

Public Safety Committee makes initial report to Council

By Paisley Strellis

Public Safety Committee Chair Ray Marshall presented the first of four quarterly reports to the City Council on Monday, October 4.

The group, which was created by City Council on February 1, is made up of Acting Police Chief John Hunt, Fire Chief Edward Tubbs, Committee Chair Ray Marshall, community members Ann-Marie Lamarche, appointed by Piedmont School District, and Gregory Young, appointed by the City Council.

City Council member Margaret Fujioka and School Board member Martha Jones served as liaisons to their respective government agencies.

The committee has been charged with four actions:

1. It has been asked to design

and implement public education and awareness programs.

2. It is to establish formal relationships between the Police and Fire Departments and designated neighborhoods.

3. It will investigate and recommend ways to enhance communication and coordination between the city's public safety departments in the event of a disaster or emergency.

4. It has been asked to find grants to fund their recommendations, in other words, generate non-city funds for its work.

The Public Safety Committee has addressed more than a dozen issues in its first five meetings beginning on May 11. Of those issues, a primary focus has been placed on creating a program of "Dedicated Reporting District

Officers" who would act as liaisons between the Fire and Police departments and a specific neighborhood.

"Neighborhood outreach and communication is a priority," said Marshall.

The committee has also been working with the school district on providing better information for disaster preparedness. It is likely that a date will be set in the spring for a major disaster drill throughout the city.

An e-mail alert system that could be used in the event of a disaster has already been established by the committee. Residents can join this alert group by sending an e-mail to publicsafetydispatches@ci.piedmont.ca.us. While the committee did explore phone no-

see **REPORT** on page 30

Report

Continued from page 9

tification systems, costs were considered prohibitive at this time.

In the meantime, Marshall said he hopes to attain a 25 percent community enrollment in the safety programs established by the committee before next May, when the Public Safety Committee's initial one-year term ends.

"We hear that 30 percent enrollment is an A+ for communities of this size," he said of the number.