

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: February 6, 2012
FROM: John O. Tulloch, City Clerk
SUBJECT: Year End Report of the Public Safety Committee

As directed by Council, the Public Safety Committee has completed its year end report. The report was forwarded by Ray Marshall, chair of the Committee, who will present it on behalf of the committee.

The City Administrator requests that you give direction on the concepts discussed in section six of the report for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Piedmont Public Safety Committee Year-End Report to the City Council

1. <u>Committee Members</u>	Ray Marshall	Chair
	Michael Gardner*	Alternate
	Anne-Marie Lamarche	PUSD Representative
	Kurtland Peria*	Alternate
	Gregory Young	Piedmont Resident
	Police Chief John Hunt	Public Safety Representative
	Fire Chief Edward Tubbs	Public Safety Representative
	Margaret Fujioka*	Council Liaison
	Martha Jones*	PUSD Liaison

* Non-voting member

2. Committee Meetings During Reporting Period: May 19, 2011, August 31, 2011, October 13, 2011 and December 8, 2011.

3. Committee Charge: The Piedmont Public Safety Committee (“Committee”) was established by Resolution 10-10 of the Piedmont City Council (“City Council”) on February 1, 2010. The Committee’s charge was to: (a) design and implement public education and awareness programs; (b) establish a formal relationship between Police, Fire Department and designated neighborhoods; (c) investigate and recommend ways to enhance communication and coordination between Police, Fire and City Departments in the event of a disaster/emergency; and (d) investigate and apply for grants that would potentially fund the activities and recommendations of the Committee.

4. Committee Extension: On April 18, 2010, the City Council passed a resolution extending the term of the Public Safety Committee through February 2012, to provide the Committee sufficient time to (1) supervise the September 25 disaster preparedness event that was held in conjunction with the City’s annual Harvest Festival; (2) oversee the conclusion of the 6-month pilot outreach program and review the outcome; (3) be available to undertake any additional tasks or responsibilities assigned by the City Council; and (4) prepare a final report summarizing the efforts of the Committee’s first year of operation.

5. Committee’s Activities May, 2011 through December, 2011:

(a) Outreach Program: The Committee asked that the police officers who were participating in the pilot outreach program “door knock” follow-up visits to Piedmont households ask: (1) how can the Police Department better serve their needs conducting police and fire emergency training; and (2) what is their overall impression of police and fire emergency services. Responses to these questions and other relevant information is reported back to Police Chief Hunt.

(b) E-Mail Alert System: Piedmont Police Department Policy 359 (copy attached), establishing procedures for email notification for public safety-related news, was reviewed by the Committee on October 28, 2010. Since the program’s inception, nine alerts have been sent out, including one in advance of the DEA’s prescription drug drop-off program, one pertaining to a 2010 street paving program, a burglary alert in April 2011, and most recently, a notification regarding street closures due to the Piedmont Turkey Trot Run/Walk. Captain Wyatt, who appeared at the October 31, 2011 meeting, summarized the department’s procedure for advising and training police personnel in the use of the program and responded to questions that had been raised by the Committee in the prior meeting regarding the program. In particular, the Committee was concerned about the dearth of alerts sent out the entire year between September 10, 2010 to September 10, 2011. During

that time period, only four dispatches were sent out. However, after the Committee discussed the need for more alerts, 7 dispatches were sent out between in the six-week period between October 20, 2011 to present. Captain Wyatt's view was that there were no "missed opportunities" related to the alerts, and emphasized staff's belief that the program should not be overused so as not to desensitize residents to its effectiveness and importance, and explained why manpower assignments and staffing limitations prevent alerts from being sent during in-progress crime events. However, during large-scale disaster events, the City's EOC will be activated and personnel available to issue alerts.

Over the course of the past year, the Committee has fully vetted the procedures being used to implement the email alert program. This review has led the Committee to conclude that:

1. Policy 359 is adequate as written;
2. Its use should become institutionalized;
3. Staff should maintain discretion in deciding when alerts should be issued and the degree of inconvenience to the community necessary to warrant alert notifications;
4. Police daily training bulletins should occasionally include sample scenarios that pose potential alert notification situations.

As to current enrollment in the E-Mail Alert Program, 473 residents were enrolled in the program in August, 2011. Approximately 40 residents enrolled during the September 25 Harvest Festival and Disaster Preparedness Fair (discussed below). Through the efforts of Ms. Lamarche, 1,437 households were enrolled into the program as part of the 2011 school registration process, bringing the total enrollment to over 1,900.

The Committee believes that updating the Alert System is a high priority and requests that the City Council authorize the resources necessary to accomplish this task as quickly as possible.

(c) Neighborhood Safety Meetings: Six meetings were held in 2011, with another six meetings completed in 2012. Seven meetings were held in 2010. The Piedmont Police Department has been in direct contact with the Parents Club Board president to schedule date(s) for a presentation on Neighborhood Safety Meetings.

(d) Safety Event : The inaugural Safety Event was held on September 25, 2011 in conjunction with the *Harvest Festival*. The Safety Event was well attended (particularly for a rainy day) and well received. The Fire Department's interactive displays were fun and informative, valuable information was distributed. A large banner directed residents to the site and press coverage of the event was positive.


(e) Earthquake Preparedness: Drake Palmer, a Piedmont Boy Scout, requested that the Committee sponsor his Eagle Scout project: a community outreach regarding earthquake preparedness. Drake plans to organize teams of scouts to go door-to-door throughout Piedmont, distributing materials to help make sure Piedmont residents are prepared for a major earthquake. His goal is ambitious, to reach as many households as possible, while shooting for 100%. At its December 8, 2011 meeting, the Committee agreed to sponsor Mr. Palmer's Eagle Scout Project. Subsequent to that meeting, the Committee was advised that it was not authorized to "sponsor" Mr. Palmer's project. Accordingly, as an alternative show of support, Chief Tubbs volunteered to work with Mr. Palmer directly on his project.

6. Future of the Piedmont Public Safety Committee

The Public Service Committee's term is scheduled to expire on February 29, 2012. At the December 8, 2011 meeting, it was discussed whether or not it should recommend to the City Council that its term be extended. General consensus was that the Committee serves an important civic function, is an asset to Piedmont, and should be continued. However, if it is renewed, several suggestions were provided:

- a) Membership should be expanded and the terms of service staggered;
- b) The role and charge should be redefined, since the tasks under the original charge have been completed;
- c) General community representation on the Committee should be increased;
- d) An "at large" community member should be substituted for the School Liaison position.

Dated: February 1, 2012

By: 
Raymond C. Marshall, Chair