 50 students from across the state. It is a leadership development program that literally changes the student by week's end, and the students learn a variety of leadership topics and various career explorations. They explore the legislature and hold mock trials. He distributed brochures describing the program.

Councilmember Arredondo added that he and Rosa have discussed moving what has been taking place in Phoenix to a main campus in Tempe. He added that this is a wonderful opportunity for Tempe. He thanked Rosa for her leadership in bringing this to Tempe.

Agenda Item 2 – Police Department Update on Neighborhood Policing Efforts

Assistant Chief Carbajal summarized first quarter statistics:

- Party Patrol - decrease in party calls by 6.6%. They are beginning to see an increase in parties in the mid-afternoon and they will work with ASU to address this trend.
- Action Team –159 arrests
- SEMS Unit – 185 citations

Assistant Chief Carbajal also reviewed other Police Department efforts in relation to neighborhoods. The Police Department, along with Neighborhood Services and Public Works, are working on the graffiti issues. The Graffiti Hotline has been revised and staff is working with Nikki Ripley in Community Relations on the water bill mailer. The City Manager released an email to all City employees reminding everyone to report graffiti. Staff is also working on revisions to the City ordinance to allow graffiti to be covered in a timely manner.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that there has been a lot of graffiti around Corona del Sol High School and she was impressed with the quick response.

Police Chief Tom Ryff added that enforcement is always a tool. Technically, it is criminal damage, and enforcement cannot be the primary tool. They have to be selective with the officers. They will always be looking for graffiti and will always make an arrest when someone is caught in the act and if major problems occur in an area, the Gang Unit will be made aware. They do support enforcement, but it is the preventive aspect that is important and it is a team effort.

At this time of year, there is an increase in sexual assaults around the University and staff is doing preventive work. Next week they will be out in full force with volunteers along Apache Boulevard and University to distribute fliers on personal safety, as well as information on the loud party ordinance. They will also be working with the apartment complex managers to get that information out.

Agenda Item 3 – Policies for Community Recreation Programs

Mark Richwine summarized that Parks and Recreation noticed there was an unfulfilled item on the Committee's work plan. He outlined the basic policies for community recreation programs. The programs fall into three categories:

- internal by the Parks & Recreation Department;
- partnerships with groups and organizations; and
- outside groups and organizations that utilize the resources available in the community.

In terms of those produced internally, a quarterly publication goes to every postal customer within the City of Tempe. The water bill goes to a household that has a water meter, so multi-family units will go to the property owner. More than a thousand programs are offered per year and over 30,000 registrations are accepted for the classes and activities. The general policies governing those are contained within the fee policy adopted by Council originally in 1987, with the last revision in 2003. That policy has two important provisions. First, all residents enjoy an advance registration period before any non-resident can apply or submit an application. Second, if anyone in the community

doesn't have the ability to pay, they will be able to participate at no charge. Last year, based on the prevailing rate for classes, \$60K in scholarships were awarded.

In terms of partnerships, staff works closely with a number of groups on a wide array of youth programs. Generally, the policies for those programs are governed by agreements entered with approval by Council.

The largest category is comprised of users that utilize the City facilities on a year-round basis. These are done on a permit basis issued by the Parks and Recreation Department pursuant to the City Code. That document is approved by Council. For example, this Council has established that for youth groups and organizations, the use of City facilities is at no charge.

Councilmember Arredondo thanked staff for their overview.

Agenda Item 4 – Follow-up on Youth Town Hall Recommendations on Internet Safety

Kathy Berzins provided an update on the recommendations for 2006/2007 Youth Town Hall regarding internet safety.

- The City has provided internet safety information through the water bill.
- The School Resource Officers at the schools have offered classes regarding internet safety at Connolly and Fees middle schools. At the high school level, classes were held at Marcos de Niza, Tempe High, and McClintock High.
- Classes have been offered through the “No Parent Left Behind” University workshops. Another class will be offered April 15th at Corona del Sol High School.
- The City has been tracking proposed legislation.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo suggested that information be put on Channel 11 after a Council meeting. He asked Ms. Berzins to work with Shelley Hearn.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion of Top Off 4 Disaster Management Exercise

Fire Chief Jones summarized that on October 16, 17 and 18, 2007, the City was involved in the largest disaster exercise in the nation's history. Top Off 4 (Top Officials Fourth Exercise) involved Tempe, Portland, Oregon, and Quam. In Arizona, it was considered a functional exercise with more than 1,000 participants and 300 controllers. There were 974 injects for people to deal with. Al Jensen from the Fire Department and Ray Hardy from the Police Department were key players and they both put in an extraordinary amount of effort in making this exercise successful. Several councilmembers observed the effort and every department participated in the process. The Mayor played a critical role in terms of public information. The exercise involved a “dirty bomb” that was detonated at the 101 and 202 interchange.

The objectives of the exercise focused on prevention:

- to test the critical flow of information
- to test incident management
- to test intelligence and investigation
- public information strategy for coordination of media relations and public information issues
- evaluation – to identify lessons learned and promote best practices
- recovery, which is the operations for a city or community to return to normalcy.

Chief Jones added that problems that were dealt with included EOC management, environmental health, communications, animal health, emergency support, citizen protection including evaluation, shelter and food. Fire response, law enforcement, investigation, emergency medical service, including triage and pre-hospital treatment and volunteer management were key features of the event response. The Police Department has a wide-range of highly effective volunteers in the policing program and they would be a part of the overall response to an incident of this magnitude. Additionally, the Fire Department has a Citizens in Response Team (CIRT) training program which trains citizens and puts them into the Police Department's cadre of citizen volunteers.

Lessons learned:

- Need to practice more with smaller events.
- Additional emphasis on recovery operations.
- Food supplies and long term housing.
- Evaluate an automatic call system to bring all identified personnel to the EOC.
- Implementation of a radio system to connect all emergency operation centers in the Valley.
- Expand use of incident command system and the National Incident Management System. This exercise was used as a catalyst to further training of more people.
- Need to do more work with volunteer groups. Staff will be looking at how we interface with the resources of the faith community. That outreach effort has the potential to pay huge dividends.

Councilmember Shekerjian encouraged working with the faith community. They are very interested in partnering.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Arredondo asked the Chief to send a letter to every councilmember and invite them to see the area where this exercise took place. That facility may have to be enlarged at some point and it is important to see that need.

Chief Jones added that EOC management is truly a joint effort and there isn't a department head that doesn't participate in that process.

Agenda Item 6 – Review of Seized Asset Community Action Grants

Kate Hanley summarized that the RFP for the summer grants has gone out. Staff will have a presentation to Council on the possibility of additional resources this year and will present a list of the agencies that receive the summer grants in June.

Agenda Item 7 – Review of City and Non-profit Partnerships for Homeless Services to Address Impacts on Neighborhoods

Kate Hanley summarized a new partnership among non-profits for homeless services, Change for Change. The partnership is between Tempe Community Council, the Downtown Tempe Community, and Tempe Leadership. She anticipates some new education as well as resources to assist the homeless. There are many new neighbors in the neighborhoods in the downtown area and they will face the challenges of living in an urban community. Tempe Leadership Class 23, in partnership with the DTC and TCC, is working to install eleven to eighteen parking meters that are no longer in use. Visitors can donate their change which will go directly to the agencies that are working with homeless.

Agenda Item 8 – Mobile Home Relocation Policy Update

Kate Hanley summarized that a presentation was made to the Council in January and staff is in the process of examining all of the viable options. This item is agendaized for the May 15th Issue Review Session.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Arredondo stated that there will be a Committee meeting in May. The goal is not to meet in June, July or August.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort, City Clerk