

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, September 11, 2012, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hansen, Council Member Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore Nakanishi, and Mayor Mounce

Absent: Council Member Katzakian

Also Present: City Manager Bartlam, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Overview and Prioritization of the Community Improvement Unit (PD)

Police Chief Mark Helms provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Community Improvement program. Specific topics of discussion included background, community improvement team, complaints, scope of complaints, types of complaints processed, 2011 case history, 2012 cases for six months, challenges, what is involved in a case, case photos, community improvement accomplishments, community improvement goals, code enforcement, and current case priorities.

In response to Mayor Mounce, Chief Helms stated currently the Community Improvement program is understaffed with one officer and one clerical support person and he is looking forward to bringing on one more officer, adjusting the operations of the program, and bringing back a proper recommendation for staffing in the future.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Chief Helms stated the CalGRIP funds were received through the State and will fund a part-time position to deal directly with gang-related properties. Chief Helms stated the grant will expire in December 2013.

In response to Council Member Johnson and Mayor Mounce, Chief Helms stated staff can review the options associated with vacant property ordinances through which fees can be assessed on banks for property maintenance purposes. Chief Helms stated he will provide the numbers associated with calls for vacant properties in the City as requested.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Nakanishi, Chief Helms stated the Community Improvement budget falls under the Police Department budget and the \$6,000 budgeted for boarding up vacant homes is insufficient.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Chief Helms stated abandoned vehicles on private property visible from the street can still be towed under existing authority.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Chief Helms stated it is challenging to operate the program with only one officer and one clerical person and they rely heavily on prioritization of cases and assistance from the Police Partners.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Chief Helms stated staff will forward the numbers associated with property liens on vacant properties as requested.

A brief discussion ensued between Mayor Mounce, Chief Helms, and Community Improvement Officer Nancy Baker regarding the Community Improvement brochure, its contents, and proactive dissemination of the brochure to the community in an effort to prevent violations before they happen.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Baker stated the administrative citation process includes the following fines: \$100 for a first violation, \$250 with \$100 administrative fine, and a \$350 with a \$500 cap fine. Ms. Baker stated there is also a lien process although the fines are generally sufficient.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Ms. Baker stated if the fines are not paid the violations are sent through the collections and lien process. She stated garage sales run as a business are handled on a complaint basis. Council Member Hansen suggested reviewing a code enforcement sweep similar to other Police Department sweeps in targeted neighborhoods.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Nakanishi, Mr. Bartlam stated the program dates back to 1996 and the current process is similar to the previous process prior to 2008 although the program did move from Community Development to the Police Department for management and function alignment purposes.

Mayor Mounce suggested looking into a Code Action Team program whereby a team of City and County relevant agencies educate neighborhoods on compliance and available resources.

The City Council provided general comments supporting the concept of changing the name of the program from Community Improvement to Code Enforcement if the Police Chief and department felt it would better assist with compliance.

Myrna Wetzel spoke in regard to her concerns about addressing garbage-related nuisances as a priority to control disease in the community.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk