

**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

Regular Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

January, April, July, and October

**Date: October 22, 2013**  
(Regular Meeting)

**Time: 6:00 P.M.**



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair Ella "Lee" Rogers

Vice Chair Joline Bell Hahn

Member Kim Jones

Member Chris Swoboda

Member Sam Thatte



Mayor Bill Holland,  
Council Liaison

*City of Hesperia*

Council Chambers  
9700 Seventh Avenue  
Hesperia, CA 92345

Committee Secretary: (760) 947-1245

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October 22, 2013  
REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA  
CITY OF HESPERIA  
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**CALL TO ORDER**

6:00 p.m.

- A. Roll Call:  
Chair Rogers  
Vice Chair Hahn  
Member Jones  
Member Swoboda  
Member Thatte

- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Please complete a "Comment Card" and give it to the Recording Secretary. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual. State your name and address for the record before making your presentation. This request is optional, but very helpful for the follow-up process.*

*Under the provisions of the Brown Act, Members are prohibited from taking action on oral requests. However, Members may respond briefly or refer the communication to staff.*

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. Approval of Minutes of regular meetings held on July 23, 2013.
2. Engineering Department Consideration of Installing Crosswalks at the Intersection of Rancho Road and Danbury, City Engineer, John Levellee.
3. Fire Department Quarterly/Update report by Division Chief Britt Sipe.
4. Police Department Quarterly/Update, report by Captain Nils Bentsen.
5. City of Hesperia Emergency Operations Update by Emergency Services Coordinator, Brigit Bennington.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS**

*Committee Members may make comments of general interest and/or direct staff to add specific items to the next agenda.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair will adjourn the meeting of the Committee to the next regularly scheduled meeting of January 14, 2014

I, Brigit K. Bennington, Recording Secretary of the City of Hesperia, California do hereby certify that I caused to be posted the foregoing agenda on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to California Government Code §54954.2.

  
Brigit K. Bennington,  
Recording Secretary

**HESPERIA CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 23, 2013**  
**MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council Public Safety Committee was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Rogers in the Council Chambers, 9700 Seventh Avenue, Hesperia, California.

**CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Roll Call:  
Present: Chair Rogers  
Vice Chair Hahn  
Member Jones  
Member Swoboda

- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. **Chair Rogers** welcomed and introduced **Member Chris Swoboda** who is a COP at the Hesperia Sheriff's Station. **Chair Rogers** commented on recent events, overseas, within the US and locally. Expressed her appreciation for public servants.

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 9, 2013.

**Motion by Member Hahn to correct the date on Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Jones, approval of minutes passed 4-0-1 with Member Thatt absent.**

2. **City of Hesperia Staff Report by John Leveillee, City Engineer**

**John Leveillee speaking of Realignment of 2-way stops on Sequoia Street as part of Class 2 bike facility lanes.** Now have stops at 8 intersections on Sequoia east from Cottonwood to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Looking to make modifications on Sequoia from east west stops to north south stops. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the Bear Valley Road Bicycle Bypass, working with engineering from Victorville City and Town of Apple Valley to create a safe roadway from the I15 all the way to Apple Valley. **Member Hahn** asked about plans to create paths around the railroad tracks on the Hesperia Side, **Leveillee** said that bridge is Victorville City jurisdiction and Hesperia does not have control. Victorville City is conducting an environmental study and moving forward on the design. **Leveillee** said this phase takes the bike lane to Hesperia Road. **Member Hahn** mentioned the new Rancho Underpass has a lot of walkers and bicycle riders. **Leveillee** said Rancho is a nice 17 mile loop and mostly class 2 bike facility. **Member Jones** appreciates the advance notification and is glad the bike lanes are there because she has been hit by a car in the past. **Member Swoboda** agreed with the realignment and **Chair Rogers** said it is excellent.

**Member Hahn makes a motion to send a recommendation in support of realignment from Cottonwood to Hesperia Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Swoboda, Yes by Chair Rogers and Yes by Member Jones, 4-0-1 with Member Thatt absent.**

3. **Emergency Management update by Emergency Services Coordinator Brigit Bennington.**

**Chair Rogers** asked "how are you Brigit" response by **Bennington**, "I am great!" See PowerPoint presentation.

Another CERT Class completed, 219 members, and 78 sworn Disaster Service Workers. CERT will be participating in National Night Out on August 6 and the upcoming Citizen's Academy. Plans for another CERT class in November or December of this year. CERT team training in the 5 areas of Hesperia, corresponding to the Sheriff's Department 5 beat pattern. Conducting Mock Drill's to have the teams call into EOC to test communications, practice deployment. Will be low budget training due to no grant funding. The Great American Shakeout

will be October 17 at 1017 am, this nationwide event encourages participation from communities, especially schools. **Chair Rogers** said she could help out with the schools. Still working with the Department of Public Health regarding the POD trailer.

**Brigit** working with DPH to possibly have vaccinations at the Tree Lighting Ceremony; possible location for this is the Library Community Room.

**Brigit** applied for 2013 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$5000. **Member Hahn** commended **Brigit** on her Emergency Services efforts; we are one of the few cities within San Bernardino County that has this program. **Member Jones** expressed thanks to **Brigit** for saving the baby quails. **Member Hahn** said CERT training is vital to our community and those volunteers will be a necessary part of our survival in an emergency situation. **Brigit** working on that training and trying to establish staging areas without interfering with public safety workers. **Chair Rogers** said the Red Cross will be at the schools. **Member Hahn** said COPs and EOPs from the Sheriff's Department can help. **Brigit** said she and CERT will step up and they will be deployable and prepared. **Chair Rogers** thanked **Brigit** for the Emergency Management Update.

4. **Fire Department Quarterly Report by Chief Britt Sipe.**

**Chief Sipe** expressed Kudos to **Brigit**, he said all managers in High Desert rely on **Brigit** and she is ahead of the curve regarding emergency management.

See handout:

Many goals have been accomplished; the city has purchased 2 ambulances resulting in 4 ambulances on full duty each day. Will be going to 5 with the **Safer Grant**. In 2012 other ambulances responded to Hesperia 900 times; want to capture those funds back to the City. Safer Grant will provide 2 million \$ over 2 years, facilitating additional staff, paramedic engine to the City, reopening of Station 301. Ambulance rates have not been raised or adjusted in 13 years now will go from \$800 to \$1300. Hard to estimate but revenues are projected in the neighborhood of \$300,000. County Fire to maintain patient records digitally will help with patient care and provide greater efficiency. **Member Hahn** said this brings us into alignment with the Affordable Care Act. **Chair Rogers** said she had occasion to meet a lady in Emergency Room and said she called the ambulance so she could go to the ER for a visit. **Member Hahn** agreed people do that for many reasons. **Chief Sipe** said the digital system will allow accountability transporting clients to the right place, and stopping unneeded trips to the ER.

**Chair Rogers** said **Chief Sipe** is doing a really good job, very impressed with accomplishments. **Member Hahn** said purchase of used ambulance was a great use of funds. **Member Jones** asked if the Fire Department received a lot of shooting/fireworks calls on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. **Chief Sipe** fireworks calls were lower than other typical fire calls for service, no reported injuries as a result of illegal fireworks.

5. **Police Quarterly Report by Captain Nils Bentsen.**

**Capt Bentsen** said **Brit Sipe** is a great man and a youth pastor.

See Quarterly Statistics-handout:

I have been at Hesperia about 1 year. Previously lost several deputy positions and a sergeant slot. This fiscal year added another deputy, still down from with ideal manpower including several more deputy positions. Revamped the schedule, added cover shifts to have highest level of deputies on patrol at peak times. Summer is very busy. Hesperia unfortunately has highest number of traffic fatalities in county, with speed and alcohol contributing factors. Have taken a more aggressive stance on transients and panhandlers within the city. Working with apartment managers on the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program offered by the Sheriff's Dept. The partnership strives to eliminate problem residents through open lines of communication and cooperation between law enforcement and managers. Sue has been working on that and we have added a deputy to assist her with the program. That deputy will also be conducting

Juvenile Intervention. The fatal traffic accidents cannot be attributed to a single factor, but include speed and alcohol. The layout of the city is a grid pattern; residential areas not surveyed or posted the speeds are 55 mph. The speed limits are set by the state considering density. The Hesperia Station has increased enforcement, "Lee may have noticed that". **Chair Rogers** said "don't look at me, I have been off the road for a month!". Station has added another traffic car concentrating on DUI enforcement.

In 2011 Part 1 crime statistics were up, in 2012 we were able to reduce them and in 2013 going down even further. Deputies are doing good investigations, and taking them to jail. Arrests are up 43% in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and 30% in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. This has driven down Part 1 Crimes, Part 2 Crimes have increased, auto thefts have spiked due in part to California Assembly Bill 109(AB109). Crimes like auto theft no longer result in state prison, creating a revolving door to our jails. When people realize they don't stay in jail they don't change their behavior. We will continue to arrest them and take them to jail. Hesperia Station is in a good direction, deputies working very hard and we have the best COP group. **Chair Rogers** said your staff appreciates you **Capt Bentsen**.

The new **PSOC**, Public Safety Operations Center has opened next to the station. Will arrange a tour, it is designed to accommodate 30 years of growth, housing County Fire, Sheriff and County OES. Includes a large screen with video downlink from the sheriff's helicopter. The communications tower can run the whole valley if necessary and complete valley and desert sheriff operations in the event of an outage or emergency.

City has okayed the JPA study and as a station we are providing necessary information for the JPA.

**Member Jones** heard about another agency shooting a dog. She had an experience when a deputy came to her property the deputy seemed scared of the dog and she thought he may shoot it. **Capt Bentsen** responded that we don't like to destroy animals, but we can't read dogs minds, as nice as they may be, a deputy doesn't know that. We don't tell our deputies they have to be bit first, they have the right to protect themselves. Good thing you were there **Kim**. **Member Jones** said she knew her dogs and they wouldn't do anything to harm a deputy.

**Member Swoboda** said the Sheriff's Department is doing a fantastic job. **Member Hahn** said she sees a lot of dogs when out on patrols, they chase the horses, she has seen them attack. **Capt Bentsen** thanked **Member Hahn** and the EOPs for their support on the opening of the Rancho Underpass.

**Chair Rogers** said they are trying to build up the HUSD School Police and appreciates the assistance from the Sheriff's Department. **Chair Roger's** niece's home was burglarized on Bangor, they busted the door. **Captain Bentsen** said burglaries are way up, unless it is charged as 1<sup>st</sup> degree by the DA, there is not a state prison sentence. **Member Hahn** said we need a tent city. **Chair Rogers** said the deputies were very nice in such an emotional situation.

**Member Hahn** had concerns regarding the curve on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue near Lime Street. A friend lives there and on several occasions drunk drivers have driven into her yard and damaged her fence. **Chair Rogers** thanked **Capt Bentsen**, **Member Hahn** also thank you so much.

**Chair Rogers** asked if any comment cards had been submitted and no there were none.

**Member Jones** thanks to **Capt Bentsen** for all that you do. **Chair Rogers** said this was my 1<sup>st</sup> real outing.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1917 hours to Regular Meeting on Tuesday October 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

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Susan Rose,  
Recording Secretary

City of Hesperia  
STAFF REPORT



**DATE:** October 22, 2013

**TO:** Chair and Committee Members  
Public Safety Advisory Committee

**FROM:** John Leveillee, City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of installing crosswalks at the intersection of Rancho Road and Danbury Avenue.

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consideration by the Public Safety Advisory Committee for a recommendation to the City Council regarding the installation of crosswalks at the intersection of Rancho Road and Danbury Avenue.

### BACKGROUND

On June 29, 2013 the much anticipated Rancho Road Underpass opened to traffic. The improvements stretch from Danbury Avenue to Seventh Avenue along Rancho Road. As part of the project, street improvements were completed at the intersection of Rancho Road and Danbury Avenue. These improvements consisted of pavement widening, curb and gutter at all four corners, but no sidewalks. In addition, the intersection was correctly signed and striped as an All-Way Stop, complete with stop bars and stop legends. All striping was completed with thermo-plastic striping material which can only be removed by grinding it off the asphalt.

There has been a recent request for the installation of crosswalks at the intersection. Staff has reviewed the request, researched the appropriate standards and codes and is presenting the item to the Public Safety Advisory Committee for its review.

### ISSUES/ANALYSIS

The California Vehicle Code does not differentiate between an intersection with a marked crosswalk or one without. Section 219509(a) states: the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. This entire section treats the right of way for pedestrians the same, regardless of whether the crosswalk is marked or not.

The purpose of marked crosswalks is to warn motorists to expect pedestrian crossings. Overuse of marked crosswalks, especially in areas where they may get only occasional use, leads to drivers ignoring them. In addition, studies have indicated that a marked crosswalk leads to an "implied" safe area for the pedestrian which can lead to the pedestrian not exercising their due care for his or her safety.

The City of Hesperia typically installs marked crosswalks only at intersections controlled by a traffic signal or around schools to provide suggested routes to school for students. The intersection in question will eventually have a traffic signal to handle the anticipated volume of traffic along Danbury Avenue which will impact the intersection once the Rancho Road Interchange opens. When the traffic signal is installed, all four legs of the intersection will be equipped with crosswalks and the appropriate pedestrian signal heads.

Should a recommendation be made to install the crosswalks, some of the existing striping and markings would have to be removed by grinding the asphalt, thus scarring the new pavement. This process often leads to shadows on the pavement and can be confusing to motorists, especially early and late in the day when the sun is low in the sky.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The crosswalks would have to be striped in thermoplastic striping material to be consistent with the other striping in the intersection. Since the City's Public Works staff does not have the ability to perform this work, it is estimated that the grinding of the existing striping and the installation of the new crosswalks would cost the City approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending if the work could be added to an existing contract.

#### **ALTERNATIVE(S)**

1. Provide direction to staff.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. None