

WOODCREST MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 12, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
16625 Krameria Ave., Riverside, CA 92504
MINUTES

0.0: Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

1.0: Roll Call: Members present Bruce Rogers (chair), Michael Osman, and Sonya Alemdar are present.

2.0: Approval of Minutes, September 14, 2023: Osman made a motion for approval and Alemdar seconded. Minutes for September 14th was approved.

3.0 Community Updates

3.1: Congressman Calvert's Staff Update: Absent, attending Essayli's office grand opening.

3.2: Senator Seyarto Staff Update: Absent, attending Essayli's office grand opening.

3.3: Assemblymember Essayli Staff Update: Absent due to grand opening of new office.

3.4: Riverside County Sheriff's Department: Captain Lamb updated the MAC on the Lake Matthews Station calls. They had 244 calls for service, 19 part 1 crimes (burglary and thefts), 26 arrests were made for a variety of crimes. He reminded audience of upcoming trick or treat event at the Lake Matthews event taking place on the 26th of October.

3.5: Riverside County/CAL Fire: Representative Winston reported from August 10th till today, that there was 33 various calls in the area, 136 medical response, 8 other fire calls, 1 miscellaneous call, 6 public service calls, 2 residential public fires, 1 rescue, 1 alarm, 4 traffic collisions, 15 vehicle fires, and 4 wild land fires. Questions were asked about outdoor firepits approval, outdoor fires permitted days will be posted on the Cal-Fire website as conditions become safe. All campfires by transients are illegal. Saturday, October 14th, Station-8 in Woodcrest will have an open-house.

3.6: Code Enforcement: Officer Jamison Cole reported they had 149 open cases, primarily for construction without permits and outside storage. The department is currently hiring and they have a team for short-term rental compliance. Questions from audience regarding county projects and trash, Cole suggested reporting the matter to county waste resources to report the illegal dumping.

3.7: California Highway Patrol: Officer Navarro updated the MAC on traffic enforcement in the Woodcrest area. Officer Navarro had no statistical update due to helping set up memorial site ceremony for a fallen officer Steven Licon on Interstate 15 at the Lake Street undercrossing. Alemdar noted Officer Licon was a Lake Matthews resident and often attended the Woodcrest MAC meetings. Attendees expressed concerns of people running the stop sign on Markham during morning commute hours. Several attendees expressed concern over vehicles driving in their neighborhoods at high speeds around Van Buren and Washington at 5:00 AM every morning.

3.8: Riverside County Emergency Management Department: Absent

3.9: Western Municipal Water District Staff Update: Gracie Torres updated Mockingbird pipeline is still under emergency construction, the stream will be moved to build the pipeline properly, it should be completed by the end of November. The City of Riverside is proposing water rate increases, this is not the water district seeking the increase; although, the water district will be studying rate increases for 2025. An attendee asked about groundwater seeping through the streets, she advised to report those incidents because aquifers are currently filled to capacity. Construction on Dallas Avenue will begin soon, and she will update as soon as she learns more. Board members are also getting an increase in pay despite her dissent.

3.10 Woodcrest Library Update: Absent.

3.11 Supervisor Karen Spiegel's Office: Melania Castellanos updated the MAC on the positive results of National Night Out and waste management committee clean up with 352 customers disposing of bulky items at Sandals Church parking lot; it included disposal of 330 tires and 54 mattresses. Melania clarified that beginning in 2024, MAC meetings will only take place on odd months. For December there will be a "Cookies with Santa" event to take place at the Woodcrest Library.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Regional Cold Case Homicide Team: DA Sr. Investigator Ebony Caviness and RSO Investigator Nelson Gomez discussed ongoing cold case investigation of old homicide cases. The team consists of investigators from RPD, RSO, DA's Office, and Coroner's Office. They are currently reviewing 12 cold cases, there are about 600 unresolved cases in Riverside County. The reason for the team is new technologies allows them to review old cases and submit potential DNA evidence and potentially identify victims and suspects (i.e. Golden State Killer). It is also important to note that updated DNA technology is also used to exonerate innocent parties. The team's grant allows DNA research of homicide and sexual assault cases. People who suspect they might be related to victims can submit their DNA to the team and it will be entered into a missing person database (MUPS).

4.2 Treasurer – Tax Collector's Office – Matthew Jennings discussed current tax bills are currently going out via USPS. It's an ongoing process and everyone should be getting their bills within the next couple of weeks. They are down about 30% staffing and working as hard as they can to get their tasks accomplished. He clarified that they are not the assessor office and are not responsible for the property assessment. The 1st tax installment is due November 1st but you have till December 10th to pay it and the 2nd installment is due February 1st but you have until April 10th to pay it. Mr. Jennings briefly discussed the assessment process to evaluate the property tax bill.

5.0 Public Comments: Maryana Hernandez with the Riverside County of Public Health provided information on Covid-19 vaccines outreach. Also discussed RSV and flu season and providing phone number and outreach for those who have questions.

6.0: Woodcrest MAC Board Comments:

Member Alemdar thanked everyone for a very successful National Night Out event.

Member Osmon thanked the attendees for showing up.

Chair Rogers let everyone know he is posting the MAC meeting on various social media.

MAC Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM