

General Manager Report

This is the second message of a new feature of the website to keep residents informed about major topics that are currently of interest. These messages will be updated periodically and will call attention to major events and dates.

Police Study – Community Meetings

Matrix will present their analysis and findings on police services at two community meetings which are scheduled at the Kensington Community Center on the following days:

- **Thursday, February 28th at 7:30 PM**
- **Saturday, March 2nd at 10:00 AM.**

These are repeat meetings scheduled to give residents two time options to attend one of the sessions. To encourage as wide participation as possible, we are encouraging residents to attend one of the meetings. This is an opportunity to be informed about the operation of police services and possible ways that they can be improved. They will be informational sessions from one of the most experienced firms that evaluates these services. The Phase 2 draft report, as well as the Phase 1 report are posted on the KPPCSD website.

After these community meetings are concluded, the Police Study will be placed on the Board Agenda to determine next steps and the process to bring this evaluation to a conclusion.

Board Priorities and Resources

On Friday, February 1, the Board of Directors met to have a general discussion on priorities and use of staff resources. Some of the key projects that were identified were the Community Center seismic upgrades and alterations, Matrix police study, administrative reorganization, update of the Policy and Procedures Manual, and Fiscal Year 2019/20 budget.

Policy and Procedures Manual

We continue to make progress on updating this out of date document that does not reflect current practices or requirements. A rough first draft has been compiled that needs further editing and correction. A draft that is sufficiently finished for public review should be available in March. Raising this document to a more excellent quality should also facilitate implementation of the revised administrative structure and improve day-to-day operations.

Neighboring Police Departments

In the last few weeks, Board President Nottoli and I have met with the two of the neighboring Police Chiefs: Chief Paul Keith of El Cerrito and Chief John Geissberger of Albany. The purpose of these meetings has been to build improved relations, discuss common issues, and explore areas of cooperation.

Police Officer Recruitment

One of the topics that we discussed with the Police Chiefs was the continuing difficulty of most police organizations in recruiting police officers. For example, the Albany PD is down 5 officers, from 26 to 21. Apparently, high profile assignments such as SWAT, bomb squad and undercover work that are usually available in larger departments and are more attractive to younger recruits. However, recruiting is a national problem and not just limited to smaller departments. San Jose is down 300 officers or 30% of authorized. Other issues which limit recruiting included: a strong economy, particularly in the Bay Area, policing is not a career that many millennials seek, and the risk to lives and/or careers in a cell phone recorded incident.

Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget

We have commenced the process to prepare the draft budget for next fiscal year. Last year's budget was significantly changed to assist decision-making and be more understandable to the public. For example, last year we divided the budget into the key programs provided by the District; we also included accomplishments, some draft objectives, and expenditure and revenue pie charts. Most significantly the new budget included the first Five-Year Financial Forecast.

As noted above, there are a number of projects underway that we hope can resolve some past issues and continue to improve governance in Kensington.

Best regards,

Tony Constantouros