

Residents for Quality Neighborhoods

Newsletter

Summer 2009

CHANGES TO NOISE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

RQN members and other residents of the city are aware that noise, especially party noise, has been a serious problem for a very long time. Noise complaints have hit (and often exceeded) 3,000 each year for at least the past 5 years.

The RQN Board has been working with members of the City Council to change this. We held meetings with council members and provided them with data showing the annual number of noise complaints since 2002, and a 2-year history of one section of Highland Avenue showing a proliferation of Disturbance Advisory Cards (a DAC is a warning), but very few citations. We explained the cumbersome nature of the "Premise List" (don't ask) used to track frequent noise violators and made some suggestions for improvement in policy and procedures.

We, also, expressed our displeasure that the neighborhood police patrols which were to have been established and funded with Measure Y money, and which were a major city goal, never materialized.

In the meantime, the police department had begun to query other municipalities to find out what techniques they employ to combat party noise. They, also, had applied for a grant to fund two positions to be used for neighborhood policing. The grant request, however, was not approved.

During the Public Safety portion of the June 4th City Council Budget Meeting, council members heatedly discussed the excessive number of noise complaints and the fact that, over the years, they have not lessened. They, also, discussed Measure Y money, the neighborhood patrols which were to be funded from it, and the fact that neighborhood patrols were a major city goal that was never implemented.

The police chief was tasked with reviewing policies and procedures for noise abatement and with moving one traffic officer into a vacant patrol position, adding another officer from patrol and using both of them in the city's neighborhoods. It was Council's intention that these two officers would remain on neighborhood patrol and be supplemented by officers funded by the grant. So, even though no grant funds were received,

we are to have two officers dedicated to neighborhood patrol.

RQN sent the enclosed letter with its attached suggestions to the council on July 29, 2009. We ask you to look at it and let us know if you have other suggestions you would like us to make.

The police department is to provide council with a status report (update) during a Special Study Session on **Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00 pm**. Since this is an important topic for residents, we encourage you to be there to add your support.

If you wish to send an e-mail or fax to council members, contact information is shown below. Council members' telephone numbers are in the phone book or available from the City Clerk (781-7100).

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive an e-mail reminder of the Special Study Session on Noise, please send your e-mail address to rqn.board@yahoo.com.

We absolutely promise we will not provide this information to other organizations or individuals, nor will we use them for anything other than RQN business.

CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Council Fax : 781-7174

Council e-mail addresses:

Dave Romero: dromero@slocity.org

Allen Settle: asettle@slocity.org

Andrew Carter: acarter@slocity.org

Jan Marx: jmarx@slocity.org

John Ashbaugh: jashbaug@slocity.org

ANNUAL DINNER

RQN's annual dinner is scheduled for **Sunday, October 11, 2009**, at the San Luis Obispo Golf & Country Club. Please mark your calendars. We will, again, try to hold the dinner cost to \$30.

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Cydney Holcomb, long-time chair of RQN, died at her home at 5:30 am, July 23, 2009. She will be missed.



Join RQN! 2009-2010

Annual Family Membership \$12.00

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES

Enclosed is my (our) dues payment. Mail to RQN, P.O. Box 12604, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93406.

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____