



PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A G E N D A

- I. Chair Reyes Call to Order
- II. Approval of June 12, 2013 Minutes
- III. Chair Reyes to Discuss Prioritization Process and Introduce Treasurer Keeley
- IV. Treasurer Keeley to Facilitate Prioritization Process
 1. Consensus on Critical Issue Prioritization and Educational Strategy
 2. Consensus on Meeting Timeline and Work Plan Structure

Adjournment -- The Public Safety Citizen Task Force will adjourn from the public meeting of June 26, 2013 to its next meeting: August 10, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room.

The City of Santa Cruz does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the City Clerk's Department at 420-5030 in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance. The Cal-Relay system number: 1-800-735-2922.

Public Safety Task Force meetings will be recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes.



PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Vice Chair Howes Call to Order
 1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Howes
- II. Approval of May 7, 2013 and May 29, 2013 Minutes
 1. May 7, 2013 and May 29, 2013 Minutes approved.
- III. Vice Chair Howes to Provide Background on Task Force Structure, Work Plan and Goals
 1. Vice Chair Howes thanked the TF and the community for attendance, provided background on the categorization of issues, and asked the community for input. Vice Chair asked those present to describe the behavior rather than the status of the individual when providing comments and feedback on their public safety concerns.
- IV. S. O'Hara to Moderate Community Input Session
 1. T. Scully: People are taking advantage of the De Anza Mobile Home Park. Many new transients are using facilities. Would like new collaboration between PD and Security Guards.
 2. M. Becker: Gave statistics on arrest rates. Crime trending up. Major concern is trying to deal with repeat offenders. HSC should require government IDs and background checks similar to San Mateo County.
 3. D. Wade: Concerned about the levee. Need needle drop boxes in public spaces.
 4. J. Tennent: Build awareness around public safety issues. Proof of residency to receive social services. Wants to see long-term solutions including a youth after-school program/indoor skate park.
 5. J. Fardette: Levee and City cleanliness should be top priority. Need for more garbage cans, keep City clean campaign, more restroom facilities. We need to focus on ideas to activate the levee.
 6. W. Miller: Vice Mayor on Santa Cruz City Youth Council. Youth safety survey. Youth generally don't feel safe and want a change. Look into the youth perspective because the youth use a lot of the City's resources.
 7. L. Cover: Tannery area needs clean-up. Need public garbage cans and restrooms. Need signage to promote a clean city. Can use local artists. Levee should be more active.

8. A. Mueller: Think about the Santa Cruz brand for each of the community target audiences: criminals, homeless, drug addicts.
9. H. Isherwood: Area behind the 1080 Emeline County building needs major clean up. There needs to be collaboration between city and county government.
10. K. Collins: We are losing business because of our reputation. We need our gateways to the City to be clean and welcoming.
11. G. Meade: Worried about unsolved violent crime. Need to encourage witnesses to get involved and funding to reward witnesses. Need more security cameras.
12. S. Falls: Need more permanent housing for homeless. Shelter isn't sufficient for 1500 people. Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp can be a feasible solution to our illegal camping problem.
13. R. Zhang: City Attorney on Santa Cruz City Youth Council. Youth can be a great resource, need opportunities. Youth need job training and activities. Drugs amongst youth are prevalent. Need more drug treatment programs. Need to work on cleanliness of Cowell's beach. Needle exchange rate of 1 to 30 is a problem.
14. R. Orrizzi: Asked Chief Vogel for his perspectives. They include:
 - a. The negative impacts of AB109 on our community.
 - b. The negative impacts of the courts handling infraction citations through a civil process.
 - c. The negative impacts of lack of treatment programs for drug addiction.
 - d. The negative impacts of the high number of high risk alcohol outlets within the City of Santa Cruz.

Mr. Orrizzi feels we need more after school programs.

15. M. Bethke: American Community Solutions. Program to improve blight and crime. Change "Neighborhood Watch" sign.
16. G. Greensite: We need to focus on rape and sexual assault. Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women is a good resource, but not enough.
17. M. Duffy: People feel our community is an unsafe place to live because of meth addicts and transients. The new Pogonip trail is very appreciated. We need to get more people in our public facilities. We need to better enforce our current laws.
18. D. Christian: Need to compare best practices for homeless support services. Businesses in Harvey West have many concerns in common: First Alarm is needed around the HSC, meal time is very chaotic, need more security at that time. RVs are a very large problem. Should be using drug detection dogs.
19. M. Joseph: Need to address these problems from a public health perspective. Need more substance abuse treatment services. Need for economic development for job creation. Crime prevention through environmental design. Leverage existing resources. Use local sourced data in solutions. Need to gather information from the silent majority, those that are in the middle and not on the extremes of the discourse.
20. S. Mora: Community partners should be identified. Violence prevention efforts should be explored.
21. B. Moorehead: Grant Street is ground zero of these issues right now. Needles found by neighbors on sidewalk, front yards. If the needles were a loaded gun, people would have a different reaction. It is the same difference to her. Neighbors are experiencing a lot of trauma. Bike thefts are used to buy drugs and should be prosecuted.
22. R. Weaver: Night Walks would be a good solution to high crime rate.
23. T. Altenberg: Smart solutions to address homeless. Advocate for proven, cost-effective, and evident-based solutions. Need more substance abuse and mental health treatment.

24. J. Nelson: City Manager, Santa Cruz City Youth Council. Anonymous crime reporting should be encouraged. Need a Nixel App to report crime.
25. S. Lee: Homeless Connect Program. Homeward Bound is used in other areas to send people to Santa Cruz.
26. H. Allen-Young: Fire Chief, Santa Cruz Youth City Council. Youth homeless center is needed. Youth are underused. Youth care too and see things.
27. D. Harrington: Recidivism: need to locate and focus on repeat offenders. Deal with serial inebriates. Invite homeless to discuss the problems.
28. M. Martinez: HSC priority is to work with the community and partner. 180/180 program is successful. Other cities have decreased their homeless populations by 10-36%. Use Smart Solutions.
29. D. Elston: Santa Cruz Neighborhoods. We need more education. Everyone needs to be more involved.
30. E. Garcia: Need for a preventative approach involving the youth, safe public spaces, opportunities, creative outlets.
31. R. Mills: We need to let the police to their jobs. Need more resources for bus station, downtown. Who are the different homeless in town? Many are on and selling drugs. Need to enable First Alarm to do more.

Adjournment -- The Public Safety Citizen Task Force adjourned from the public meeting of June 12, 2013 at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room.

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PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

Draft June 26, 2013 Meeting Staff Report

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City of Santa Cruz Public Safety Citizen Task Force (PSTF) consider, deliberate and come to consensus on the set list of public safety priorities as outlined in this staff report. TF may amend and enhance the set of priorities as they see fit at the June 26th meeting.

In addition, it is recommended that the TF come to consensus on the outlined meeting timeline and work plan structure as outlined in the staff report.

Background

The City of Santa Cruz Public Safety Citizen Task Force (PSTF) has held three meetings thus far. Following its inaugural meeting that focused on governance and schedule, the two subsequent meetings provided the City's perspective on current public safety issues and the community an opportunity to share with the PSTF their personal concerns and priorities through open comment. Both meetings were intended to assist the PSTF in developing its work plan and priorities.

In addition to the two meetings, the PSTF also requested that staff develop an outreach strategy to build awareness of the PSTF process and current public safety concerns, and an open a channel of communication with the greater community. In response to this request, staff developed a preliminary outreach strategy and disseminated an informal snap poll to capture sentiment around the safety issues identified by the individual Task Force members as discussed in the first three meetings.

This staff report will summarize the outcome of the 2nd and 3rd PSTF meetings as well as the informal poll, compare those outcomes to the original list of priorities as noted by the individual PSTF members, and recommend an educational strategy and work plan for the PSTF to consider. Treasurer Keeley was asked to join the PSTF for the June 26th meeting to facilitate the discussion.

Review: Distillation of Task Force Identified Critical Public Safety Issues

Leading up to the inaugural meeting, Task Force members were asked to provide their personal perspectives on the following questions:

1. What do you see as the major safety issues facing the City? (List up to 5)
2. What do you see as the causes of those issues you listed?
3. What kind/type of data, research, guest speakers, etc. would you find helpful to assist the Task Force over the next 6 months?
4. Any other relevant information/suggestions you would like to share with staff or questions you would like answered regarding the Task Force?

Every Task Force member provided a response to the four questions. The following critical issues were identified by the Task Force, generally in descending order of criticality (by number of individual Task Force members identifying that issue).

- Violence
- Property/neighborhood crime
- Gangs/Gang activities
- Drug addiction
- Alcohol addiction
- Mental health issues
- Homelessness
- Homeless Service Center enabling
- Large number of unstable people in business district
- Transients/transient activities
- Court system/revolving door
- Jail realignment
- Environmental impacts on parks and open spaces
- Traffic safety
- Lack of sense of safety
- Pollution of beaches
- Lack of public safety resources in City Budget
- Illegal Camping
- Siphoning of police and fire resources on social problems
- Perceived high crime rates
- Needle exchange
- Jail proximity to downtown
- Party houses
- Aggravated assaults
- Citizens feel law enforcement is ineffective

The collective list of issues includes both causes and effects, and encompasses Task Force feedback on the two top questions above. Understanding that many of the identified issues are related, staff began the process of distilling the 25 issues. In general, most critical issues fell into one of five categories, listed in order of causation: human conditions/afflictions, structural/systemic issues, behaviors and/or activities affecting public/community space, victimization, and public perception.

Several notable considerations were identified based the distillation process. First, the causality between each category requires further study and analysis. For example, how are the root causes related and how to they catalyze individuals or groups to behave and victimize in ways that erode public safety?

Secondly, the City only directly manages some of these identified issues. For instance, the City provides programs and enforcement to mitigate the behaviors, activities, victimization and public perception that erode public safety, but has little influence over many of the root causes.

Lastly, what methods and best practices are available to help prevent and mitigate public safety eroding behaviors and activities? What should be the role of the City in providing these resources? And perhaps most importantly, how does lack of information change public perception around these issues?

Questions raised by the PSTF members in their original responses and during the meetings, coupled with the questions above, can be used as a foundational framework for a prioritization and educational strategy. Staff has noted several redundant areas of interest in further education, including:

- How can the City help to lower the number of homeless and transients in our community?
- How can the City help to prevent and mitigate the effects of illegal camping and waste generation of the homeless and transient individuals in our open spaces and parks?
- How does substance abuse play a role in our homeless and transient issues around inappropriate behaviors, waste generation, petty crime, violence and recidivism?
- Are there substantial resources going into substance abuse prevention and treatment?
- What is the role of the criminal justice system in the current cycle of substance-related recidivism?
- How has AB109 affected the number of homeless and transients in our community?
- Who are the current actors in the drug trade and what programs are in place to manage drug trafficking?
- Does the City provide substantial budgetary resources to public safety?

Review: Readily Available City-Oriented Public Safety Data Observations and Outcome

Observations

The staff report to support the May 29th meeting included readily available City-oriented data on public safety. The report included data on repeat offenders and the draw repeat offenders have on police and fire resources, crime statistics, geographical and time-oriented review of calls for service, and budget. This information generated the following observations that were noted in the report.

- As noted by the Task Force, it seems that a high level of Santa Cruz's public safety issues are associated with the behaviors and activities around the chronically homeless and transient population, with drug use being a huge factor.
- This perception is consistent with the public safety management activities of each City Department.
- Additionally noted by the Task Force, gangs, gang activity and drug trafficking pose another substantial public safety issue in Santa Cruz.
- Many of the public safety eroding behaviors and activities can be attributed to other individuals and groups as well.
- Mapping of the annual calls for service provides insight on areas of public safety concern, from day to night, high season to low season. Nearly all of the high density calls for service are located within the San Lorenzo River basin.
- Santa Cruz does have higher violent and property crime rates to similar California coastal communities. However, if a higher population is used, essentially those served by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, Santa Cruz's crime rates are comparable.
- The City expends over 60% of its General Fund on public safety. All City departments provide public safety management resources.

Outcome

Based on the readily-available data, many of the public safety issues identified by the individual TF members are areas of heightened concern for the City. These include:

- Substance abuse.
- Environmental and social degradation of the City's parks, open spaces, and business districts with human waste, trash, unacceptable behaviors and activities.
- Gang violence is a top concern.
- Repeat offenders, particularly those related to substance abuse, create a significant draw on City public safety resources.

Outcome and Observations from May 29th City Department Presentations

Observations

Each City Department save Water and Economic Development participated in the May 29th meeting. Department representatives were asked to reflect on the following questions:

1. What public safety issues are the most critical to your Dept.?
2. What programs do you have in place to manage these issues?
3. What resources do you have at your disposal? How has funding of these issues changed?

Each Dept. representative presented to the PSTF and answered, to the best of their knowledge, the questions above. While each Department carries different responsibilities, there was consensus from their collective presentations that the following public safety issues are the most critical at this time, from the perspective of resource management and staff time.

- The City is overburdened with alcohol outlets.
- The City is struggling with the management of the effects of illegal camping and waste creation at our City parks and open spaces, public parking garages, public bathrooms, beaches, etc. The management and mitigation of human waste is overwhelming City Departments and requiring more and more staff time and resources.
- Fire and PD are responding to more calls for service than ever. A large percentage of current calls for service are related to individuals who self-identify as homeless, transient or use 115 Coral Street as their personal address.
- Substance abuse is seen as the root cause of many of the most critical public safety issues the City faces today.
- Fire and PD response to calls for service related to substance abuse and public nuisance behaviors limits the capacity of the Depts. to train and provide basic operational duties.
- There seems to be lack of judicial recourse for municipal code infractions.

The PSTF asked many questions during the meeting. Most of the questions were focused on the following themes:

- The Planning Dept.'s role in managing blighted areas.
- The role of faith-based organizations in the management of homeless in the community.
- How to limit the number of alcohol distributors in the City.
- Does the City have enough public restrooms in high-use areas?
- How can we change the management of repeat offenders?
- What is the role of AB109 and our local court system in recidivism and code infractions?

- What would the City do with more public safety resources?

Outcome

Based on the City presentations and follow-up questions from the PSTF to staff, similar top priorities were identified: substance abuse, environmental and social degradation of City parks, open spaces and business districts, violent crime, and lack of judicial recourse for municipal code violations.

Outcome and Observations from the Informal City Poll on Public Safety

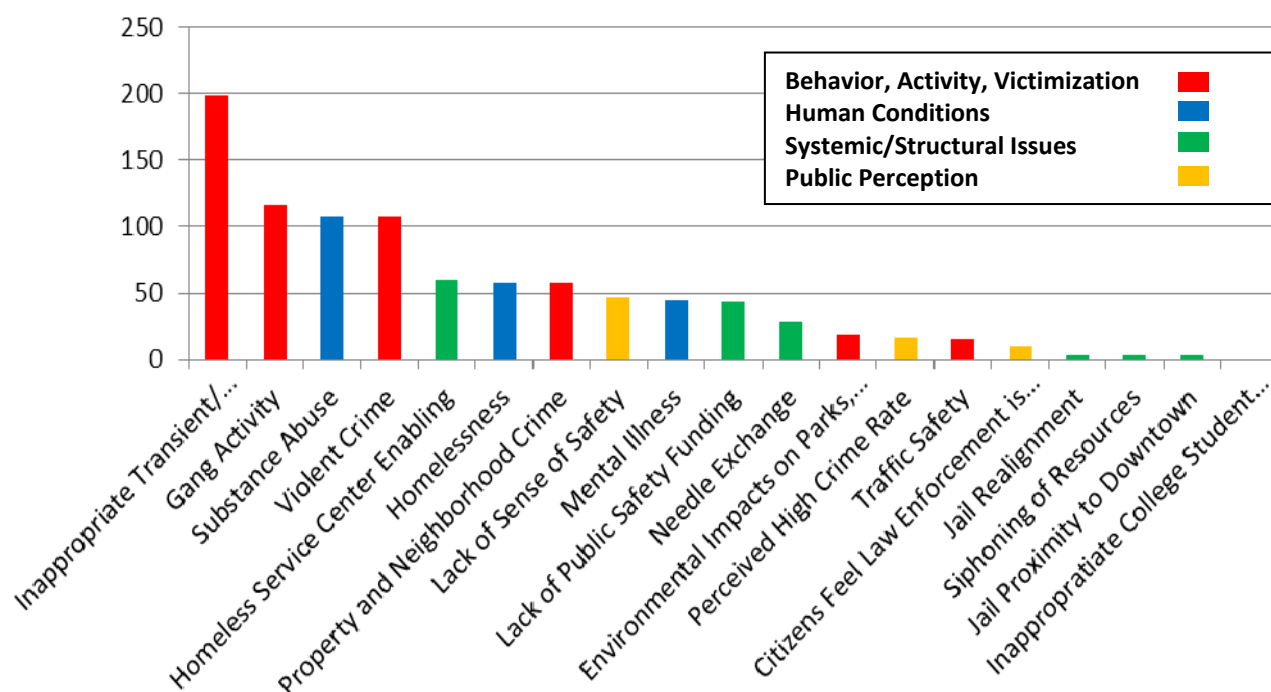
Observations

Staff disseminated an informal poll on Thursday, June 6th. Within a week of the poll's release, over a thousand responses were tabulated. Although not a statistically relevant data set, poll results can be used to shed light on community perception around public safety issues.

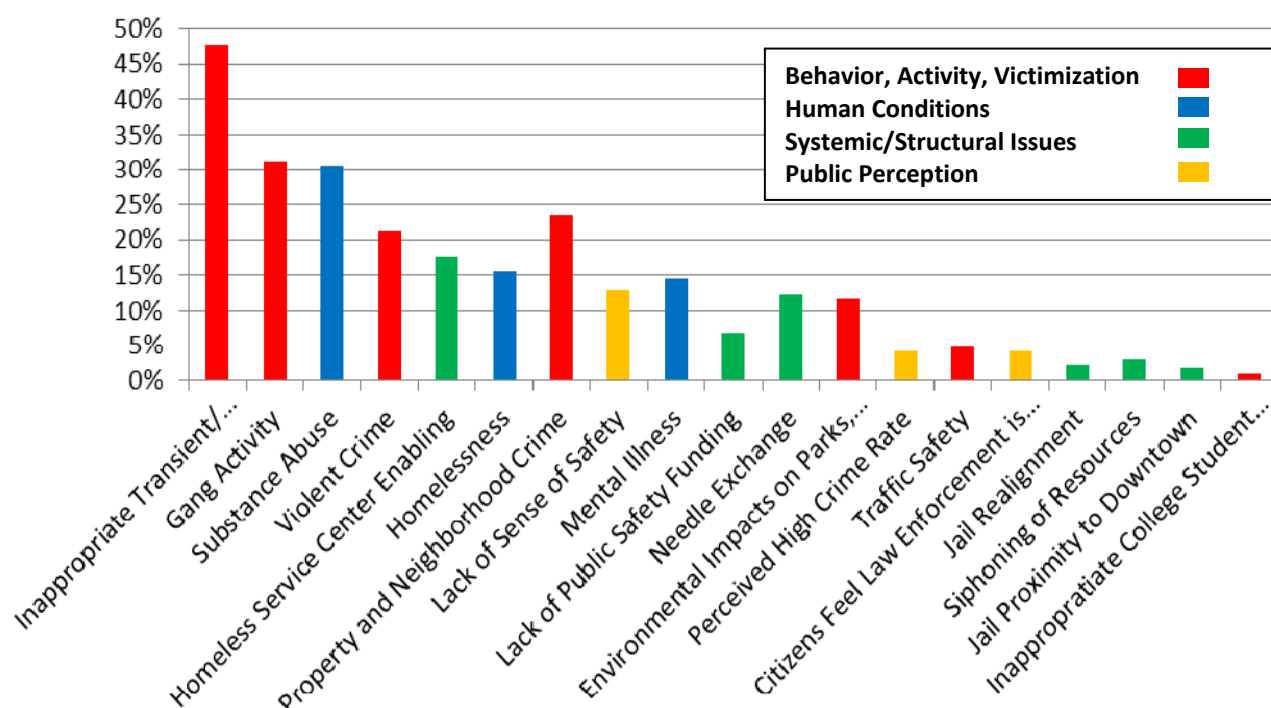
The poll asked respondents to pick their top three public safety concerns from a condensed list generated using the individual PSTF identified critical issues, or provide their own prioritization and feedback. The results of the poll can be found in the table and charts below.

Safety Issue	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	Total	% of Responses
Inappropriate Transient/ Homeless Activity	199	157	134	490	48%
Gang Activity	116	120	85	321	31%
Substance Abuse	108	114	93	315	31%
Violent Crime	108	62	50	220	21%
Homeless Service Center Enabling	60	62	60	182	18%
Homelessness	58	58	44	160	16%
Property and Neighborhood Crime	58	72	111	241	23%
Lack of Sense of Safety	47	37	50	134	13%
Mental Illness	45	63	42	150	15%
Lack of Public Safety Funding	44	14	12	70	7%
Needle Exchange	28	51	47	126	12%
Environmental Impacts on Parks, Open Spaces and Beaches	19	45	56	120	12%
Perceived High Crime Rate	17	12	14	43	4%
Traffic Safety	15	8	27	50	5%
Citizens Feel Law Enforcement is Ineffective	10	12	21	43	4%
Jail Realignment	4	7	11	22	2%
Siphoning of Resources	4	9	17	30	3%
Jail Proximity to Downtown	3	8	8	19	2%
Inappropriate College Student Activity	0	2	7	9	1%

1st Priority Public Safety Issues: Results of Informal City Poll



% of Total Responses: Results of Informal City Poll



In addition to the results tabulated above, with its write in option, the poll gave respondents an opportunity to provide their own list of priorities and comment on the characterizations of the public safety issues included in the poll. Over 200 responses included a write-in comment or prioritization of issues. For the most part respondents elaborated on the issues included in the poll, but several additional themes surfaced as a result of the write-in option. These included:

- Investment in prevention and treatment of mental illness and addiction has a higher payoff compared to criminalizing those suffering from these issues.
- The City needs more foot patrol police officers.
- The City needs more low-income housing.
- Unemployment plays a large role in our homeless issue.
- There may be a lack of an integrated approach to our regional public safety issues.
- Bike safety should be a priority.
- There is a major problem with how the court system handles drug and public nuisance crimes.
- More resources should go to the pursuit and arrest of drug dealers in town.
- Public discourse around these issues should shift unilaterally to discussion around unacceptable behaviors and crimes rather than housing and health status.

Outcome

The outcome of the informal poll provided very similar results to those above. In addition to substance abuse, environmental and social degradation of City parks, open spaces and business districts, violent crime, and gang activity, some respondents were particularly candid about wanting to focus on unacceptable and criminal behavior rather than status. Lack of judicial recourse for municipal code violations and drug offenses was also a recurring theme.

Outcome and Observations from June 12th Public Comment Meeting

Observations

Over 30 members of the community provided public comment at the June 12th meeting, four from the Santa Cruz Youth Council. Major themes included:

- Overwhelming effect of garbage in parks, levee, open spaces, etc. The need for sharps containers, garbage cans and 24-hour bathrooms.
- The community needs more drug and mental illness treatment programs.
- Identification requirements for social service recipients.
- Need for more housing.
- Using youth as a resource.
- Sexual assault and rape should be a high priority.
- Night Walks program could be an effective way to decrease crime.
- Santa Cruz Sanctuary Camp could be an effective tool for decreasing the effects of illegal camping.
- The HSC needs more monitoring and patrol around meal times.

In addition to the themes highlighted above, one member of the public provided a recount of a correspondence with SCPD Chief Vogel about the Chief's perspective on these issues. Chief Vogel identified the following four broad topics for the PSTF to consider.

1. The negative impacts of AB109 on our community.

2. The negative impacts of the courts handling infraction citations through a civil process.
3. The negative impacts of lack of treatment programs for drug addiction.
4. The negative impacts of the high number of high risk alcohol outlets within the City of Santa Cruz.

Outcome

The outcome of the public comment session yielded very similar results to the other contact points with the community, City and PSTF members. Comments provided by Chief Vogel through the member of the community particularly resonated around substance abuse and the criminal justice system.

Recommendation for Prioritization and Educational Strategy

Based on the information gathered thus far through the PSTF process, four critical themes and corresponding questions seem to be prevalent.

No.	Theme	Questions
1	Environmental and Social Degradation of the City's Parks, Open Spaces and Businesses Districts.	1. Other than the City, what jurisdictions are involved with the management of these issues? 2. What resources are necessary to reduce the prevalence of these activities/behaviors and mitigate their effects?
2	Substance Abuse, Drug Trafficking and Petty Crime	1. Other than the City, what jurisdictions are involved with the management of this issue? 2. Are there adequate resources devoted to substance abuse treatment? 3. What is the relationship between substance abuse and petty crime in our community? 4. Are there too many high-risk alcohol outlets in our community? 5. How does substance abuse play a role in Theme 1? 6. Is drug dealing more prevalent in our community than other towns? Is the availability of hard drugs a cause of Theme 1?
3	Gang Violence and Violent Crime	1. Other than the City, what jurisdictions are involved with the management of gangs and gang violence? 2. What resources are necessary to reduce the prevalence of gang assemblage and violent crime in our community? 3. What is the relationship between gang violence/violent crime and drug trafficking?
4	Criminal Justice System	1. How do current local and statewide policies within the criminal justice system contribute to the severity of the public safety issues described in Themes 1-3?

It is recommended that the PSTF focus on these themes in its study and invite professionals to answer the corresponding and other questions. It is further recommended that the PSTF assemble its study and recommendation process according to the following structure and timeline.

