

Neighborhood Improvement Team Meeting  
General Meeting, Pittsburg Historical Museum  
515 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565  
May 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City Staff Present: Garrett Evans, Laura Wright, Joe Sbranti, Maria Aliotti, Hector Rojas, Ron Nevels, Richard Abono, Bryan Ballardo, Anthony Baldazo, Toni Baldazo, Phil Galer, Jordan Davis, Paul Reinders, Brian Addington, Romeo Herrera, Celina Palmer

Treasurer: Nancy Parent

Mayor: Merl Craft

City Council Members: Juan Banales, Jelani Killings

Community Advisory Commissioners: Judith O'Connor

Pittsburg Historical Society: President Reggie Lemay, Past President Denise Laurie

Number of Residents in Attendance: approximately 20

Meeting began at approximately 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME – Garrett Evans, Assistant City Manager

- Been with the City of Pittsburg for 20 years
- Asked attendees how many have been to the museum before and invited them to walk through
- Recognized City Council Members in attendance: Mayor Merl Craft, and Council Members Juan Banales and Jelani Killings
- Recognized Community Advisory Commissioner Judith O'Connor
- Recognized Pittsburg Historical Society President Reggie Lemay, and Past President Denise Laurie
- Thanked Historical Society for use of the museum
- Majority of attendees have been to NIT meetings before
- Focus for meeting is to let community know what the City does and ask what we can improve on
- Schedule for meeting is to introduce different departments and then hear from citizens
- 70,000 residents in Pittsburg and only 260 City Employees
- Citizens can contact staff via phone or email

Laura Wright, Environmental Affairs Manager

- Emergency operations, franchise agreements, greenhouse gas
- Organizer for NIT- posters, social media, water bill flyers; want to get citizens to come because it is a great opportunity for the community
- Feedback is critical
- We are all Team Pittsburg – everybody in this room works together to make the community better
- Review of Flyers:
  - Recycling
  - Green Campus
  - Army of Earth
  - Household Hazardous Waste
  - Civic Pride Day
  - Green Footprint – teaches families and kids how to have a smaller footprint on earth
  - Pittsburg Diamonds
  - CERT
  - [GoCity Requests](#)

Maria Aliotti, Successor Agency

- Been with the City of Pittsburg 15 years
- Oversees the Successor Agency, Community Development Block Grant, Housing Authority and property management

- Questions about for Successor Agency properties for sale, Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program or First-time Homebuyer Loan Program should be directed to Maria Aliotti at 925-252-4044 or maliotti at ci.pittsburg.ca.us. Questions about the Housing Authority should be directed to Sharon Jackson (925) 252-4113 or [sjackson@ci.pittsburg.ca.us](mailto:sjackson@ci.pittsburg.ca.us).

Garrett Evans, Assistant City Manager - to discuss Economic Development, Waterfront, Power Company Activities

- Pittsburg has its own power company, unique in that Pittsburg sells electricity and gas to Vallejo since 1996
- Enterprise fund that generates half a million dollars in positive revenue
- Revenue is a rate based fund that cannot all go into Pittsburg, but can be put towards the City's festivals, events, farmers market...
- In April the unemployment rate was at 4.3% which was a significant drop. Lowest unemployment rate on record was 20 years ago
- Waterfront Activities
  - Standup paddle boards
  - Kayaks
  - Yoga

Richard Abono, Senior Civil Engineer – to discuss Community Development

- Been with the City of Pittsburg for 15 years
- 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Pittsburg, family has been in Pittsburg since 1880
- Three Divisions in Community Development:
  - Planning
    - Planning Staff in attendance: Hector Rojas – Senior Planner, Jordan Davis – Associate Planner, Celina Palmer – Planning Technician
    - Miss Palmer is taking notes that will be available to the public
  - Building
    - Building Staff in attendance: Romeo Herrera – Chief Building Official
    - Makes sure that everything meets code
  - Engineering
    - Engineering Staff in attendance: Senior Engineers: Paul Reinders – Traffic Engineer, Ron Nevels – Capital Improvements
    - Engineers build

Bryan Ballardo, Public Works Supervisor

- Been with the City of Pittsburg for 20 years
- Maintenance- water, sewers, street sweeping
- Responds to service requests

Anthony Baldazo, Park Maintenance Supervisor

- Been with the City of Pittsburg for 10 years
- 26 parks in City
- A lot of festivals and fun activities coming up at parks

Garrett Evans, Assistant City Manager - to discuss Parks and Recreation and Upcoming Events

- Amazing how many parks there are (26) and how Public Works maintains them so well with as few employees as they have, soon as something breaks down right there to fix it
- Parks and Recreation Guide shows programs going on
  - Theatre Events
  - Events in Park
  - Movies in the Park
  - First Fridays
    - June 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - 4 wineries and EJ Phair
  - Car Shows
    - Every other Thursday
  - Farmer's Market

- Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Music in the Park
  - June 25<sup>th</sup>, John Henry Johnson Park
  - July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Highlands Park
  - August 27<sup>th</sup> Larry Lasater Park
  - Event being in different parks so all of City can enjoy
- Movies in the Park at John Buckley Square
  - July 14<sup>th</sup>, Secret Life of Pets
- Delta Board Meeting
  - June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Kite board event, Riverview Park
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks
- Kitchen magnet for waterfront activities available

Brian Addington, Chief of Police

- Been in Pittsburg Police Department last 23 years
- 25 years in law
- Been Police Chief almost 5 years
- 81 sworn in officers, 20 professional staff (records clerks, analysts)
- Full service Police Department, patrol and law enforcement 24/7
- Investigations – follows up
- Traffic – vehicle collision, responsible for writing tickets, enforcing traffic laws
- Code Enforcement, 4 officers, identify code violations
- Officer assigned to mental health outreach
- Officer full time on homelessness
- Makes sure people understand and know what resources are available
- Toni Baldazo, Community Outreach Coordinator
  - Social Media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor
- Lieutenant Phil Galer, patrol watch commander Sunday – Wednesday

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (answers marked \*\* and in blue)

Q: What is the homeless rate in Pittsburg?

**\*\*Maria Aliotti** - Contra Costa County Continuum of Care counts the homeless in January. There's been a decline in the last 2 years, although it doesn't seem that way. The 2016 point in time count in Contra Costa County was approximately 3,400 homeless/about to be homeless. About 600 of those are in shelters and the others are either unsheltered or close to being homeless. There are about 12 different agencies who help with providing services: the Police are active, Care centers in Concord and Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County Continuum of Care provides warming centers in winter. At some places the homeless can do laundry, shower, and get medical attention.

**Chief Addington** – I know that the county does their best to count, but I don't know that it is 100% accurate. It seems like there is an increase here. Majority of the time homelessness is related to mental health. Homelessness is not against the law; however, there are some tools that allow police to ask someone to move, for example if someone is on private property and the owner doesn't want the person there and asks them to leave. For persons on a public site, police abilities are limited.

Here's a story: Police regularly saw a lady on Railroad who was "homeless", she had a place to go and family- but she didn't want to be there. Police paired her with their mental health person (who now works with police all day). In the mental health records, they showed that the family was getting money to help her with her needs, but she didn't want to live there. Health put her in services, and provided living, and she stayed in the program for 2 months- before the family took her out to continue to get the money. Then same process, and police and mental health worked to get her in a facility in Concord and have not seen her in the street in over a year and a half.

Because homelessness is not a crime, police have to find different strategies to address it. They are aware of the issue and are working to take care of it.

Q: Is loitering a crime?

**\*\*Chief Addington** – Per the U.S. Supreme Court, loitering has not been a crime for 20 years. There are a list of things that you have to be doing for it to be illegal, i.e.. safety concerns. We want to make sure that the public is safe on the sidewalk.

Q: With all the development going on, is there any protection for residents of Contra Costa County to limit the development and maintain wildlife? Specifically, near Bay Point and those hills over there.

**\*\*Garrett Evans** – I believe you mean the San Marco development. In its entirety the project underwent environmental review and everything in the early '90s and it has just taken this long with the market for the project to begin construction. Those projects being built in that area have already been approved. Hector can discuss any new proposals.

**Hector Rojas** – There is a public hearing process for these projects. Staff sends notices to invite the public to have their questions addressed. It is subject to CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), so if there is an impact in any area identified by CEQA there are mitigation measures they'd have to take. Right now there is an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) for the project south of San Marco. The EIR is to review, provide comments, and have a public hearing.

Q: How many residential units are there?

**\*\*Hector Rojas** – On the pipeline, there are approximately 2,000 units throughout the city, however these are to be built in a time frame of approximately 5-10 years, for single family homes. There are about 1,000 apartment units in the pipeline. Every project has to meet affordable housing requirements- meaning they have to provide a percentage of their units to be affordable, typically 10-15%. What we've been doing lately to meet this requirement is through ADUs (accessory dwelling units) and development agreements. An ADU is a smaller unit, typically in the back yard or attached to the home. One can generate income by renting out an ADU, typically around 400 square feet.

Q: Who is responsible for looking at traffic light or some kind of traffic control at Harbor and Central? I had bad accident recently, somebody ran a stop sign going north and I got hit, as I was sitting there, another person ran the stop sign. Residents say it happens there all the time.

**\*\*Paul Reinders, Traffic Engineer** – Will look at the intersection to see if additional/alternate signage is warranted, look at the collision rate. First time hearing about that intersection being a problem, thank you for bringing it to our attention.

Resident commented that their sister was in an accident at that site as well. Another resident suggested maybe a 'Stop Ahead' sign, the person that got hit said that they didn't realize there was a stop there.

Q: Whenever they resurface the street they don't do a good job. Bay Point has very nice streets compared to Pittsburg, when they resurface ours it is always bumpy.

**\*\*Richard Abono** – As far as resurfacing, it is a challenge to spread the dollars we have. Sometimes we can only afford to do a Band-Aid type of treatment. The Pittsburg-Antioch Highway resurfacing is a Delta Diablo project. I want to know exactly what streets you are talking about so we can look into it. *Mr. Abono provided his card to resident.*

Q: Noticed a fence put up at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. What is going on over there?

**\*\*Garrett Evans** – The fence was put up on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Harbor because of dumping, and the fence is to deter people from that. There is no project on that site yet. The City is looking at several properties, and that is one that we are applying for a \$300,000 EPA grant to make sure that it is fully clean, giving the previous history of industrial use. And we want to work with the community to see what would be an appropriate development there. We will also have to work on the roadway and landscaping at the site.

Q: Antioch has put up signs where pan handlers are that state, "Don't give to the homeless, give to a non-profit",

want to know if Pittsburg can put up those signs as well.

**\*\*Garett Evans** – We have sent pictures of those type of signs to our City Attorney to ask if we can legally put those signs up. We want to decrease that activity as much as we can.

**Chief Addington** – Loitering is not against the law, but there are other activities that can be associated with it that are against the law. If there is something suspicious, give police a call, we may be able to prevent a crime from occurring. (925)646-2441.

Q: In terms of how the public conducts themselves around a homeless person, what is acceptable, and what do you recommend? At the laundry on Railroad Avenue, 2 homeless people approached me aggressively, in that situation should I call to report or not? I know incidents like this can snowball, because now I am hesitant to go back. I want to be sensitive as I know some have mental illness, but do you have a guideline for how to deal with those people?

**\*\*Chief Addington** – We only have 81 sworn in officers, but there are 70,000 citizens. We need you to be our eyes and ears. You handled this situation well, don't engage, drive away, but then call police. Let us know a description of the person and what happened. Our officers can go out and make sure that that behavior stops. It is amazing how many people don't want to call- but that's what the police are here for. On average police receive 200 calls per day- these are investigated and while often an arrest is not made, it may prevent a crime from happening.

Q: What is the proper channel to call, not 911?

**\*\*Laura Wright** – The police non-emergency number is on the handouts, and we want people to enter it into their phones now. (925)646-2441.

**Lieutenant Galer** – A lot of officers have a good rapport with homeless. If you call, it is an opportunity for the police to engage and at least speak to them; maybe to get a mental health evaluation... it's a good chain reaction with the phone call.

Q: In the 1970's California closed many mental health services and sent a bunch of people on their way with their gowns still on. Is there any way we can get new mental health services/clinics in the city?

**\*\*Chief Addington** – Was in 1976 or 1978 that all the mental health institutions were closed, believe due to legal issues and funding issues. I have never heard of any petition or action to bring back the mental health services at a state level. Not aware of anything at the state level to do that. I don't disagree that having more mental health institutions would help to solve the problem, very similar to what we saw in 2009 and 2013 with some of the changes in AB 109 the Realignment Act where people weren't going to prison anymore, it seems like at the state level there is not money to incarcerate people if they need to be incarcerated or to provide mental health services. And at a local level, it is out of our control.

Citizen has background in mental health field. Confirmed that there was no sign of bringing back large mental health institutions; however, if you see someone in need, you can call and someone may come out to assess them.

Q: When we call dispatch does it go to our Pittsburg Police Department or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party?

**\*\*Chief Addington** – We contract with the Sherriff's Department who provides the service. It is money well spent. There is a dispatcher there specifically to handle Pittsburg calls. I have not seen another agency as quick and responsive as the Sherriff's Department has been with us. When answered they enter it into our CAD system and another one puts it out to the radio. To bring the dispatch into Pittsburg would be costly and would not increase efficiency.

Resident stated that they have called and found that a certain dispatcher needs convincing that there is an issue and that it is warranted to send someone out to take a look – although citizens understand that there are higher priorities.

**Chief Addington** – All calls are recorded, let us know about this dispatcher and we will look into it. If we are not

happy with the services, we can complain, and they will work to solve the problem. The Sheriff's Department is the dispatcher for us as well as other cities.

Q: Another question regarding homeless, there is no homeless shelter in Pittsburg, are there any facilities for them to get a meal?

**\*\*Maria Aliotti** – CDBG provides funding to different agencies that provide services to the homeless. St. Vincent Du Paul has a dining hall. RotaCare is a free clinic that help homeless and those without insurance with medical care. There are also other CDBG funded agencies that provide services to the homeless.

Q: When is BART opening?

**\*\*Richard Abono** – BART is sticking with their opening date of May 2018. We may see a lot of trains on the track, their system testing is complete. Now they are negotiating with the labor unions, hiring, and training- to make sure it is safe. The multimodal across the street will be open before then. It will be open as soon as possible, approx. fall of 2017. This is our "kiss and ride" drop off/pick up station being built. To get to BART, there is access from the bridge on Railroad and an elevator and stairs to get to the platform. From here you can either take it to Antioch's Hillcrest station or transfer to BART. The Pittsburg-Bay Point BART is still operating as normal. The Park and Ride on Bliss Avenue is being reconfigured and will reopen.

**Garrett Evans** – BART's scheduled opening is May 2018. They are running through tests, when one test isn't passed, then they have to start at the beginning again. Our task is to make sure the Kiss and Ride is available before BART opens. We want to have it ready beforehand, not after the fact.

Q: Do we have to cross the street to get from the Kiss and Ride to the BART on Hwy 4?

**\*\*Richard Abono** – Yes, there is a crosswalk at California. We are making the crossing as safe as can be with a pedestrian count down, high visibility, and audible signal.

Q: Will a no turn on red be implemented there?

**Paul Reinders** – No, it will not. But we will have all the safety improvements and advanced warnings. It is going to be safe.

Q: I cannot imagine how bad traffic is going to be once the BART opens. It is already terrible now. What's going on across the street there, that 'Civic Tower'?

**\*\*Garrett Evans** – Right now they are just leveling the dirt, spreading out, but nothing under construction yet.  
**Richard Abono** – As far as that intersection of Railroad and California, we are very concerned and are working hard and doing studies to make sure the level of service at that intersection does not get worse. We've done studies and counts and we are adding another right lane on California to make a right turn onto California.

Q: The Kiss and Ride is only going to have one in and one out right, it's like a circle and you come out the same way, do you have to turn right coming out of that place?

**\*\*Richard Abono** – There will be a signal light there and you can go right or left. We're going to be putting a left turn pocket into the driveway there.

Q: I have a Code Enforcement question. I contacted Code Enforcement two times and nobody ever called me back. I had to take care of it myself; I called the realtor regarding the abandoned house next door because we were getting rodents. When I called I left a message, it rang and rang, and rang and finally I left a message. The house is for sale and is bank owned. How can they put it up for sale without cleaning it up? Code Enforcement isn't like it used to be. They used to be constantly rolling around the neighborhood.

**\*\*Joe Sbranti** – I encourage you to use the [GoRequest](#) app. We should still respond when we get a phone call, but the app is a little easier to track. We take your comments very seriously

**Chief Addington** – not getting a response is completely unacceptable. For Code Enforcement, we get the opposite complaints too, like they are doing too much. If they hear a complaint about a neighborhood, they're

not going to just the one house, the whole neighborhood will get notices of violation. 90% of the time they won't get a citation, just a notice. That way they have time to fix it.

*Laura Wright* – We have a handout for the [GoRequest](#) app. We make sure every item is assigned to a city staff person, it is a high priority to be met, and if it is not met, it goes to the City Manager.

Q: Parking at Pittsburg-Bay Point Station has about 600 parking spots (corrected to approx. 2,000 parking spaces). Often I can't find a spot there and have to go to North Concord to park.

*\*\*Richard Abono* – The best thing about eBART is that traffic is generally coming from the east. The Hillcrest station will have approx. 2,000 spaces, and our infill station will have 262 spaces, so the problem should get better.

Q: There is a lot of traffic on Railroad. It takes 15 minutes to get from Linscheid to downtown. Are there any plans for an overpass?

*\*\*Richard Abono* – On Railroad Avenue between Buchanan Road and Center Drive now have the lights timed and should be in sync. We should be seeing improvements, if not let me know. The synchronization along the corridor has been in the last 4-6 weeks and has had a positive response. We are seeing better times. As far as an overpass at Range Road, at this point it is not feasible.

*Paul Reinders* – We are collecting fees for the overcrossing at Range Road, but it is low on the priority list.

*Joe Sbranti* – Realistically an overcrossing would be decades into the future. We are unable to collect fees in a timely fashion, and there are neighbors on both sides that don't agree to it.

Q: When are you going to build the James Donlan extension?

*\*\*Richard Abono* – Great news. The James Donlan extension is also known as the Buchanan Road bypass. A lot of people from the east- Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley... are using Buchanan and clogging it up. There is a parallel road that bypasses Buchanan- James Donlan, it winds through the hills and would cost \$60 million of road way. We are starting to get the funds and design and are relocating PG&E towers. We hope to have it open as early as 2022, as long as we keep collecting fees. We collect approx. \$20,000 for every new home built.

Q: How are you enforcing the code on vehicles without a valid license plate?

*\*\*Chief Addington* – If it is a new car without a license plate, they should have a temporary registration. It is not one of our top priorities. We are more focused on those who are running red lights, etc. If pulled over for something they will get a violation for that as well if the vehicle is not registered. If we see that it does not have a license plate we can legally stop and issue a \$5,200 ticket. Although it is not a priority, the number 1 citation we give is for no insurance, and the number 2 is running stop signs

Q: What is the law on changing license plates from out of state? And do you care about it?

*\*\*Chief Addington* – You have 10 days to change it. We do care; it is just not a top priority. Safety is a top priority. We might pull someone over for a safety issue and once stopped then we would do a regular inspection. Our focus is not on getting people to the DMV to increase their revenue, it is to keep our streets safe.

Q: I received a text rumor that events in 2018 are going away and was told to sign a petition, so I wanted to ask if it was true and why?

*\*\*Garrett Evans* – In the city's budget this year there was an unanticipated cost which required \$1.8 million in cuts. There was put together a list of possible items to cut to accomplish this. We want to work with the City Council and the community. We wanted open transparency, and listed everything that *could* be cut. Even the library is on the list and nobody would recommend cutting that. The list had a bunch of items on it, including events and the theatre, but some people interpreted it that things were going to be gone. But those people spreading that actually helped to accomplish our goal and we heard from the community. What we are doing is moving some of our events expenses to our waterfront account, so that it does not impact our general fund. Events will continue as you are used to, and there will be more on the waterfront.

Q: How did those people hear about things potentially being cut?

*Garrett Evans* – There was a budget workshop presentation in a public meeting and a press release.

Q: What meeting is it?

*Garrett Evans* – It was a budget workshop. We had 2. The next one is in June. It is a part of or before the City Council meeting. Every public meeting is on the City website; and, if you sign up for updates you will get the information emailed as well.

Q: I heard on the news something about installing cameras on Hwy 4. Are you going to?

*\*\*Chief Addington* – Pittsburg was the first city in the state to install cameras and we did so July of last year. There are license plate readers and fixed cameras for both directions. What is on the news now is regarding murders on freeways in the greater east bay. We had 2 murders in Pittsburg before, but none since the cameras were installed- no freeways or murdered. While there are none in Pittsburg, they have continued in different areas. The district attorney says that the model that Pittsburg used to reduce shootings on the freeway needs to be expanded across other counties. The Department of Transportation stated that they are willing to fund a project similar to this and are now working to determine where the cameras are needed. Pittsburg has a robust system in place and has agreed to host the storage/camera footage in Pittsburg. They are looking at putting cameras along the 80, in Concord and Antioch and more in Pittsburg. The final numbers should be determined next month, assuming the project is approved, then installation will be in the following 6 months. Pittsburg started with 5 cameras in 2005, and now we have 250 plus some people have given us access to their cameras as well. Richmond and San Pablo are the only other cities that have a system comparable to ours. The cameras are to help keep the community safe.

Q: The speeding cameras are different than those for safety. What happened on Hwy 4? Was it road rage?

*\*\*Garrett Evans* – Both shootings that happened in the City of Pittsburg have been solved and arrests have been made. There are still warrants out for other people involved. A lot of cities have done so much to change the environment to make city less crime ridden. We have a shot spotter and officers in the area regularly to keep an eye out and get to know people in the neighborhood. Some criminals and gangs are sophisticated; if a gang member goes into a rival jurisdiction someone will notice them and the odds of them getting caught are great. The odds are better to get away when on the freeway and there are no cameras and you can't hear the gun shot and it is hard to find the casings. If anything gets called in, it would likely be an 'accident'. These have not been random acts; they are gang issues. The shootings in Pittsburg were not by people from Pittsburg, but were people driving through who were specifically targeted.

Q: I have several concerns about the attractiveness and invitation to come to Old Town. It was working well for a while, and now there are pockets of deterioration. I don't understand how there are some buildings... it is almost a crime to have some buildings empty. We need to have walk in shops. We notice when we have an event a lot of people come. Now I'm noticing more bicyclists speeding on the sidewalk, with no bells or horns. When they reach you they just holler. The skateboarding is going to ruin the benches eventually. Two fountains are already ruined. At Heritage Park the water is not running. And the one at Black Diamond is just about ruined and the tile is breaking. They are focal points to bring people to Downtown and I don't understand the deterioration after working so hard to make it attractive.

*\*\*Garrett Evans* – It is difficult to have the city try and upkeep all the buildings, it becomes a problem when the spaces are privately owned. We have filled the final vacancy in the Galleria with "Suits-4-U". That is all the spaces we can lease as the City. We try and work; we have rules for property owners to be marketing the sites. For Sienna Court, they don't have the money for upgrades and are looking for someone to come in and pay for it. That is a challenge. The Historical Society is great after its renovation- but, it took a lot of money and a lot of time. We need to look at the fountains, especially in Heritage.

Q: There is a metal container in the parking lot next to the museum. I've seen people and teenagers sleeping on it and have seen people climb from there to the roof of the building. Can we move it? It is scary and someone can get hurt.

*\*\*Anthony Baldazo – We've moved it further away once already and it didn't work. We don't want anyone getting hurt and don't want buildings compromised. We can look at where to relocate it.*

Can you move it to the other side of the parking lot?

*Anthony Baldazo – I'll have to discuss with my manager.*

I have called the police and gotten things taken care of right away.

*Garrett Evans – I have had many calls about skateboarders downtown and always ask them to call the police.*

*Chief Addington – Back in the day, one could walk down here to buy heroine if you could get through the prostitutes. I am so glad that today's issues are bikes and skateboards. It is a violation for bikes to ride on the sidewalk so we will address that. We can put up signs for "No Skateboarding" so that we can enforce that.*

Q: Last year the fireworks were terrible. People were shooting off fireworks at 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. Last year was not as bad as previous years, but people are still doing it. It's hard to call the police about it when I can't tell where it's coming from.

*Lieutenant Galer – Glad to hear you say that it was better last year. The year before, we had to deal with a lot of fires and brought out arson investigators and had to bring out bulldozers on Willow Pass Road to put out fires. Our ping board was constantly going off. And we have the same challenge as you. It is hard to pinpoint where fireworks are shooting from. We sometimes find firework debris from where they were fired, sometimes not; but we can only really cite when we catch them in action.*

Resident stated that she believes it's the new people that move into Marina Park that are the ones shooting the fireworks, and that it is bad in that area.

*Lieutenant Galer – We recognize that that area ends up being the designated after show, so there is active enforcement in that area. We will be on it again this year. Hopefully with all the rain we've received, this year will have fewer fires.*

Q: There are too many unattractive buildings downtown. They say to contact for lease or for sale and were told that the city told them to fix the glass in the front window. Right now, there is a fading mural on plywood at one site. If it is a code violation, then the city needs to do more enforcement.

*\*\*Garrett Evans – The requirements for those property owners is that they are actively marketing the buildings, so we will check on that.*

Q: Resident stated that in a conversation she had with the leasing agent that the property is for sale for \$900,000; and they stated that the City wants them to fix the front window, but that they're ignoring that.

*\*\*Chief Addington – There are certain things we cannot do. We won't fix it. But we can inspect if there is a code violation, if they don't correct the violation, then we can issue citations, and put a lien on the property. When the property eventually gets sold, then they have to pay the fine to the City; if the owner doesn't want to pay the fine he will wait for a buyer who will pay.*

Q: Resident suggested finding a novel solution.

*\*\*Chief Addington – We can look into additional fees, but right now, that is how the City works.*

Q: Resident said that this route is not working, and that people don't want to buy into liens.

Another resident commented that it is not the police's fault.

Another stated that it should be a code enforcement issue and can be a group effort to take care of. They stated that they were at the meeting as part of the community, so they want to know how we can make it more attractive to buyers.

*\*\*Garrett Evans – The city has contributed funds to 70% of the businesses downtown. Where and when possible, the City helps out the businesses downtown. Sometimes we can waive fines if the people come in and*

we can make sure they follow the steps to bring something up to code and put time limits on them.

Q: What do we do if we see an eyesore, or something that needs attention?

**\*\*Garrett Evans** – You can use the [GoCity Request](#) and fill out the information on line. Or call me.  
Garrett Evans, Assistant City Manager, (925)252-4034.

Q: I just had a comment I wanted to bring to attention for the Planning Department. I ended up getting help and the planner was very helpful, but my issue was I was working on getting my fence replaced and I had a hard time getting a hold of the Planning Department. I got thrown into this general mailbox and didn't get a call back for about 2 weeks. So I just told her that I had to go through a lot of hoops to get through to the Planning Department, and when I did it was like a mechanical message. So I just wanted the City to know that as a community person, there needs to be an easier way to get directly to a person. Because I have to move on and can't be waiting, so I just wanted to give that feedback. I had a hard time at first, I ended up getting the help I needed, and the person was great and even came out to the house to check. I just think it would be better if we could get more direct assistance for that.

**\*\*Hector Rojas** – We can go back and look at our phone system. Right now every day we have to change the extension for the planner on duty. So we're taking a look at how to reorganize. We normally have a 24hour policy for callbacks if we're not picking up the phone immediately, and I can give you my card. We'll try to be better about that and I do apologize for it.

Meeting came to an end. Garrett Evans thanked everyone for coming and let them know that employees would be there to approach with any additional questions.

Laura Wright and Lieutenant Galer explained some of the handouts at the meeting. Ring.com partnered with the Police Department and has a deal from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup> to get \$50 off a camera for the home. It has a sensor that sends notifications to your phone. It will send a text if it appears someone is at the home and you can view the feed from your smart phone and can talk through the device. Laura Wright also brought out some bags, passes for Small World Park and Buchanan Swim Center, a couple of BOGOs for waterfront activities, and coupons for the bookstore.