

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Graffiti Task Force  
Human Resources Activity Room  
300 W. Third Street  
Oxnard, Ca 93030  
December 20, 2006  
5:00 p.m.**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Holden called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Present were: Vice Chairperson Flynn, City Manager Edmund Sotelo; Public Information Office: Christina Aerenlund and Rachel Crandall; Assistant City Attorney Jim Rupp; Public Works Department: Michael Henderson, Cyndi Hookstra, Joel Galaviz, Veronica Chavez, Jeff Miller, Phil Gregoire, Tamara Sexton, Martin Erickson and Guadalupe Cano; Code Compliance: Dirk Voss and Rob Silverstein; Police Department: Jason Benitez, Sandra Kujawa and Chris Williams; Probation Office Mary Mall; and Beth Saringo, Recording Secretary.

Public Attendance: Will Coulon, Edwin Camanag and Ernest Stein

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**SUBJECTS:** Approval of minutes of September 20, 2006 and October 11, 2006, regular meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**ACTION:** Chairperson Holden made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2006 and October 11, 2006 meetings. Vice-Chairperson Flynn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ernest Stein shared that their back wall was graffitied two weeks ago and that he tried to contact the Beat Coordinator assigned in their neighborhood. He requested to increase police coverage in their neighborhood.

Will Coulon mentioned to call the Gang Unit if any one sees gang graffiti.

**D. TASK FORCE REPORTS**

1. Task Force overview, community outreach, education and graffiti action kit volunteers – Cyndi Hookstra

Cyndi Hookstra reported the following:

- a. City staff (Code Compliance, Graffiti Action Program and herself) met with the owner of the Fremont Shopping Center concerning graffiti in the shopping center area. The owner hired Venco to take graffiti off except for Sunday. The owner will also be painting the whole area.
- b. Cyndi introduced Tamara Sexton who currently oversees the Call Center. Tamara in turn introduced Martin Erickson who will take over the Call Center and the Outreach Program after the new year. She also introduced Guadalupe Cano who oversees the staffing of the Call Center.

Tamara Sexton stated that the Call Center would make the following changes the first week of January 2007:

- 1. Greetings will now be “Public Works Call Center and Graffiti Hotline”
- 2. Graffiti will be option 1, it used to be option 3
- 3. Change staff work schedule so that there is coverage all times Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 4. Answer delay is 18 seconds

She also reported that the Call Center took approximately 430 graffiti calls last week.

- c. Cyndi will be putting together some accomplishments for the Mayor’s State of the City Address.
  - d. There was a graffiti presentation on December 19. The Probation’s monthly meeting is December 21st . Oxnard School District Board has the following dates open for graffiti presentation: January 18, February 22, March 8 and March 22.
  - e. Supervisor Cathy Long’s office requested graffiti information.
  - f. There are 316 registered volunteers at the present time.
  - g. We are developing a mail survey to be sent out to all volunteers.
  - h. The restitution amount collected from September 2006 to date is \$6,876.00 Last year, we collected \$6,500.00 for the entire year.
2. GAP removal efforts. GAK distribution and hotline statistics – Joel Galaviz

Joel Galaviz reported that there is an increase in graffiti lately. Graffiti Action Program is trying to stay on top of the increase. He informed the Committee that Thursday is a designated day for handing out graffiti action kits (GAKs) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Parks office. This information is also in the City of Oxnard website.

### 3. Arrests and law enforcement issues - Police

Sandra Kujawa reported that the Police Department made 50 arrests for the month of November.

She also shared San Jose's Graffiti/litter abatement program:

- a. San Jose's graffiti abatement incorporates litter removal into its' program. They have two major campaigns targeting graffiti and litter utilizing the city's billboards. Their litter campaign includes a cartoon public announcement series that airs on their community channel.
- b. If you become a volunteer, you will receive graffiti abatement supplies, pick up sticks, vests, bags, gloves and an extra garbage sticker can be included next to their regular trash and not penalized for the extra bags.
- c. Their volunteer program has a supplies check out form on the back of their registration and they keep track of their volunteers through the amount of supplies they provide their volunteers. They have a recognition dinner every year for top volunteers and they have American Clean Up Day every year which is followed by a lunch.
- d. Business owners have 24 to 48 hours to remove graffiti. They receive the first notice by means of a door hanger indicating that graffiti needs to be removed. The second notice is a letter sent by the Code Enforcement noting that they have 10 days to clean or get fined up to \$250.00 per day. San Jose does not clean businesses unless there is hardship and hit the first time. Beat Coordinator approaches businesses and offer tools and paints.
- e. San Jose has an anonymous hotline to leave information on possible suspects and other activities.
- f. On private property, City leaves paint every six months.
- g. San Jose has three rigs that provide power wash; one worker per rig.
- h. San Jose has grants to provide for cameras.
- i. There is a random customer survey once a month. Ten calls are tracked and the survey is submitted to the Mayor.
- j. The measurement of the tags in San Jose is estimated by counting the tags in square miles by the abatement workers and is done once a year.
- k. They have a person in direct contact with all the established volunteers and Rob Boyles does the training, bringing volunteers on board, follow up and calls volunteers to keep them motivated.
- l. San Jose spent 2.2 million dollars on graffiti for a year.
- m. San Jose maintains a job number with the location that indicates whether graffiti was gang related or not and graffiti cleaned within 24 hours if it is gang related . They only receive photos when they call and have them clean up a particular area; has no database for photographs or offenders. They have two graffiti detectives.
- n. San Jose's District Attorney prosecutes Modus Operandi (MO) cases. Our District Attorney's office wants a confession. San Jose District Attorney Raymundo Mendoza offered to come and meet with our District Attorney

on the matter. This information was given to our adult prosecutor John Barrick. Our Juvenile District Attorney needs to be on board as well.

4. Legal issues – City Attorney’s Office

Assistant City Attorney Jim Rupp passed out a memo regarding Amendment of notice period for removal of graffiti. This memo is a study regarding shortening the notice period from five calendar days to 24 hours notice.

Discussions were made on who would be serving citations, how many citations have been served and if the 24-hour notice period would be reasonable enough for the property owners to remove graffiti.

Chairperson Holden suggested to leave the 5-day period notice and to publicize the ordinance.

5. Code Compliance issues – Code Compliance

Dirk Voss mentioned that Rob Silverstein is the primary person coordinating with the Graffiti Action Program (GAP). He also mentioned about the graffiti on and off ramps. He said something should be done because this is the entry way to Oxnard.

At this time, Chairperson Holden left at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on January 17, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

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Michael Henderson, Secretary

