



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

TM

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of Proposal Regarding San Joaquin Regional Dive and Recovery Team upon Request by Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce

MEETING DATE: June 6, 2007

PREPARED BY: Randi Johl, City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider the proposal regarding the San Joaquin Regional Dive and Recovery Team at the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce and provide staff direction or take further action if so desired.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At the regular City Council meeting of April 4, 2007, Gene Davenport provided a brief presentation regarding a proposed San Joaquin Regional Dive and Recovery Team, similar to the program utilized in Sacramento County. Additional documentation regarding the proposed program was also provided by Mr. Davenport and is attached. This item was placed on the agenda for Council consideration at the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Mounce. Staff does not have a specific recommendation regarding the item at this time as the matter is agendaized for discussion purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Not applicable.

Randi Johl
City Clerk

RJ

Attachment

APPROVED: _____

Blair King, City Manager



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE
& WAREHOUSE UNION
Local 54 Stockton

GENE DAVENPORT
Secretary / Treasurer

22 N. Union
Stockton, CA 95205
Phone: (209) 464-1827



Cell Phone: (209) 993-1703
Fax: (209) 464-5709
E-Mail: gened@lodinet.com

*Gene Davenport
675 Canyon Creek Way
Galt, CA 95632*

Mayor Bob Johnson
Council Members Joanne Mounce, Larry D. Hansen
Susan Hitchcock, Phil Katzkian
P.O. Box 3006
Lodi Ca. 95241-1910

Please find attached letters and memos from representatives of the city, county, and private enterprise. This letter is an official request seeking donations for the funding of a Dive and Recovery Team (DART) for the citizens of San Joaquin County.

San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore, through the Sheriff's Foundation, is allowing donations to be made to a non-profit 501c3 charitable account for the establishment of our Dive and Recovery Team, which is to be manned by an all volunteer staff. One hundred percent of donations are to be used for the Dive and Recovery Team for all required equipment and accessories.

All persons associated with this endeavor feel it will take the participation of all government agencies (city, county, and state), private businesses and the public sector to make this a viable operation. We anticipate a yearly budget of \$50,000 dollars.

We hope you will give serious consideration to donating to this endeavor to make it a reality for all citizens of this county. Through ongoing donations and grants through different agencies we hope to keep this a permanent entity in this county. San Joaquin County has over 1,200 miles of waterway and we are in dire need of this service. Thank you for all due consideration.

Sincerely,



Gene Davenport
(209) 9931703



OFFICE OF
SHERIFF-CORONER

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

7000 Michael N. Canlis Blvd.
French Camp, California 95231-9781

Steve Moore
Sheriff-Coroner
Public Administrator

February 23, 2007

Gene Davenport
International Longshore & Warehouse Union
Local 54 Stockton
22 N. Union
Stockton, California 95205

Please allow me to thank you for your efforts in bringing to the Sheriff's attention the need for a team of divers who could assist local law enforcement in dealing with investigations in and around bodies of water.

I have made contact with the Board of Directors of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Foundation who has agreed to manage donations to this worthwhile cause.

Donations can be made to:

San Joaquin County Dive And Recovery Team (SJC D.A.R.T.)
P.O. Box 878
Stockton, California 95201

Any donations made to the SJC DART are tax deductible under the Sheriff's Foundation which is a 501c3 charitable organization. There is no overhead involved with the Sheriff's Foundation, which means that one hundred percent of any donations will go directly toward the SJC DART.

I look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jess DuBois".

Jess DuBois
Assistant Sheriff
San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office
(209) 468-4312

Longshoreman feared dead in wreck at port

By David Siders
Record Staff Writer

STOCKTON — A body pulled from Stockton Deep Water Channel late Thursday was believed to be that of an elderly longshoreman who had been reported missing Wednesday and who appeared to have been driving a truck that plunged into the water, Port of Stockton officials said.

The missing man, who was identified by officials as Jose "Pepe" Correa of Stockton, was the oldest of the port's longshoremen, said Dennis Brueck-

ner, president of International Longshore Workers Union Local 54.

"No one's really sure how old he is," Brueckner said. "He was in pretty good shape, and he didn't shy away from hard work."

It has been at least a decade since a longshoreman died at work at the port, Brueckner said.

Divers found a body and a truck submerged in about 32 feet of water off Dock No. 9, port Police Chief George Lerner said. He did not identify the body, which Lerner said was found

outside the submerged truck at about 7:50 p.m.

Correa's wife reported her husband missing when he failed to return home from work late Wednesday, port officials said. A grim outcome was feared once officials found a truck missing, a rail above the water damaged and an oil slick below, port Director Richard Aschieris said.

"It's a sad day here," he said Thursday before the body was recovered. "The circumstances don't point to a good ending here."

Brueckner said Correa, who drove a lift and worked the

dock, was preparing to retire in December. Correa had worked at the port for about 40 years, Brueckner said. A son of his also is a longshoreman at the port, he said.

Brueckner said Correa was "always smiling, always willing to joke." He said he was a hard worker who was everybody's friend.

Correa's family could not be reached for comment late Thursday. "They're just very upset," Brueckner said.

Contact reporter David Siders at (209) 943-8580 or dsiders@recordnet.com

Jose Perez Correa



On behalf of the Correa family... "thank you" to everyone for your kind gestures and show of sympathy during our loss.

De parte de la familia Perez Correa, Queremos agradecerle a todos por su apoyo y su compasion durante nuestra pena y perdida de Jose Perez Correa.

Wife, Maria De La Luz Perez Correa, children Roy Perez y Familia, Dora Perez y Familia, Carmen Teresa de Zermeno y Familia, Efrain Padilla Perez y Familia

International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Local 54

I.L.W.U.

22 NORTH UNION STREET
PHONE (209) 464-1827



FAX (209)464-5709
e-mail: ILWU.Local54@
worldnet.att.net

STOCKTON CA 95205-4988



April 4, 2007

Honorable Mayor Bob Johnson Council Members
Mounce, Hansen, Hitchcock, and Katzakian
P.O. Box 3006
Lodi Ca. 95241-1910

My name is Gene Davenport. I am the Secretary-Treasurer of ILWU Local 54 in Stockton, California. I am writing this letter on behalf of the citizens of San Joaquin County.

On August 9, 2006 we suffered a loss at the Port of Stockton. At approximately 4 p.m., an accident occurred at the Port of Stockton. We don't know what happened, but an individual who has worked at the port for over 35 years was involved in an unseen accident. His name was Jose Perez Correa. At approximately 10 p.m. that evening his family reported him missing. After the Port authorities found an accident scene, local emergency agencies were contacted to respond to the accident. Port authorities were informed by these emergency agencies that they did not do retrievals. What we found out, was that with this kind of accident no local agencies will respond to this type of situation because is not considered a rescue, it is considered a recovery. Needless to say this put an enormous strain on his family and co-workers who stood by while all this was occurring. At approximately 2 a.m., the family was informed that the Sacramento Dive and Retrieval Team would respond at the earliest possible time. Thanks to the Sacramento D.A.R.T .team, our friend and Brother Jose Perez Correa and his vehicle were pulled from the water at approximately 8:30 p.m., 32 hours after it was reported.

What this whole tragic accident showed was that San Joaquin County needs to have its own D.A.R.T. team. After conversations with the Port Director Richard Aschieris and those involved at the accident, it was agreed upon that we would try to establish our own D.A.R.T. team for San Joaquin County. Through conversations with Sheriff Steve Moore, it was agreed upon that we would take on this endeavor and use the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Foundation (a 501c3 charitable organization).

With the help of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Dept., the San Joaquin County Fire Departments, the Port of Stockton and other local agencies, we have undertaken the task of getting this project off the ground. No person or family should have to go through an event like this again regardless of whom they are or where they come from. This endeavor will be 100% voluntary and absolutely all monies will be used in the overhead of this team in the form of equipment and accessories.

This endeavor won't be a success without local businesses partaking in its support in a continuing fashion and we would like to count on your support today, tomorrow, and the future to keep this worthy cause an asset to our county. Please don't hesitate to call if any concerns or questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Davenport". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene Davenport
Secretary/Treasurer
ILWU Local 54

DENNIS A. CARDOZA
18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON

HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON

CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY AND RESEARCH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0518

August 9, 2006

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

435 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6131

DISTRICT OFFICES:

2222 M STREET, SUITE 305
MERCED, CA 95340
(209) 383-4455

1010 10TH STREET, SUITE 5800
MODESTO, CA 95354
(209) 527-1914

137 EAST WEBER AVENUE
STOCKTON, CA 95202
(209) 946-0361

Mr. Gene Davenport
ILWU Local 54
22 North Union Street
Stockton, CA 95205

Dear Mr. Davenport,

I wanted to take a moment to express my condolences for the loss of Jose Correa. There is no doubt this is a painful time for his family, as well as, his brothers and sisters at the ILWU.

While I am extremely appreciative of the DART team from Sacramento activating to assist with this incident, I certainly hope if I can ever be of assistance to support the formation of a local volunteer rescue team, you will not hesitate to call me.

Again, please accept my most sincere sympathies for your loss.

Sincerely,



DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress

PORT OF STOCKTON

Phone: (209) 946-0246



Fax: (209) 465-7244

August 14, 2006

Gordon Palmer, City Manager
City of Stockton
425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

RE: Water Related Accidents and Drowning Victim Recovery

Dear Gordon:

During the last few months, the Port of Stockton has experienced two accidents where vehicles were driven into the water with possible drowning victims. Both cases were classified as recovery operations rather than life saving due to the time frames involved. During the first incident we used a private diver employed by a towing company to recover the vehicle from Burns Cut near the Rough and Ready Island Bridge. The recovery took approximately five days and it was discovered that vehicle was stolen with no drowning involved. In the latest incident, a longshoreman accidentally drove a vehicle off Dock 9. We used the services of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Drowning Accident Rescue Team (D.A.R.T.) to recover the victim and vehicle.

The Port of Stockton believes that San Joaquin County and its cities, with our "1000 miles of waterways," need a water recovery unit similar to Sacramento County's D.A.R.T. that can respond quickly to a drowning incident. The recovery of drowning victims is extremely traumatic for families and the recovery is time consuming.

The Stockton Fire Department has a water rescue unit that responds to initial incidents but does not provide drowning victim/vehicle recovery. We certainly understand the different skills required between water rescue and the recovery of drowning victims along with related evidence, i.e., vehicles. The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department boat patrol provides drowning victim recovery with limited access to qualified divers.

Post Office Box 2089 • Stockton, CA • 95201-2089 • E-mail: portmail@stocktonport.com
Administration Office: 2201 West Washington Street • Stockton, CA • 95203 • Web Page: www.portofstockton.com

August 14, 2006
Gordon Palmer
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Based on our recent experience at the Port of Stockton we would like to enlist your support to jointly develop a plan to provide this type of service to the communities of San Joaquin County. With the expertise of personnel from the Stockton Fire Department, San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department boat patrol, and the Sacramento County D.A.R.T., a volunteer team could be developed, trained, and deployed to provide for the recovery of drowning victims and vehicles from our waterways.

Please let me know if the City of Stockton would be interested in establishing such a rescue team. The Port of Stockton would be willing to provide a base of operations for a Drowning Accident Rescue Team as well as other support that would be necessary.

Sincerely,



Richard Aschieris
Port Director

cc: Commissioners, Stockton Port District