



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

February 10, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Subject: Police and Community Relations: Action Items

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and prioritize action items identified by the City Council at the January 20, 2015 Work Session.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impacts of this report are dependent on which topics are ultimately identified for action.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On Saturday January 17, 2015 the City Council conducted a special meeting at the Ed Roberts Campus to address the issue of Police and Community Relations. At that meeting the Council heard presentations from a number of panelists, including educators and several of the City's elected representatives at the state and federal level, offering information and various ideas about how to improve police and community relations. The Council also heard a number of speakers at public comment who also shared their ideas. Following that meeting, the Council held a special Work Session meeting on January 20, 2015 to continue its discussion of the ideas surfaced at the prior special meeting. The Mayor and Councilmembers each identified a number of items that could be acted upon by the City and the community. Those topics are briefly described below. The City Council requested that these ideas be presented at the February 10, 2015 meeting for discussion and prioritization for action.

BACKGROUND

At the January 20, 2015 Work Session the Mayor and Councilmembers identified the following topics that could be the subject of future action by the City and the community. The Council's discussion at this meeting could group these topics into focus areas and prioritize them for action. The Council could also consider additional, related topics for further discussion.

1. Implement body cameras for Berkeley police officers
2. Work with BUSD to develop a "law and justice" academy at Berkeley High School to encourage Berkeley youth to pursue careers in law enforcement

3. Encourage Berkeley police officers to engage in more community activities, especially with youth, and take into consideration that engagement when officers are considered for promotion
4. Ask BUSD to fund a School Resource Office at the Berkeley Technology Academy and perhaps also seeking state funding
5. Request the Sheriffs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to review all police General Orders in each of the cities in their respective counties to identify similarities and differences
6. Consider statewide minimum standards for General Orders when agencies respond to mutual aid requests
7. Propose state legislation to amend the Public Records Act to address the records created through use of police body cameras
8. Support 3 pieces of federal legislation:
 - a. HR 2851: End Racial Profiling Act of 2013; to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement
 - b. HR 5478: Stop the Militarizing of Law Enforcement Act; amends the Department of Defense program transferring excess property to state agencies for law enforcement purposes
 - c. HR 5831: Police Accountability Act of 2014; provides a penalty for violent crimes by certain State or local law enforcement officers
9. Establish a "Restorative Justice" corridor in the East Bay in collaboration with BUSD
10. Take action on items 1-8 on page 8 of the memorandum from the Peace & Justice Commission
11. Take action on the health recommendations from the NAACP
12. Establish a Restorative Justice program similar to that in the City of Oakland
13. Consider the City of Richmond's Office of Neighborhood Safety and its outreach to young people which has resulted in improved relationships
14. Invite the Richmond Police Chief to discuss his initiatives with the Council
15. Hold a Council Work Session on Housing, Jobs and Education
16. Add or strengthen training offered to Berkeley police officers regarding racial sensitivity
17. Support state legislation changing how cases against police are prosecuted
18. Include the Berkeley Police Department in this dialogue and provide information about what resources are available to support these various efforts
19. Engage with Connie Rice, a public defender in Los Angeles working on developing trust between police and community
20. Identify employment opportunities for youth such as training youth to become health educators, which provides employment and improves community health outcomes
21. Create a separate body to focus on these issues
22. Create two or three City Council subcommittees, each of which would focus on a single topic
23. Give strong focus to the NAACP and their work

- 24. Provide education about drug usage in Berkeley and arrest rates by demographic
- 25. Restore mental health services
- 26. Encourage non-violence training for peacekeepers as part of protests
- 27. Identify short term actions as well as long term goals
- 28. Use “best practices” from other jurisdictions as a guide

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable sustainability effects or opportunities related to the content of this report.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION CONSIDERED

This report is in response to the City Council’s discussion at a Work Session. The Council may direct staff based on the content of the report.

CONTACT PERSON

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