



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: February 17, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Pamela Mottice Muller, Liaison to Health and Safety Commission
Subject: HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION
Attachments: 1. NONE

INTRODUCTION

The Health and Safety Commission was established by the City Council in August 2007. A seven-member commission was appointed in the fall of 2007 with the goal to strive to maintain and improve the overall health and safety of the community. In January 2008 the Commission held its first meeting. Because this is a Commission that interacts with multiple departments and stakeholders, the Beverly Hills School District and City Departments appointed liaisons to work with the Commission. This memorandum serves to seek the City Council's approval on the Commission mission, vision, goals, objectives and work plan items.

DISCUSSION

The following is a summary of the mission, vision statement, motto, goals, objectives and work plan items. Also included are highlights from projects completed by the Commission in 2008.

Mission Statement

The Health and Safety Commission shall strive to maintain and improve the overall health and safety of the community.

Motto

Enhancing the Health and Safety of Our Community.

Vision Statement

To inspire greater citizen participation and awareness regarding health and safety issues that affect our community.

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Areas of Focus 2008 – 2009

Emergency Preparedness was deemed the highest priority for the Commission with the following topics deemed of most interest: Community and neighborhood preparedness, Citizen Corp development, special needs, disabled, senior needs before, during and after a disaster.

Health, Home and Behavioral topics were also deemed a primary focus to the Commission which would include such topics as Accident Prevention, Seasonal and Pandemic Flu, and drugs/alcohol awareness and related issues.

Goals, Objectives and Work Plan Items 2009

To Create a “Community Culture of Awareness and Preparedness”

- Support campaigns to educate the community on the topic of disaster preparedness: National Preparedness Month, Health and Safety Week to be held October 25 – November 1, 2009 (formerly Safety and Emergency Preparedness Week), and April Earthquake Month.
- Encourage and Support Citizen Corp activities and involvement in a variety of ways including participation in the annual Neighborhood Watch meetings, and assisting in increasing membership and coordination between groups.

To Encourage Good Decision Making and Battle Complacency on Health and Safety Matters

- Evaluate the development and implementation of Health and Safety Awards and Recognitions.
- Supplement disaster preparedness message with other health and safety educational opportunities throughout the year, specially concentrating on teen issues/drugs/alcohol awareness.

To Serve as Ambassadors to the Community on Health and Safety Related Resources and Information

- Explore ways to provide resources to the community.
 - Provide input on the development of an emergency preparedness supply kit to be sold on SHOPBH.
- Support outreach to individuals with special needs and identify those needs before, during and after a disaster.
 - Assist in outreach in identifying those community members needing special attention in an evacuation or emergency.
 - Assist in outreach in having residents register for the new notification system.

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The following is a list of projects completed by the Commission in 2008:

Highlights of Projects Completed Year 2008

Development of a Commission mission statement, vision, goals, objectives and work plan. This was partially derived from the City Council's direction when the Health and Safety Commission was formed. The Commission completed a variety of activities, as listed below, that allowed for this development:

- six departments provided visits with presentations
- review of current and future City health and safety initiatives
- discussions on topics such as:
 - Who do we serve?
 - What is our vision?
 - What impact do we want to have?
 - Who are we and who are we not?
 - Who do we want to become?
 - When appointed what was our vision?
- listing of all Health and Safety topics
- developing categories for these topics
- prioritizing these categories in order of current importance to the Commission

Supported National Preparedness Month:

- Held and attended Business Symposium
- Held and attended Community Forum: Presentation by Dr. Lucy Jones, Seismologist

Presentations were provided by the following organizations on Health and Safety related topics. Interested City staff and the public were invited and the presentations were taped and aired on the City cable stations:

- Robert Savakis, Director of LA County Vector Control
- Dr. Jon Pynos, Director of Fall Prevention Center of Excellence, USC
- Gayle Gilbert-Hamerling, American Cancer Society

Supported the "Every 15 Minutes" program.

Attended at Monthly Farmer's Market Booths on the following topics:

- August: Vector Control Exhibit
- September: Disaster Preparedness Information
- October: Shakeout Information
- November: Seasonal Flu Information and free flu shots

Supported the Great Southern California Shakeout as follows:

- Outreach to businesses, private schools and individuals to join the City in participation and to encourage preparedness
- Helped to design exercise and participated as role players and proctors

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Developed informational pamphlet of where to obtain Disaster Supplies.

Recorded Health & Safety related Radio Messages to play on 1500 AM Radio.

Provided comments to Departments on the following topics:

- Safety Element of General Plan
- Potential Fire Sprinkler Ordinance
- Sustainability Master Plan

Recommended City Council support Measure E.

Commissioners became certified and trained in NIMS (National Incident Management System) and ICS (Incident Management System) and NIMS trainings.

Received Commission training by the City Attorney's Office, a Legislature Platform update by Communications and a report on succession planning, the recruitment of new staff and the retention of staff by the City Manager.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Commission is not asking for further funding at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Health and Safety Commission requests the City Council approve the Commission's:

- Mission Statement, Vision, and Motto
- Goal, Objective and Work Plan Items for 2009

Pamela Mottice Muller