

Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council

Thursday, September 10, 2015

WOODCREST LIBRARY

16625 Krameria Ave –Riverside, CA 92504

MEETING MINUTES

1. **6:00pm Call To Order:** Meeting was called to order by Gary Jensen (Chairman), the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the chair.

Roll Call of Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council: Present were Gary Jensen (Chairman), Les Douty, Geoffrey Dooley, Murl Craft and Joel Dingman (alternate) filling in as secretary for the absent Allison Dale.

Roll Call of Riverside County: Representing Riverside County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries office was Dr. Kristen Huyck, EdD.

2. **Approval of minutes:** The chair called for a motion to accept the minutes of the prior Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting dated July 9th, 2015. The motion was seconded by Les Douty and carried by unanimous consent of the council to be entered into the public record and submitted to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

3. **6:05pm Update from Government Agencies:**

Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Deputy David Thomas and Deputy Sgt. Ralph Rico gave the Sheriff's Dept. crime statistics report within Woodcrest during the past 60 days. The report outlined that property crimes were up but personal crimes were down when compared with statistics from the prior two month period. The majority of increased instances of theft being vehicle theft or robbery occurring at the Stater Bros. market shopping center at the corner of Van Buren Blvd. and Washington Ave. However, residential personal property theft of firearms and computers is also up compared to statistics from this time last year. One possible cause of the increase in personal property theft is the result of the voters passing Proposition 47 which raised the defining standards of major crime whereby making theft of items worth less than \$1,000.00 a misdemeanor. This includes the theft of firearms or vehicles. Council Member Murl Craft, complained of his Toyota pickup truck being stolen for the second time from his home. This led to a general discussion of frustration from the assembly regarding the passage of Proposition 47 and the posting of only two Sheriff's Dept. officers for the Woodcrest area. A general consensus of disgust was expressed by the community of the passage of Proposition 47.

This has seemingly led to an increase in crime throughout the Woodcrest area of Riverside County.

A general discussion of suspects within the community led to the definition of patterns of crime including mail, property and vehicle theft.

CalFire: Fire Fighter, Jeremiah Nelson, gave a report about the importance of clearing debris from private property as a valuable measure to cut the hazard of fire danger. CalFire is not issuing burn permits at this time due to the increased possibility of fire hazards getting out of control due to dry conditions and winds. Fire Fighter Nelson discussed how inspections are being carried out throughout the county and Woodcrest area to attempt to mitigate the hazards of a wild fire starting from an out of control situation being pushed by the hot dry temperatures. A general discussion was posed about defensible spaces and trees. Also the Fire Dept. has decided to not patrol during the coming Fourth of July holiday and has referred the issue of enforcement to the code enforcement department. Fire-Fighter Nelson discussed the numbers of fire department call outs were automobile accident versus actual property fires. Statistics were sobering with 80% of all Fire Fighter call-outs being medical support.

6:22 pm, California Highway Patrol Motor Officer, Brad Gilmore gave a short report of driving issues within Woodcrest. A majority of his time is being spent on accidents. School pick-up and delivery is causing major traffic issues throughout the Woodcrest area. MAC Chairman Gary Jensen complained about excessive noise from unmuffled motor cycle exhaust around Lil Abner's bar at the corner of Van Buren and Chicago Ave. This noise issue was unanimously supported by the meeting members as unacceptable and needs to be addressed by law enforcement.

6:33pm, Riverside County Code Enforcement, officer Jose Cruz gave a report about marijuana growers in the area and the details of the laws regarding personal growth for personal use. Council member Les Douty asked about Code Enforcement staffing issues and how no increase in code enforcement budget was asked for from the current leadership of the agency. Chairman Gary Jensen asked about code enforcement issues related to car sales on private property throughout the area and blocking the right of way areas. Members of the community asked about the uncontrolled dumping of surplus asphalt on dirt roads in the area.

4. **Torrie Web from Western Municipal Water District** gave an update on water issues in the community. This included the replacement of piping along Van Buren Blvd. and the closing of traffic lanes each night to accommodate the work as well advanced warning for road closures. It became apparent that Mr. Web seemed to have been caught

unprepared for such lines of questioning from the committee members and citizens assembled as no answers were immediately offered from Mr. Web for questions from the floor.

7:00pm Louis Davis from Southern California Edison discussed the proposed rate hikes for electricity in the area changing from a 5 tier system to a 2 tier system as well as safety issues and power outages. He gave out a number for emergencies of 1-800-611-1911 for service questions or emergencies.

5. **7:17pm New Business:**

Debbie Melvin asked about the development of the real-estate across from the elementary school being reused for RV parking and septic system issues

Dr. Huyck discussed construction projects in the area and upcoming events in nearby areas of Orange Crest and Mead Valley as well as the upcoming town hall meeting scheduled for November 12, 2015 at the Woodcrest Elementary School.

Geoffrey Dooley was awarded a citation from the Riverside County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries office for his many successful years of service to the community as chairman of the Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council (MAC).

6. **7:35pm Comments from the committee:** Council Member Murl Craft asked for clarification of an upcoming agenda item, Discussion was made about the next meeting being the annual town hall meeting at the elementary school.

7. **7:40pm Adjournment:** Chairman Gary Jensen asked for the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was carried.

