

1. Call to Order.

Councilmember Debbie M^cKillip called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She noted Councilmember Avila Farias should be on her way.

Councilmember M^cKillop noted this was the first meeting she would be chairing. She indicated Item #2 would be postponed until Councilmember Avila Farias arrives.

Item taken Out of Order

3. Body Worn Cameras.

Interim Chief of Police Eric Ghisletta updated the public on body worn cameras. He confirmed the Department is looking at the subject, in light of recent incidents across the country. He stated the Department will study the pros and cons and will be speaking to other agencies already wearing them, as well as, the Police Officers Association.

Councilmember M^cKillop noted there are grant funds available to police agencies to purchase the body cameras, which Interim Chief Ghisletta confirmed.

A member of the public asked whether Martinez police cruisers have cameras, and Interim Chief Ghisletta said they do not. He explained those cameras are more expensive and do not have the same perspectives as the body cameras.

Councilmember M^cKillop requested the public to come up to the microphone so their comments are recorded.

4. Crime Statistics.

Interim Chief Ghisletta provided an update on crime statistics from 2014 compared to 2013. He reported there were more homicides and robberies, while aggravated assault stayed the same; both residential burglaries and commercial burglaries decreased; and auto thefts are on the rise (in the City and countywide). Interim Chief Ghisletta noted the California Highway Patrol is leading a Task Force providing increased surveillance and awareness to the issue.

Interim Chief Ghisletta continued his report, noting Driving under the Influence (DUI) arrests are consistent. He commented grants from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) help provide DUI checkpoints. He noted accidents are down four percent from 2013.

Councilmember M^cKillop commented on motorcycle noise issues. Interim Chief Ghisletta indicated the Police are aware and are making efforts to reach out to the bikers.

5. Neighborhood Issues: * Brodia Ct. * Kingston Ct. * Tahoe Circle * Pacheco Blvd.

Interim Chief Ghisletta discussed situations in the neighborhoods listed. He reviewed the issues being dealt with, past history, recommended mediation, and the current status for each neighborhood. He also responded to questions/comments from the Subcommittee and the public.

*Councilmember Avila Farias entered at 6:35 p.m. and took her place at the dais.

2. Railway Oil Transportation: * Notification of Crude Transportation Update * League of Cities Update * Railway meeting update.

Councilmember Avila Farias reported on a meeting she, Mayor Schroder and Chief Ghisletta had with Union Pacific Railroad on February 27th. She expressed appreciation for the information shared and for the safety measures already in place. She commented on a potential educational presentation by Union Pacific at an upcoming Council meeting, as well as, future collaboration with other rail providers.

Councilmember Avila Farias also discussed information released by the League of California Cities Board of Directors regarding regulation updates they would like to see implemented on a national level for rail service providers. She further expressed confidence the City Council would support the recommendations and work with the League towards implementation.

Interim Chief Ghisletta commented on safety measures already in place on the rail tracks, and notifications made to the State in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 380. However, he noted they are not sent to local jurisdictions due to the necessary review by the State's legal department.

Councilmember M^cKillop asked how specific the information the City receives from the State will be. Chief Ghisletta said he was not sure; however, he expects it will include estimated shipment dates, but probably not exact times.

Councilmember Avila Farias commented on the strengthened collaboration between the railroads and governmental agencies. She mentioned dual hazmat training offered by Union Pacific, updated information provided on current railway technology, and equipment and homeland security measures.

Councilmember M^cKillop asked if the presentation will be one-time or ongoing. Councilmember Avila Farias said it will be probably be once or twice a year.

At the request of Councilmember Avila Farias, Interim Chief Ghisletta discussed security issues with the railyard near downtown Martinez; as well as, additional measures, which could be implemented to increase public safety.

Councilmember M^cKillop expressed appreciation for Union Pacific willing to meet with City representatives and to consider the issues at hand. She looks forward to future information sharing and collaboration. Councilmember Avila Farias noted she was glad to see Union Pacific's willingness to work with the League of California Cities to consider and address statewide issues as well.

Interim Chief Ghisletta noted there is a mobile phone application for police and fire departments for notifications in the event of a railway emergency incident.

Councilmember Avila Farias opened the item for public comment.

Guy Cooper, Martinez Environmental Group (MEG), noted his organization, which brought the issue to the attention of the City, is still very opposed to the transportation of the hazardous materials through Martinez. He asked whether MEG would be given the opportunity to address the Council, preferably at the same meeting with Union Pacific and/or Burlington, Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad. Mr. Cooper thought it was important the public hear both sides of the issue. He also noted the Kinder Morgan shipment, which travels over the Martinez trestle, has been cancelled due to the economy. He expressed concern whether notification will be given when the shipment resumes. He urged the Council to ask the Air Quality Management District to rescind the permit until necessary safety precautions are made. He commented on other jurisdictions, which have spoken up in favor of safety first, and expressed concern about future rail incidents. Finally, he questioned the accuracy of the railroad statistics.

Peter Dragovich, MEG, said he had copies of recommendations from the League of California Cities if the Subcommittee members wanted them. He noted there is an existing law, regarding required notification. He also pointed out BNSF and Union Pacific do not control the freight, which runs on the tracks. Freight is controlled by the shipping companies. He expressed concern about needed safety inspections for the Martinez trestle and area bridges.

Jim Neu, MEG, suggested the City get information from Valero regarding trains traveling through Martinez with volatile cargo. He commented on the several Public Safety Committee meetings over the last year, and reviewed some of the issues and questions raised at previous meetings. He also discussed new railyard requirements instituted by the federal government following 9/11.

Councilmember Avila Farias indicated staff would take any questions/comments from the public or MEG to pass on to Union Pacific and BNSF, for inclusion in their presentation(s) before the Council. She noted the meeting included information about the BNSF trestle and its safety. Chief Ghisletta added the Martinez Police, Con Fire, and the railroads have safety plans in place and will continue to keep public safety at the forefront.

6. Public Comment.

Sarah Cooper, resident of Tavan Estates, discussed safety issues with Reliez Valley Road in going from her neighborhood to the footpath and Golden Hills Park, missing sidewalks, limited shoulders, and speeding traffic. She asked for the Subcommittee's help in resolving these issues.

Regarding railway safety, Julian Frazer commented on the girl who died on the BNSF railroad recently, and he expressed concern the fire department needs to know exactly when trains are coming and what they are carrying, not just every 6 months. He was doubtful the citizens' concerns about railway safety are being taken seriously. He commended Councilmember McKillop on the way she ran the meeting.

Alicia Jensen agreed with Ms Cooper regarding safety issues along Reliez Valley Road and efforts by the Police Department for more patrols and enforcement. She told of an almost-tragic incident happened to her family last year while out for a bike ride. She expressed concern about inadequate traffic controls and limited sightlines and speeding traffic. She also noted because of its connection to Briones Regional Park, there might be Measure WW funds available to pay for the needed improvements. She asked the Subcommittee to partner with the Tavan Homeowners Association and the Regional Park District to improve public safety at this location.

Mr. Neu asked how far the stop sign on Blue Ridge is from the intersection Ms. Cooper and Ms. Jensen were discussing. He suggested changes could be made to make the intersection and crossing safer.

Bill Nichols, MEG, agreed the stop sign on Reliez Valley is lethal. He asked about the emergency evacuation route through the Shell refinery, noting it might not be viable if there is a train blocking intersections. He expressed appreciation for the talks between the City and Union Pacific, which has a 50-year lease for switchyard property. He was concerned there are no security, no gates, and inadequate signage limiting public access to the tank cars out there. He reviewed past derailments in the Martinez vicinity, inadequate evacuation options and lack of manpower to handle a derailment close to or in the downtown, especially if it involves a fire or hazardous materials

Councilmember Avila Farias requested the Reliez Valley concerns be referred to the Traffic Safety Committee and Engineering staff.

Councilmember McKillop was supportive of her concerns.

Councilmember Avila Farias commented the safety of the community is of great concern to the City Council, and she acknowledged there is a need to update the City's infrastructure, especially to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. She also expressed appreciation for the renewed positive dialogue with Union Pacific. She cautioned it may take time to sort all the issues satisfactorily for everyone, and she asked for patience in the process.

Councilmember M^cKillop said she was very pleased MEG is here consistently, and expressed appreciation for the information they provide and what they have done to bring this issue forward. She agreed it takes everyone working together to find the solutions.

7. Adjournment.

Councilmember Avila Farias advised, if the public has any public safety issues, they can send an email to Chief Ghisletta or Deputy City Clerk Mercy Cabral.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.