



City of Del Mar Staff Report



TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Mark Delin, Assistant City Manager
Via Scott W. Huth, City Manager

DATE: March 16, 2015

SUBJECT: Receive Law Enforcement Update and Provide Direction to Staff

REQUESTED ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Review report on law enforcement update and provide direction to staff.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Over the course of the past several years, the City Council, the Finance Committee and City staff have been researching ways to improve certain aspects of law enforcement within the City. While there has been satisfaction with the ability of the Sheriff to respond in a timely manner to high priority calls, there has been a desire for increased visibility of law enforcement in the community; greater continuity of staffing; more traffic enforcement; and reduced response time for low priority (non-urgent) calls. This report provides a brief update on efforts to create a small Del Mar police department to supplement services provided by the Sheriff; planned enhancements to law enforcement coverage that will be provided under the existing contract; and the status of the Park Ranger study. Direction is requested from Council on the continued study of law enforcement options, and a study of the Park Ranger program.

Small Del Mar Police Department

After an extensive study by the Finance Committee and staff of the alternatives for increasing law enforcement service, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Council concurred, that Finance Committee Council liaisons Terry Sinnott and Al Corti meet with Sheriff Gore to receive feedback on the idea of forming a small police department within the City of Del Mar to augment the services provided by the Sheriff. Mayor Corti and Council Member Sinnott met with Sheriff Gore last week to discuss the proposal, and a summary of the meeting prepared by Council Member Sinnott is included as Attachment A. In this meeting, it was discussed that a task force be formed composed of Sheriff and City staff and experts to evaluate the options for increased law enforcement service. Mayor Corti sent a letter to Sheriff Gore thanking him for the meeting and outlining the options to be considered by the task force. The letter is included as Attachment B. The Council is requested discuss this issue and provide any

City Council Action:

Action Taken: Council received the report; directed staff to proceed with the use of a task force to discuss the three options to enhance law enforcement services; determined to delay a study until completion of the task force study. Connie Smith-Ball, Deputy City Clerk.

additional direction to Council liaisons and staff if desired.

Law Enforcement Enhancements Under the Existing Sheriff Contract

Staff has also been actively working with the Sheriff Captain Theresa Adams-Hydar on finding ways to optimize coverage within the staff allocation covered by the City's contract with the Sheriff. In addition to its Detective, the City currently pays for and receives one 24/7 Patrol Deputy (covered by 5.32 full-time equivalent employees) (FTEs), and one 42.5 hours per week Traffic Deputy (1.268 FTEs). Captain Adams-Hydar has proposed that by adding staffing, she could decrease the amount of backfill time (time off due to vacation, sick and training that must be covered by other staff) from overtime to straight time, and fund an additional Patrol Deputy for Del Mar. Similarly, she has determined that the City can receive an additional Traffic Deputy shared with Solana Beach at no additional cost.

These adjustments amount to 1.5 positions more than have been assigned to Del Mar in the past several years. In addition to this effort, the City will be running a pilot program to test the effectiveness of using a motorcycle unit for traffic enforcement. A motorcycle unit will be used on an overtime basis for a few hours on two weekends in both March and in April. This will provide information not only on the comparative effectiveness of motorcycle traffic enforcement, but will also allow us to gauge public response to the increased traffic enforcement effort.

Park Ranger Study

The Park Ranger Program was established in Fiscal Year 2003-2004 without a formal law enforcement study of how it should best be structured to meet the needs of Del Mar residents; to provide a safe working environment for the Park Ranger; to determine how to integrate these services with the Sheriff, as well as recommending the operational structure for law enforcement best management practices. . The Park Ranger Program has functioned effectively in the following years to increase safety in our parks and beaches, and we have received requests, both internally and externally to expand the program to include Reserve Park Rangers, and to add administrative support resources. It is important to have a review of the program by outside law enforcement professionals to ensure that the City has a clear understanding of applicable state and federal requirements, and ensure that the program has appropriate procedures and staffing. Therefore, Council directed staff to proceed in soliciting a proposal to perform a study of the Park Ranger program to determine the appropriate level of staffing, training standards, how the program should be supervised, and the review of operational policies and procedures. Council is requested to provide direction to staff on whether the study should proceed at this time. If this direction is provided, staff will return to Council in the near future with a proposal and a request for authorization for funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Meeting with Sheriff Gore – Summary
- Attachment B – Letter from Mayor Corti to Sheriff Gore

Attachment A

Recap of Sheriff Meeting

March 5, 2015

Attendees: Sheriff Bill Gore
Undersheriff Ed Prendergast
Captain Theresa Adams-Hydar

Mayor Al Corti
Councilmember Terry Sinnott

Items Discussed:

1. Del Mar is a small city that is impacted by large numbers of visitors each year.
2. We have a low serious crime rate, but have problems with larceny and burglaries.
3. The Encinitas Sheriff under the leadership of Captain Adams-Hydar has been working hard to improve service to the community.
4. The Sheriff does a good job in responding to Priority 1 & 2 calls.
5. Del Mar's goals for improving service are:
 - a. More policing for the \$1.7 million dollars in our budget.
 - b. Better responses to Priority 3 & 4 calls.
 - c. Improved presence / crime prevention / visibility.
 - d. Stability of personnel / community knowledge.
 - e. Increased ability to handle seasonal fluctuation of visitors.
 - f. Continued partnership with the Sheriff for serious crime.
6. Based on over four years of study we are proposing two alternative solutions to improve service and make effective use of our limited police budget.

Alternative 1: Partner with the Sheriff and create a small Del Mar police force to handle low priority calls, traffic enforcement and report writing. Continue contracting with the Sheriff for high priority calls and investigation of serious crimes.

Alternative2: Del Mar establish its own police department and handle all police functions.

Sheriff Response:

Sheriff Gore was very open and accepting of our ideas. He understood what Del Mar's unique issues are. He expressed willingness for his department to work with us on solutions for the community. He had concerns that our estimates of costs for policing were not "fully loaded" and therefore would not be less expensive than contracting with the Sheriff.

Undersheriff Prendergast indicated an operational problem with Alternative #1. He said many calls that are received are not defined as to priority until the deputy arrives on the scene. This gave him concern on how a dispatcher could judge whether to assign a call to a Sheriff Deputy (Priority 1 or 2), or whether to assign the call to a Del Mar police officer (Priority 3 or 4).

The Sheriff indicated that they would like an opportunity to explore a **3rd Alternative** by seeing if the Sheriff could provide the needed services at a reasonable cost.

Del Mar's Request:

We requested that Del Mar and the Sheriff work together to identify the true costs, benefits and operational issues related to all three alternatives. The Sheriff agreed that they would be very willing to help us further refine our proposals.

Next Steps:

We are to put together a joint work team with representatives from Sheriff Substation, Sheriff Operations, Del Mar City Council, Del Mar Staff, and Finance Committee to further refine our proposals. Our hope is to complete this work in the next three months.

Terry Sinnott
Del Mar City Council

March 5, 2015



March 11, 2015

Sheriff William D. Gore
John F. Duffy Administrative Center
P.O. Box 939062
San Diego, CA 92193-9062

Dear Sheriff Gore:

On behalf of the City Council, I want to thank you for the time and effort you spent with Council Member Terry Sinnott and me on March 5, 2015 to discuss how the City of Del Mar could initiate security measures within the City to address lower priority crime issues, and specifically how the Sheriff's office can assist and guide us in the creation of a small police department to augment the Sheriff services.

I found the conversation fruitful and appreciated the suggestion that we create a joint task force composed of members of our respective staffs and experts to study how best this may be accomplished. Additionally, we welcome your suggestion that the task force evaluate alternatives to the proposed small Del Mar Police Department that would meet the same security objectives and goals of the City.

The City is ready to initiate the study which will evaluate the following three options:

1. Create a Del Mar Police Department – We look forward to your office critiquing and evaluating the Del Mar study to initiate a full police department addressing operational issues, startup costs and annual operating budgets .
2. Partnership with the Sheriff's Department – Under this option, the Sheriff would continue to provide the current services, without traffic enforcement, and work alongside a small Del Mar police force, as was proposed, similar to the City's existing Park Ranger program which would handle low priority calls, traffic enforcement, and report writing.
3. Expanded Sheriff Contract – We also look forward to your office providing a plan and proposal that relies exclusively on Sheriff Department staff to accomplish the City's goals of expanded security, increased crime prevention, improved response times and increased traffic enforcement.

I would hope that the joint task force could initiate the study in the next few weeks and complete the analysis within a few months.

We are open to any comments or suggestions as to the task force objectives and options to evaluate. I would appreciate if you could advise us who will represent the Sheriff's Department in analyzing these options so we can schedule meetings. Following an upcoming discussion at our Council meeting regarding this subject on March 16, 2015, City staff will coordinate with your appointed designee regarding the timeframe and the agenda for the task force. Thank you again for your continued efforts to help us improve public safety services in the City of Del Mar.

Yours truly,

Al Corti
Mayor

