



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

DATE: October 10 , 2018

AGENDA OF: October 15, 2018

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

SUBJECT: 2013 Citizen Public Safety Task Force Update (CM)

RECOMMENDATION: Receive staff presentation and provide direction as appropriate.

BACKGROUND: As documented in the attached December 3, 2013 executive summary, policy recommendations, staff report, and related Council meeting minutes, after several months of study, coordination and deliberation, the Citizen Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) delivered its final report, *Research, Findings and Recommendations: Santa Cruz City Public Safety Citizen Task Force*, to Council.

The final report focused on four themes of study: 1) Environmental Degradation and Behaviors Affecting our Sense of Safety, 2) Drug Addiction and Non-Violent Crime, 3) Gang Violence and Violent Crime, and 4) Criminal Justice System and Governance Structure. The report first identified information gathered through interviews and meetings with a wide array of subject matter experts and community members. Following the detailed investigative information were the approximately 80 policy recommendations. The recommendations are divided into three categories: 1) prevention, 2) strategic enforcement with accountability, 3) collaborative oversight, and 4) appropriate funding.

DISCUSSION: With nearly five years passed since the adoption of the PSTF final report, much of the critical work identified by the PSTF has been accomplished, some remains, and generally speaking, the climate of cooperation among stakeholders has significantly improved. At a high level, those accomplishments include:

Prevention:

Environmental design and protection of high crime areas and open spaces

- Installation of fencing, security cameras and lighting in San Lorenzo Park and along the Riverwalk. Installation of fencing and vegetation management at various other City parks including Laurel, Grant, and Star of the Sea. Increase of ranger presence and First Alarm patrol at Harvey West Park and First Alarm patrol along the Upper Ocean corridor. Initiation of SCDP Neighborhood Policing Teams with focus on preventative measures in the City's high crime areas.
- Strong City staff presence (City Manager's Office and SCPD) on the County's Syringe Services Program (SSP) Advisory Group. Continued collaboration on evolving the SSP

program to maintain the 1:1 exchange, focus efforts on treatment options, and lessen the impact of discarded syringes in the City.

Enhancement of drug and alcohol treatment funding

- City staff (Susie O'Hara) assigned to the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Alcohol and Drug Program Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Intervention Services, 2014-2019, Community Planning Team to ensure City priorities are shared and access to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment is increased.
- City and County direct contribution to SUD treatment for City populations increased through Downtown Accountability Program, Bob Lee Community Partnership for Accountability, Connection and Treatment and Santa Cruz Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement & Services (DAP, PACT, and HOPES).
- Expanded Drug Medical increased access and funding for SUD treatment
- City and County combined investment of \$1,056,000 over three years to drug and alcohol treatment through CORE Investments.

Expansion of pro-social youth programs

- Ongoing SCPD leadership to provide the Teen Public Safety Academy.
- Ongoing SCPD leadership to support BASTA, Broad-based Apprehension, Suppression and Treatment Alternatives.
- City School sends out emails to every family within the City Schools District notifying them of the City of Santa Cruz summer scholarships. Applications sent to contacts at Sycamore Commons, Beach Flats Community Center and SCPD.
- Teen Center is open (free) Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3-8pm, Wednesday from 1:30-8pm, Friday 3-9:30 pm and Saturday 4:30-9.
- City of Santa Cruz Cannabis Fund established to enhance children's services.
- City and County combined investment of \$2,052,000 over three years to support outcomes of the Youth Violence Prevention Plan, \$1,335,000 to support outcomes of the First Five Strategic Plan, \$237,000 to support outcomes of the Child Welfare Systems Improvement Plan, and \$1,389,000 to support outcomes for the Master Plan for Early Care and Education.

Strategic Enforcement with Accountability Initiatives:

Strategic Police Enforcement

- SCPD recruitment remains a top priority for the department with new incentives being offered to increase interest among potential recruits and community members.
- The establishment of the Neighborhood Policing Teams ensures proactive approaches are being utilized to evaluate and mitigate neighborhood crime and nuisance issues.
- SCPD completed its Staffing Study with a goal to conduct an analysis of the operational efficiency of SCPD and staffing configurations that might improve officer availability and productivity

Offender Assistance with Accountability/Recidivism Reduction

- 2014 establishment of the DAP, then PACT, then HOPES programs.

Superior Court Accountability

- PACT Court, Behavioral Health Court, and Veteran's Court established.

Collaborative Accountability and Appropriate Funding Initiatives

- Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors approved ballot Measure G to continue funding 9-1-1 emergency response, paramedic, sheriff, fire, emergency preparedness, local street repairs, mental health services, homelessness programs, parks, economic development and other general county services, by increasing by ordinance the sales tax on retail transactions in the unincorporated area of the County by one-half cent for twelve years, providing approximately \$5,750,000 annually, subject to annual audits and independent citizens oversight.

Even with these significant accomplishments, there remains public safety priorities to be addressed and some of the PSTF recommendations continue to be topics of discussion for the Public Safety Committee. In recent months, the Public Safety Committee has dialogued on questions around code enforcement of nuisance properties, better management of high risk alcohol outlets vis-à-vis serial inebriates, and ongoing impacts related to RV parking. Those areas, and others identified by the Committee, may be prioritized to be included in next year's work plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

Prepared and Submitted by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Citizen Public Safety Task Force Final Report Executive Summary, Policy Recommendations, Staff Report and Meeting Minutes