

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

515 Silver Avenue - North Richmond, CA 94801

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p. m., as unofficial, due to lack of a quorum.

Board members present were: Dr. Henry Clark, Beverly Scott and Karen Garcia.

Absent were: Don Gilmore, Lily Rahnema, Aaron Morgan and Annie King-Meredith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES: Passed up due to lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leyna Nguyen, Program Director/Northern CA Asthma/Breathmobile Program

Reports on heavy work in the community as air quality has been poor.

Dr. Clark ask, about the statistic/results pertaining to the treatment of students, at the local schools, that are enrolled and are participating in the program. Answer is that the report will be calculated at the end of the year, will present the findings in January 2019.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/AGENCY REPORTS

Deputies Duran, Culberson and Brooks: Reporting for the month of November 2018.

Crime is down, but they are dealing with transients, braking in and loitering, due to the evacuation/demolition of the Las Deltas Housing Projects. This is keeping the deputies extremely busy, while on patrol.

A homicide occurred two days ago, it occurred on 4th and Silver, one block from the center. It is understood that the assailants have been taken into custody, both victim and suspects are Latino teenagers. Henry and Janie asked about the nature of the homicide. Information cannot be released to the public, due to an ongoing investigation.

Officer Bashan, RPD: (made report after Tony Ucciferri/CC Housing Authority), Reporting for the month of November 2018: Crime is down on the city side of NR.

There was an arrest on Market and 2nd Street, of a suspect who was evading arrest.

There were two thefts for stealing of property.

Dr. Clark raises the issue of the report into RPD management, that was released recently. He asks what's going on within the police department, there is a lot of bad talk and bad newspaper articles floating around. Wants to know when will the mess get cleaned up? Officer is not in a position to respond.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Officer Abernethy/CHP: Reporting for the month of November 2018: There were a few stolen vehicles. Homeless continue to live in abandoned vehicles. The cold weather has been a dampening force on stolen vehicles and other crimes. Homeless is still a big issue, with many living in abandoned cars and RVs.

Dr. Clark says he is sympathetic to homelessness, but draws a firm line when homeless commit crimes like theft and burglary.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations

Tony Ucciferri/CC Housing Authority-Las Deltas Safety:

Tony reports that there has been an uprising in crime at the Las Deltas Housing Development, mostly due to break-ins. The same crime occurs over and over again. Squatters are forced to move upon being caught while occupying vacant units. They move from one vacant unit to another. There are six families still occupying the Las Deltas units. Ten families occupy the scattered housing authority units, that are scattered throughout the neighborhood.

Tony says that they worked it out with HUD to tear down the two story units. They are looking to HUD for approval to tear down all the sites in the main campus, but that's not approved yet. The scattered sites can be potentially brought or leased by other parties/groups to do something positive in the community. Home ownership is also a possibility for some of the scattered sites.

Housing is working with the sheriff to remove more cars that are on vacant unit driveways. They would also like to consider fencing or blocking streets in the near future.

They were hoping to have the remaining residents relocated by the end of December, but realistically they are thinking about finishing the relocation during the first quarter of 2019.

They are working with Healthy Richmond and CHDC on the visioning process for the future of Las Deltas.

Beverley Scott says she is a little concerned about outsiders like Healthy Richmond leading this process. Karen Garcia says she thinks Healthy Richmond is empowering the local residents, rather than leading by outsiders.

Tony says this development must be a community wide process, and is more comprehensive than housing alone. Broader vision is important, with community. Don't want million dollar houses here, but mixed use and mixed income that grows and builds on the neighborhood.

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Dr. Clark asks whether crime has gone up in the places where former Las Deltas residents have relocated to. Tony says no evidence to suggest that is the case.

Tony says this is a pivotal time for all of this. We are actually moving. We have torn down six buildings. Others will go, we are making progress, and this is an important time for residents to speak up about what they want to see.

They had to take down the six two story units, they were collapsing, buildings were being set on fire, citizens health and safety was in jeopardy.

Tony says to fix our 1,100 units countywide would cost about \$50 million, and we get less than \$2 million per year in capital funds, so presently, repairs-it's never going to happen.

Heritage Point for instance, has eight different funding sources. This is extremely challenging, to say that we will replace the main campus in two to five years, is probably optimistic. Possible but unlikely.

Robert Rogers says this is a difficult problem and it's going to get worse before it gets better. We are considering barriers around the main campus. On the scattered sites, we need residents to get license plate numbers and report to Tania, so we can bust some of the dumpers. That will send powerful signals. We are in for tough problems, for a long time with these vacant sites, and we'll need to work together and do more. There are no easy answers and this requires cooperation by all partners. Tony will come back to report/present to the NRMAC in February.

Summary: In 2016, housing authority started the process of moving/relocating eighty-one residents out of Las Deltas. Six families remain as of 12/18. By March they should be relocated. A year away before an award to a developer be given. Looking at three or four developers. Two to five years before selling off property.

The scattered sites around the neighborhood, will sell, to be refurbished, and re-sold, if necessary. Proceeds from sell, will be used for improvements in other project housing throughout the county. Fifty-one million is needed for improvements in other projects in the county.

CHDC does have an advantage in the planning, because of their involvement with housing in the community. North Richmond Planning Committee is with Healthy Richmond.

Cynthia asked about the RAD program thru HUD. It was explained to her that RAD stands for: Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. RAD allows the housing authority to remove restrictions and redevelop properties.

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Dr. Clark asks about the timeline. Tania asked about the lady living on 5th Street, across from a vacant housing authority duplex. She has problems with transients, homeless people, etc. Wants to know how does housing plan on addressing these issues. What role can residents play. Answer is that they are working with public works, to control the units. It was suggested that the resident join Neighborhood Watch. Housing says that they contract out the Sheriff Department to protect the units. Princess wants to know, will residents have opportunity to buy into the scattered houses in the community.

Jessie Stewart/Richmond Promise: Jessie states that there is about nine hundred scholars enrolled in various programs across the country, as a result of being involved in the Richmond Promise Program. Richmond Promise supports multiple pathways, including college, technical schools, and more.

Students merely need to live in Richmond or North Richmond, attend school, and complete FAFSA. Students would be eligible to qualify for a \$1,500 grant to be applied toward a higher education. They would like to see more North Richmond students take advantage of this program.

There is no formal STEM program relationship, Jessie says they do work well together. They hope to build more community awareness to ensure that all children eligible, are part of this opportunity.

Dr. Clark says many of the City Council was opposed to the Modernization Project, so they didn't really support the Richmond Promise, which is terrible and it hurts North Richmond. He wants to see more North Richmond students take advantage of the program. Princess ask is there a program for older re-entry college students. (No)

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Office of County Supervisor John Gioia:

The new basketball courts at Shield's and Reid Park are a big success. The annexation issue should come to council in January. On December 6th, a party is being hosted by and at Supervisor John Gioia's office. The event is to benefit Verde School children, all are invited. The event is from (5-7 p.m.) - location Supervisor's John Gioia's office.

On December 14th, from (9 -11 a.m.), there will be the party/giveaway of books, (West County Reads) and hoodies at Verde Elementary School. This is an annual event; the past events have been extremely successful.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Dr. Clark wants to know why annexation meeting keeps getting delayed. Robert promises to ask. Dr. Clark says he expects Supervisor Gioia to stand with the community, that voted (no) on annexation. Dr. Clark feels that Supervisor Gioia should be in attendance at the council meeting, pertaining to annexation. If he can't attend, then a written letter should be presented, declaring his position on NR annexation. Robert says that he will pass Dr. Clark's suggestion to Supervisor Gioia. Robert replies that he doesn't have the exact figures, but probably about (150) residents cast votes.

Roxanne Garza/Healthy Neighborhoods: The community visioning process for Las Deltas is going well. Not much to add from Tony's presentation. The Visioning meetings are great for educating and empowering residents. They have collected a lot of good, resourceful and helpful information, coming into the visioning sessions. Roxanne also states that the police are here in the community to help enforce the law and to protect the citizens. It's all about planning for a secure future, and quality of life.

Dr. Clark says RPD is in shambles and can't clean its own house. He doesn't want to invite any one from a dirty house, to come into NR, playing games with the community. They can't patrol North Richmond because they can't patrol Richmond. Want a report from the Chief of RPD, in order to hear about how they are addressing the issues in their report. Dr. Clark calls the police department a mess and says it is unfit for the area.

Next visioning session to be held: North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, January 10th, from (6 -8 p.m.). All are encouraged to attend.

Tania Pulido/Community Coordinator-CHDC: Tania announces that the NR GREEN newsletter is out. Ditches are clean on Fred Jackson Way, the City of Richmond cleaned them. Infra structure/construction has started on parts of the Rain Garden Project. Karen and Cynthia want to be looped in to discuss issues on how to do the mural on the Verde School Bridge.

Princess Robinson/Urban Tilth: CSA box out of North Richmond is very successful and open to more customers. EBT is being accepted toward payment of the CSA boxes. Public Works has donated a van for the farms use.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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