



# City of Santa Barbara Planning Division

## PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

November 6, 2008

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chair George C. Myers called the meeting to order at 128 P.M.

### ROLL CALL:

#### **Present:**

Chair George C. Myers

Vice-Chair Stella Larson

Commissioners Bruce Bartlett, Charmaine Jacobs, John Jostes, Addison S. Thompson and Harwood A. White, Jr.

### STAFF PRESENT:

Danny Kato, Senior Planner

N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney

Michael Mannix, Santa Barbara Police Captain

Rick Fulmer, Streets Manager

Sue Gray, Community Development Programs Supervisor

Kelly Brodison, Assistant Planner

Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

Chair Myers acknowledged and welcomed University of California, Santa Barbara, students studying Environmental Studies who were present during the meeting.

### **I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

A. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items.

None.

B. Announcements and appeals.

None.

- C. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda.

Chair Myers opened the public hearing at 1:29 P.M. and, with no one wishing to speak, closed the hearing.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**ACTUAL TIME: 1:29 P.M.**

**APPLICATION OF DAVE TABOR, AGENT FOR CASA ESPERANZA, PROPERTY OWNER, 816 CACIQUE AND 110 SOUTH QUARANTINA STREET, APN'S 017-240-021, 017-113 035 & 017-113-034, M-1 LIGHT MANUFACTURING, C-2, GENERAL COMMERCE AND S-D-3, COASTAL OVERLAY ZONES, GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: INDUSTRIAL (MST99-00432)**

Staff will present a Two-Year Report on the Status of the Casa Esperanza Homeless Center, located at 816 Cacique Street.

**No formal action on the project will be taken during this discussion item.**

Case Planner: Kelly Brodison, Assistant Planner

Email: [kbrodison@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:kbrodison@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

Kelly Brodison, Assistant Planner, gave the Staff presentation and introduced Captain Frank Mannix, Santa Barbara Police Department; Rick Fulmer, Streets Manager, Public Works; Mike Foley, Executive Director, Casa Esperanza; Gary Linker, Milpas Action Task Force; and Sue Gray, Community Development Programs Supervisor, Community Development.

Captain Frank Mannix, Santa Barbara Police Department, answered the Planning Commission's questions about shifting changes in crime activity as people migrate from one area to another area, such as the railroad area; acknowledged that there has been no link found between gang activity, drug sales and the homeless population; and that no firearm violations have been found among the transient population. He also replied that no additional staffing has been added to Beat 1 patrolling efforts and that 20% of patrol activity is related to responding to transient offense reports and typically falls into Part Two crimes, which are lesser crimes and have decreased in quantity over time.

Captain Mannix responded to the Commission's inquiry about open container citations by explaining two programs in effect: a Top Ten Offender Program representing 9.4% of the open container reports; and a new program, the Zone Enforcement Program, that represents 43% of the open container reports. These two programs distinguish between the one time offender and chronic offender.

Rick Fulmer, Streets Manager, answered the Planning Commission's questions about neighborhood clean-ups, the street sweeping program, the homeless encampments; and the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance signage and enforcement.

Michael Foley, Executive Director, Casa Esperanza, responded to the Commission's questions about the relationship between Cottage Hospital and Casa Esperanza and the increase in clients coming from Cottage Hospital. The Commission acknowledged the work done Mr. Foley and his staff.

Gary Linker, Chair, Milpas Action Task Force, provided a status of the recovery zone concept discussed at the City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations meeting with results forwarded to City Council.

Chair Myers opened the public hearing at 2:27 P.M.

Roger Heroux, Founder of Casa Esperanza, Chair of Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, and representing Bringing Our Community Home, stated that about 1 out of 10 homeless use 50% of city and county services. Every shelter in Santa Barbara County is at full capacity and is now turning away families. Homelessness is increasing and has become a social epidemic nationally that is causing significant money each year. He also pointed out that there are a higher number of local residents becoming homeless.

Mr. Heroux and Mr. Foley responded to the Commission's questions about panhandling and estimated that tourists and citizens contribute over \$600,000 to panhandlers.

With no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 2:44 P.M.

The Commissioners made the following comments:

1. The Commission expressed appreciation to Staff and the Community for the reports given and the program's success. One Commissioner wondered how the City's land use policies could further the efforts being made, specifically the recovery zone; asked for the Commission's support on land use policies.
2. One Commissioner spoke to homelessness being a regional problem and wondered if there were any MOU's being pursued to involve other communities in working toward a mutual resolution.
3. In regard to panhandling, one Commissioner pointed to the irony in the enforcement of complaints for people using city parks for profit, but not in the enforcement of panhandling.
4. One Commissioner felt that just as there are RHNA numbers that the city must comply, there should be RHNA-like numbers for homelessness and the absence of an infrastructure for bailing out homelessness. Two other Commissioners agreed that other municipalities need to assist in homelessness to offload the population at Casa Esperanza.
5. One Commissioner felt that the proposed recovery zone concept needs to be supported.
6. One Commissioner predicts the change in the economy will bring an increase in homelessness; has seen the impact on other communities and is concerned that this may eventually be seen in Santa Barbara.

7. One Commissioner would like to see steam-cleaning done on the neighboring sidewalk areas to promote walkability.

Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney, spoke to the recovery zone proposal and the issues and challenges presented. He also spoke to two major points: sales of intoxicating beverages and probation terms. The recovery zone is described in geographical terms, yet this is a geographical concentration of effort, not a land use tool. Any land use overlay that may use geographical zones for a desired area would grandfather existing businesses and those businesses would continue. Probation terms will take coordination and cooperation between city and county agencies. Sales of intoxicating beverages are a manpower issue that necessitates an officer being able to witness the sale-in-process and is not a land use issue. The last RHNA statute update added in requiring that in order to be certified, cities and counties must show that their zoning allows for shelters. Zoning must show the ability but not the actual construction of the shelters.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- A. Committee and Liaison Reports.

None were given.

- B. Review of the decisions of the Staff Hearing Officer in accordance with SBMC §28.92.026.

Commissioner White reported on the six modifications approved at the Staff Hearing Officer meetings held on October 22, and November 5, 2008. Most involved working with non-conforming situations.

- C. Action on the review and consideration of the items listed in I.A.1. of this Agenda: At the Commission's request, Items I.A.1.a-c were suspended at the meeting of October 16, 2008 and were reviewed today.

- a. Draft Minutes of August 14, 2008
- b. Draft Minutes of September 10, 2008 Special Meeting
- c. Draft Minutes of September 11, 2008 Special Meeting
- d. Draft Minutes of September 25, 2008 Special Meeting
- e. Draft Minutes of October 9, 2008

**MOTION: Jacobs/Jostes** Approve the minutes and resolutions of August 14, 2008, September 10-11, 2008, September 25, 2008, and October 9, 2008 as edited.

This motion carried by the following vote:

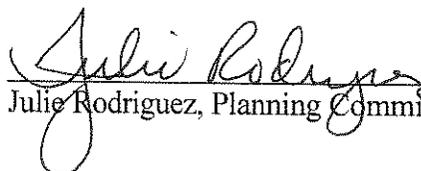
Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstain: as noted Absent: 0

Commissioner Jostes abstained from the Draft Minutes of October 9, 2008.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:14 P.M.

Submitted by,

  
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Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

