

Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council
Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 6:00 PM
Woodcrest Library
16625 Krameria Avenue Riverside, Ca. 92504

- 1.0 Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance; Les Douty, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- 2.0 Roll Call Advisory Council: Gary Jensen, Murl Craft, Les Douty, Geoffrey Dooley, Joel Dingman, Derrick Anderson (Secretary; Alternate),
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2017. Motion passed.
- 4.0 Updates from Government Agencies

4.1 Riverside County Sheriff Officer Thomas

Deputy Thomas stated: Criminal activity continues to be up especially burglaries, petty thief, and car break-in and in the areas of Van Buren and King and Van Buren and Washington. There were 357 calls made in January and 6 arrests, as well as 265 calls in February and 2 arrests. Several of the calls concerned shattered windows, it seems as if someone has been going around shooting out windows with a BB gun. Deputy Thomas said he has had a significant amount of interactions with individuals in the community who are in need of shelter. He has had to ask them to leave several abandon buildings in the area. Deputy Thomas was given several other locations that seem to be gathering spots for people who are homeless.

Lieutenant Edward Chavez addressed the audience concerning the Officer Involved shooting that occurred on January 8, 2017 near the corner of Van Buren and Wood Street. He stated that a Riverside County Sheriff Deputy did have to use deadly force in the line of duty to subdue a suspect. Because it is an active investigation he was very limited in what he could say other than the suspect was throwing rocks at the deputy and then came at him with a large knife. They deputy discharged his weapon hitting the suspect who died as a result of his wounds. Chavez reported that the deputy was not injured.

The Lieutenant also informed the group that the department is actively citing people who are illegally discharging weapon; thirty citations have been issued in the last two weeks. He asked that if anyone knows of someone who is shooting guns, please let them know that they will be cited if they are not at an authorized shooting range, which normally charges a fee and has safety regulations established.

4.2 Cal Fire – Engineer Nelson

With the recent rains the department has had quite a few service calls concerning flooding and the most serious was concerning a mobile home whose roof caved in.

The County Fire Department is facing a budget short fall and the Chief has been asked to come up with a list of possible cuts to save 11.9 million dollars. Some of the possibilities include: closing one or more stations, reducing the number of personnel on some trucks, and charging recovery fees for some services (less than 1/3 would be charged a fee). The chief's 20page report he submitted to the Board of Supervisors can be found on line.

4.3 California Highway Patrol- Kevin Porter Area Commander

The 91 Freeway project will be finished by the end of March. The CHP has a program they call Focus Collision Enforcement. They credit this program with reducing 76% of deaths in the areas which they implement this strategy. The CHP also has a program to help families obtain car seats if they can't afford to buy them. Commander Porter encouraged those in attendance to help find new recruits and explores to join the department. He said," if you have a traffic complaint or parking complaint" you can call 951-637-8000 Monday to Friday and speak with designated staff who will assist you. The two officers assigned to our area are Officer Abraham Cervantes and Hugo Pérez.

4.4 Western Municipal Water District – Michele McKinney

Michele stated that the planned rate increase public meeting set for March has been cancelled. She said that the district did this because they were in the process of making a long term deal with the City of Riverside and another agency in the basin to purchase additional local water. She stated they wanted to finalize these deals and have that information before moving forward on a water increase request. Michele said that there possibly could be a public hearing in September with a possible implementation date of January 2018 for an increase.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Community Action Partnership- Mark Burns

Mark informed us that his organization is conducting a needs assessment and that they are in the process of taking a survey in the community to determine what services people are interested in receiving. He said that his agencies goal was to help people become self sufficient, not to enable them. In the past they have provided financial education to students and parents, various trainings, veterans services, and child care.

5.2 EDA (Project Management Office) Vincent Coffeen

Vincent shared that the County Board of Supervisors agree that there is a need for expanding our Woodcrest Library. He informed us that the board would be voting to approve the funds needed during their March 21st meeting. Once money is approved that will start the programing process defining the needs and validating the numbers. His group will then come and meet with the library staff and community groups to get their input on the quality and structure for the building expansion as well as selecting an architect. His basic understanding is that the expansion should be a doubling of the current meeting space to accommodate approximately 200 people, rather than the 85 or so that is capacity now. They next will go into the designing phase and develop options to present.

Someone asked if they would be paving the parking lot? It was noted that the budget is limited and it doesn't seem that there is money to pave the parking lot. Someone else wanted to know if we could add more computers and Connie the Librarian said that there are 23 computers and most of the time people can walk –in and use a computer whenever they want. He estimated that the project would take 18 to 24 months but that depended on several variables.

5.3 MAC Board (selection of secretary or alternate) Thomas Ketcham

Thomas gave a brief overview of MAC Boards structure; most consist of five members and two alternates. It was noted that if any board member were unable to fulfill their term of office that one of the alternates then would fulfill the remainder of that term. Every July members are rotated on and off the board as well as new officers are elected.

Thomas told the group that Derrick Anderson is serving as secretary and alternate and that an alternate can serve as and officer. Therefore, the board would have to decide if one of the appointed board member would either accept the secretary's position or vacate their position and become the alternate. He said he would like to have a decision by our next meeting in May. Geoffrey Dooley asked Thomas if he could tell him who was due to rotate off in July and Thomas told him he didn't know right then, but he would find out and email that information to the board. He later asked if Code Enforcement would be put on the next agenda. Les announce that if no was willing to set down he would because he planned on resigning at the end of June which would be the completion of eight years on the board. One of the questions from the floor was is there an age requirement? After lots of laughter and smiles, Thomas further explained the process for applying and being appointed as a member or alternate as well as the length of appointments.

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Parisha Doyle

Parisha Doyle voiced concerns about MFI Rehab Center, their clients and the people who come to visit on the weekends. The center is located on Roosevelt and Dallas in the Woodcrest. Ms. Doyle said that the centers clients make inappropriate, rude and crude remarks to the females who live in the area. She and her neighbors are concern that visitors to the center often speed through the area making it unsafe for everyone. Lastly, the residents in the area are outraged that several clients of MFI recently were witnessed breaking into a near by home carrying off stolen property. She wanted to know what the residents of the area had to

do to see about having their licenses revoked. It was suggested that the neighbors talk with Tom Ketcham after the meeting and he could direct them to the appropriate people. The neighbors were also concerned about the bad condition of the road and where again directed to Thomas.

7.0 Woodcrest MAC Member Comments

7.1 Members Comments

Gary Jensen announced that he had a petition against the water rate increase if anyone wanted to sign it they could see him after the meeting. Les said that he was against the water rate increase and reiterated that he was retiring after the May meeting and thanked the people for allowing him to serve them. Geoffrey Dooley said that Paul Davis suggests that if you are against the water rate increase that you sign the petitions and get as many people to sign as you can. Geoffrey also said that Paul Davis announced that the city is building a skate park that will be on a boundary it shares with Woodcrest near Taft. Paul is looking for input from the youth and families as to what they would like to see in the new park. Derrick announced that the road at Citrus Heights and Van Buren Blvd should be opening the week of March 20th 2017.

8.0 Legislative Updates:

8.1 Katlyn Blackmer Field Rep, Assemblywomen Melissa Melendez office.

The Assemblywomen introduce AB 27, which would change the rape of an intoxicated person from a non-violent crime to a violent crime. She also introduced AB 757 that clarifies that self-defense is an acceptable justification for obtaining a carry permit and AB 351 a bill to reallocate the estimated 1 billion dollars I revenue collected from the vehicle weight fee back towards road repair. Also, there is a bill proposal that would make California a sanctuary state and the Assemblywomen wants everyone to know she is opposed to that.

8.2 Thomas C. Ketcham—Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jefferies

Mr. Ketcham told the citizens, if they see someone doing something illegal to just write down the license plate number and call the sheriff. He said it is not a good idea to confront them or to follow them. Thomas reported that the latest edition of the Supervisors newsletter had just come out and some copies were available here or you could read it on line.

Thomas wanted everyone to know that the Supervisor does not support tax hikes and that he and Supervisor Washington did not vote for the latest hike enacted by the Board.

The board is reviewing the new law that legalized recreational marijuana; they are racing the clock to get policies and guidelines in place by January 2018. The County has a new Planning Director. As mention earlier there is lots of illegal shooting in the county however, signs must be posted reading no shooting, before the sheriff can write tickets for that violation. Therefore, we will be seeing “no shooting allowed” signs installed throughout the county enforcement will follow. The county is looking at what alternative routes that may be available alleviate traffic during emergencies on I-215. Next, Thomas wanted recognize and to give credit to Kristen Hyuck for all her hard work and efforts that resulted in the library expansion being funded. He wanted the community to know that she was the driving force to make that happen. The last two things Thomas addressed were the empty warehouse by the elementary school and bad roads in the district. It appears that there is a buyer who wants to use the warehouse property as RV and boat storage. The property has been boarded up and secured again; hopefully the new owner will be able to take possession soon. In closing Thomas shared that he had met with the residents who live on Warren Road and yes their road is in bad shape, but Granite road which he had to taken before was just as bad or worst. Thomas said the Supervisor recognizes that we have a great need for road repairs and maintenance, but the budget is so very limited. One suggestion for the residents living within the area of Warren on the South, Roosevelt on the West, Wood on the East, Mariposa to the North and they formulate a plan that could address many of their needs. In other parts of the district some residential neighborhoods had formed CSAs that voted to tax themselves so that they could have their roads improved. They then are able to hire their own contractors who can do the work a lot less than what the county has to pay.

9.0 Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

10. Upcoming Dates

Next MAC meeting May 11th 2017, 6pm @ Woodcrest Library