



**CITY OF YAKIMA NEIGHBORHOOD FORUMS ON PUBLIC SAFETY**  
Discussing neighborhood safety across the City of Yakima.

June 2017 through March 2018

Prepared by Councilmember Dulce Gutiérrez

Accepted by the Yakima City Council on June 19, 2018

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## Overview

In spring of 2017, after a string of strong armed robberies and gang related shootings within the city of Yakima, public concern about safety and security was wide spread throughout the city.

During this time of great public distress, a request was made by a group of residents to have the City of Yakima host a community discussion on neighborhood safety in a neighborhood around 8<sup>th</sup> street, an area heavily impacted by violent crime.

The Yakima City Council responded to the residents' request by hosting a neighborhood forum on the cross intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> street and "D" street to host a gathering of neighbors and talk about a wide spectrum of public safety issues.

The City of Yakima had 2 objectives while hosting each neighborhood forum on public safety:  
(a) inform neighborhood residents of the various ways to report and reduce crime, and  
(b) learn about common neighborhood needs and unique neighborhood needs.

In order to obtain as much input from participating residents, the Yakima Council-members asked residents at the neighborhood forums questions recommended by a violence prevention advocacy agency named *Southern California Crossroads*. In addition, questions were added to measure level of closeness amongst neighbors and assess interest in block-watch type programs.

The first neighborhood forum was well attended by residents of the neighborhood, and also included residents from different neighborhoods. The forum also produced a high volume of resident feedback.

Proving to be effective and cost efficient, the Yakima City Council decided to host multiple neighborhood forums to discuss public safety in different neighborhoods across the city.

All residents who wished to request a neighborhood forum on public safety in their neighborhood were encouraged to do so. The Yakima City Council committed to fulfilling 10 requests for neighborhood forums.

Each neighborhood forum was requested by a Yakima resident and/or Council-member.

The option to hold a neighborhood forum in Spanish was made available to all residents who requested a neighborhood forum. Bilingual police officers were also made available for all neighborhood forums with Spanish speaking residents.

Questions, concerns and comments shared by Yakima residents throughout the neighborhood forums were documented and summarized into this report. Nearly 200 unique residents participated during the process (only a handful of residents attended more than 1 forum).

This report may be utilized as a reference tool or guide for understanding neighborhood needs, addressing concerns and planning out strategies for crime prevention and violence prevention.

## **Agenda of Neighborhood Forums**

Each 1 of the 10 neighborhood forums included the following agenda:

Welcome and Introduction – Facilitated by councilmember(s)

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety

Section 3 - Crime Prevention – Facilitated by councilmember(s)

- a. Questions and Answers for attendees
  - i. Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?
  - ii. Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - iii. What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - iv. What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - v. What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - vi. As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - vii. Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - viii. What are short term needs?
  - ix. What are long term needs?
  - x. What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

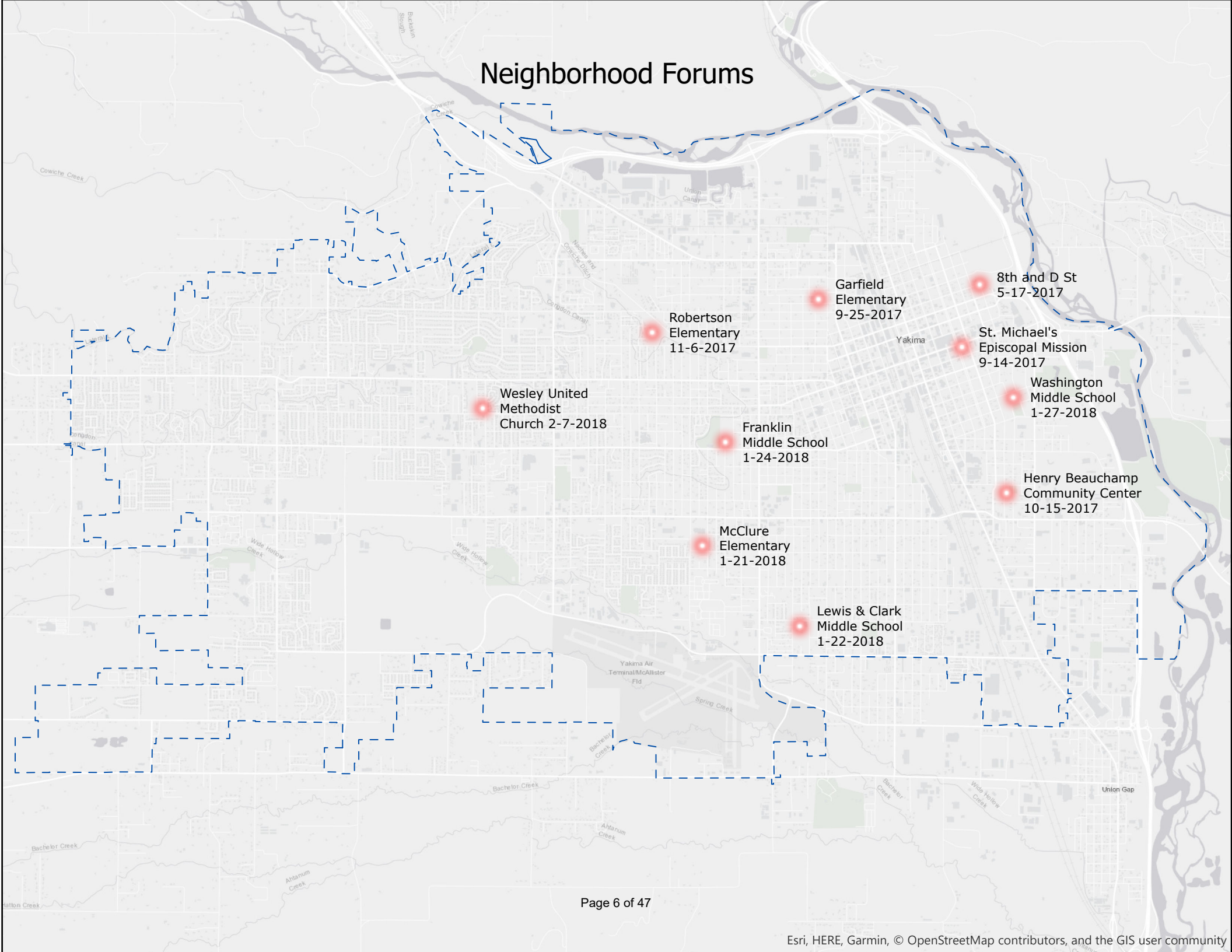
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Additional Notes:

- Section 1 and Section 2 were presented by City of Yakima law enforcement officials. Residents were encouraged to ask questions during these sections. Each bullet point in Section 1 and Section 2 represents a question asked by a resident.
- Section 3 was facilitated by City of Yakima Council members. Residents were encouraged to answer questions and share comments, experiences and/or concerns. Each bullet point in Section 3 represents input stated by a resident.
- Spanish/English translation was provided at each forum upon request.

## **List of 10 Neighborhood Forums**

1. Cross intersection of north 8<sup>th</sup> street & east “D” street - public/outdoor  
06-17-2017; Spanish
2. St. Michael’s Episcopal Mission - 5 S. Naches Ave  
10-14-2017; English
3. Garfield Elementary School - 612 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
10-25-2017; English
4. Henry Beauchamp Community Center - 1211 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
11-15-2017; English
5. Robertson Elementary School - 2807 W. Lincoln Ave  
12-06-2017; English
6. McClure Elementary School - 1222 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
02-21-2018; English
7. Lewis & Clark Middle School - 1114 W. Pierce Street  
02-22-2018; English
8. Franklin Middle School - 410 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
02-24-2018; English
9. Washington Middle School - 510 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
02-27-2018; Spanish
10. Wesley United Methodist Church - 14 N. 48<sup>th</sup> Ave  
03-07-2018; English

# Neighborhood Forums



**Reports for each**  
**Neighborhood Forum**  
**on Public Safety**

## **City of Yakima Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #1**

Location: Cross intersection of north 8th street and "D" street (outdoor forum)

Date/Time: Saturday, June 17, 2017 @ 4:00pm

Language: Spanish with English translation

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor; Sergeant Uriel Mendoza, Yakima Police Department;

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez, Carmen Méndez

Public Attendance: 50

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety

Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

a. Questions and Answers for attendees

1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today? (Attendees asked to raise their hand)

- Yes.

2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number? (If yes: attendees invited to contact D. Gutierrez for a coordinated list)

- Yes



- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
- The safety of our children and our neighbors.
  - When crime occurs, that police keep in touch with the family of victim to share updates (relatives may know information helpful to the investigation).
  - Arresting criminals before they become embolden to harass, threaten, or taunt the family members of victims.
  - When parents have any information on the homicide of their child, that detectives listen respectfully and investigate information thoroughly.
  - Ensure police have the ability (time) to build positive relationships with residents and bridges of communication *prior* to crime occurring in the neighborhood.
  - Homicide victims be picked up from crime scene within reasonable timeframe.
  - Communication is necessary.
  - Action is key.
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
- If no arrest is made after a homicide, those close to the deceased victim feel compelled to retaliate against suspected individual, even if unlawfully.
  - Reports of a family party are sometimes responded to within a shorter timeframe than reports of gunshots.
  - Some residents may feel resentment towards LEO for underperforming in duties (specifically, delayed police response time).
  - There's more talking about the problem than action being taken to solve the problem.
  - Some residents have felt disregarded by detectives when reporting new or additional information related to a crime committed against their family member.
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
- Once community conversations begin, communication among neighbors is positive and unified because of shared experiences of neighborhood violence.
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
- More lights because it is too dark.
  - Have activities for kids while they're still young because some kids in Yakima begin to witness violence from a young age. These kids need protection and prevention work so they don't become violent, as well.
  - Have curfew for delinquent youth.
  - More neighbors involved in making criminals feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.
  - Address and hold responsible landlords who own rental property and constantly rent it out to gang members or drug dealers.
  - Having a police officer station his/her vehicle near areas of suspected of criminal activity to discourage overt criminal activity, even if for a short period.
  - Crack down on school truancy; enforcement needed.
  - Neighbors need to call police and report crimes as they happen.
  - Neighbors need to know one another better.
  - Cameras located on street intersections that can read vehicle license plates.

7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?

- Yes, affirmative support from residents to establish "Street Captains."

8.) What are short term needs?

- More neighborhood forums to continue this conversation on public safety.
- "Night Out" gatherings for neighbors to meet neighbors.
- Inform neighbors of the wanted criminals on Yakima's Crime Stoppers list.
- Identify "Street Captains" and create "Street Coordinated Phone Lists."

9.) What are long term need?

- More police/patrolling in residential streets.
- Focus on gang prevention and drug prevention with youth.
  - > Reformed gang members can discourage at-risk youth from joining gangs.
  - > Encourage youth to do a "Ride-Along" with police/SRO in middle school.
- Enable older youth to provide mentorship for younger youth.
- Redirect city investments from wine/alcohol events to youth centers/programming.

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Can parents legally discipline by spanking? How does the YPD handle a call made by a minor who is being spanked/disciplined by their parents? How do YPD officers deal with parents in this scenario, specifically how do YPD officers deal with parents who are undocumented immigrants?
- If someone calls 911 to report a crime, do police officers disclose at the scene who called 911? Is it necessary for police officers to speak with the individual who called 911 at or near the scene of the crime? Is there a way for witnesses to report a crime immediately as it occurs without speaking with LEO in front of neighbor?
- How should a street captain report a crime on behalf of a primary witness? What is the best way for a "Street Captain" to be an effective liaison for his/her neighbors?

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #2**

Location: St. Michael's Episcopal Mission

Date/Time: Saturday, October 14, 2017 @ 4:00pm

Language: English

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor; Sergeant Rafael Sanchez, Officer Jorge Quinones, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez, Kathy Coffey

Public attendance: 4

### NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - Is 911 text available in Spanish?

Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

a. Questions and Answers for attendees

- 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today? (Attendees asked to raise hand)
  - Yes
- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Yes, it would be great if the City can help create neighbor phone lists
  - Toppenish neighborhoods make good use of neighborhood phone lists
  - Service providers, La Casa Hogar, the Church, and the food bank also serve as hubs that help families know one another in the neighborhood

- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - Community coming together is important
  - Being friendly towards neighbors is important
  - Knowing your neighbors
  - Extend the downtown district boundary to Walnut Avenue
  - Reporting crimes, no matter how small the crime
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - Verbal fights are common
  - Difficult to distinguish when crime is occurring in areas with heavy loitering
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - The Henry Beauchamp Community Center
  - All the churches, social services and community centers in the neighborhood
  - Naches Parkway
  - Association of Churches holds “Moment of Blessings” after fatal shootings
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - Law enforcement at the YNHS Depot because Camp Hope services have not relieved homelessness in the neighborhood and there are homeless people who say they can’t go to Camp Hope (uncertain of reasoning)
  - Speaking/being friendly to neighbors
- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - Probably so.
  - Depends on the neighbors and the neighborhood
  - Difficult to sustain Block Watch program with transient/temporary housing
- 8.) What are short term needs?
  - Getting to know neighbors
- 9.) What are long term needs?
  - Better lighting
  - Improving Naches Parkway
  - Improving streets
  - Clean up blighted areas
  - Reducing the number of abandoned properties
- 10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?
  - Residences that sell drugs need to be reported
  - Heard a neighbor was upset/felt ignored after reporting a house suspected of selling drugs because uniformed officers did not arrive to the scene

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #3**

Location: Garfield Elementary School Gymnasium

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Language: English with Spanish translation

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor; Captain Jeff Schneider, Sergeant Uriel Mendoza, Officer Thomas Garza, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez, Carmen Méndez, Kathy Coffey

Public attendance: 25

Also in attendance: Garfield Elementary Principal

### NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - Is texting 911 treated as a priority?
  - Are services available in Spanish, specifically 911 Text services?
  - After reporting a house burglary the victim received a case number but it remains unknown if officers actually arrived to the scene of the house burglary

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - What is the police response time for a shooting?
  - Is there an immediate response to reports of speeding in a school zone?
  - How can law enforcement prevent speeding in residential neighborhoods?
  - Is it hard to get a speed bump installed to help reduce speeding?

Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

a. Questions and Answers for attendees

- 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today? (Attendees asked to raise hand)
  - Yes.

- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Yes.
- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - More lighting
  - Cleaning up streets and alley ways
  - City employees who pick up trash should be allowed to report sightings of illegal dumping
  - Reporting graffiti
  - Neighbors need to get together and know one another
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - Bad lighting
  - Lack of support for after-school programs for kids
  - Naissance motels/hotels
  - Community involvement and awareness is lacking
  - More neighbors need to report crime or voice concern
  - Not enough police officers
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - None.
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - If someone sees something criminal, they should report it.
  - Report naissance houses
  - Yakima police officers who also live in this neighborhood
  - More police presence
- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - Could be helpful
  - Some neighbors are unwilling to place their name on a Block Watch list
- 8.) What are short term needs?
  - Get to know your neighbors
  - Don't feel fearful of troubled youth - adults need to report criminal youth
  - Surveillance cameras on intersections
  - Repair of eroded sidewalks
  - Handicap ramps
- 9.) What are long term needs?
  - Responsible spending to preserve funding for public safety
  - Revive old programs like "The Alley Cats"

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Keep school gyms open during after school hours to increase opportunities for kids
- Develop a support system to keep young people safe
- Many small children unsafely walk home alone to and from school

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #4**

Location: Henry Beauchamp Community Center

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Language: English with Spanish translation

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor; Officer Gonzalo Deloza, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez

Public attendance: 35

Also in attendance: U.S. Senator Patty Murray Central Washington Director

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - Does the non-emergency phone number operate 24/7?
  - Can you track down the progress of a report you make?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - Why doesn't the detective division reach out to the victim's family after a homicide happens?
  - Why won't detectives return phone calls to family members of homicide victims?
  - Can a witness report a tip anonymously by being given an incident number?
  - Can the City provide victim's advocates or support services for the families of victims?
  - What can a family of a homicide victim do to protect itself from the suspected perpetrators that killed their relative?
  - Is the City setting aside money to hire more officers?
  - Can community members help (or participate in the city's process to) recruit officers to the YPD?
  - After years of discussing public safety problems, who is actually accountable for providing the proper resources to respond to these public safety problems?



- Is there an overlap in officer training for new officers to learn from well-experienced officers?
- Why hasn't the city contracted an outside agency to help reduce gang violence and other problems?
- Why doesn't the city have reserve officers?
- Where can a Block Watch be established?
- Can a Block Watch (or civilian) conduct a citizens' arrest?
- How can the city help prevent youth behavioral problems?

### Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

#### a. Questions and Answers for attendees

1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today? (Attendees asked to raise hand)

- Yes

2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?

- Yes

3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?

\*This question was not stated.

4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?

- Need more people to care about the violence problem
- Broken families
- Reduction in programs for youth
- High level of dependency on police and not enough community involvement
- Lack of communication to youth community
- Lack of love for youth within their families
- Need programs that provide youth jobs
- Not enough advertising of YPAL
- Not enough staff/volunteers at YPAL

5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?

- Block Watch programs can be positive for our neighborhoods
- Full family participation (including children)
- Programs at parks
- PTA
- After school programs

6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?

\*This question was not stated.

7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?

- Yes

8.) What are short term needs?

- Volunteers for block parties, youth programs, community policing program, and helping protect others
- Culturally relevant programs
- Sports activities
- Open up schools during evening hours
- Provide support for educational success and strengthen youth skills
- More facilities within walking distance for youth
- Transportation options for youth to access youth services (example: bus passes)
- Develop stronger resources
- Treat kids to positive activities (example: youth field trips)

9.) What are long term needs?

- Pool in east Yakima
- Tutoring services (education support)
- Emphasis on family unity and parents as first teachers of youth
- Teach (children) love, teach consistency, teach about valuing other people's property, and to be a decent person
- Affordable indoor sports activities during (extreme weather in) the winter and summer seasons
- More parents willing to volunteer at youth facilities
- Access to school facilities for youth activities

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- The creation of a Centro De la Raza community center to improve community pride
- Job training opportunities for low-income parents (with the intent to help parents avoid employment that require long work hours and perpetuate the absence of parents in their children's lives)
- Early learning support services and high school diploma/GED support services
- Youth programs in different parks
- Engagement of Yakima School District
- Increase engagement of community members
- More communication between parents and the Yakima School District

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #5**

Location: Robertson Elementary School Gymnasium

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Language: English

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Officer Gonzalo Deloza, Lieutenant Chad Stevens, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez

Public attendance: 14

Also in attendance: Robertson Elementary School Principal; Washington State Representative Gina McCabe

### NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcome attendees
- b. Introduce staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - About 6 years ago, a resident's sister attempted to contact YPD from her location in Phoenix AZ during a relative's emergency in Yakima and couldn't reach the YPD. How does someone reach the local 911 line when calling from outside of the jurisdiction?
  - Is there a best practice for contacting 911 while driving if there is an emergency?
  - A resident witnessed a woman who had her car broken into and was waiting for a police officer to arrive to make the report. The resident observed a police officer in his vehicle nearby. Why wasn't this officer able to attend to this problem if he was nearby?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - A resident had his property broken into so he drove to the police department for a case number and was told to go back to his shop and wait for an officer. The resident felt it was more important at the moment to drive to a store and purchase a new door to replace the broken-in door damaged by the burglars. Why does an officer need to enter the property to verify his claim that his property was broken into?
  - If neighbors/officers don't know the neighbors is it really a neighborhood?
  - Are there "beat" officers assigned to each of the nine districts?

- If a property/house security alarm goes off does the tenant or a neighbor need to call for police response?
- How do pawn shops prevent stolen items from being bought/sold in their establishment?
- How are the pawn shops monitored to ensure they are reporting accurately?
- Are second hand stores held to the same standards?
- How many vacancies does the YPD have right now?
- Do all officers live in the city of Yakima?
- Can the City of Yakima pay for officers' living expenses for officers who are willing to live in east Yakima?

### Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

#### a. Questions and Answers for attendees

1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?

- Yes

2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?

- Yes

3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?

\*This question was not stated.

4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?

- Not everyone is on the same page about public safety priorities
- Police cannot be everywhere
- Neighbors may not know what role they play to help reduce crime
- Need more activities for Youth besides sports activities. Youth are either home alone or on the street and can make bad decisions under these circumstances, in particular youth that don't play sports. The options for youth activities are too narrow.
- There is less home ownership now so people are less invested in where they live, and they often don't know or don't trust their neighbors.
- Experience with police response time has been great in her neighborhood in central Yakima. Once she was called by an officer in response to a report and felt very reassured by it. She is concerned residents in east Yakima are not experiencing the same police response time.
- Crime in other areas of town are just as meaningful as in their own areas and vice versa so the city has to fix safety problems across the city.

5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?

- Robertson Elementary School offers an after-school art program
- Strong and active PTA

6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?

\*This question was not stated.

- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
- Possibly yes but Captains must be trustworthy/credible.
- 8.) What are short term needs?
- Sidewalk needed on Powerhouse Rd between Lincoln and Englewood
- 9.) What are long term needs?
- Sidewalk and street lighting needed on Powerhouse Rd between Lincoln and Englewood
  - Strengthening code enforcement
  - Reducing the amount of non-operating vehicles parked on lawn yards and streets
  - Reducing homelessness
- 10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?
- Public report on results of public safety forums
  - Incentives for police officers to reside in neighborhoods most impacted by crime
  - Expand Lincoln between 24<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>
  - Police officers can use baseball cards to engage kids to know law enforcement

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #6**

Location: McClure Elementary School

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Language: English

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Lieutenant Sean Boyle, Gang Unit Sergeant Chad Janis, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Carmen Méndez, Kay Funk

Public attendance: 7

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Méndez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - What crime is considered substantial enough to call 911? What crime is considered a non-emergency?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - What protocol does the school use during an active shooter situation to keep kids safe?
  - When a 14 year old was killed around noon and students were outside within school premises located only 1 block away of shooting, there wasn't a warning by Yakima Police Department. What should school staff do in these situations?
  - Can the City ask for a clear answer regarding active shooter drills from the Yakima School District?
  - People are partaking in drug use in the next door parking lot to McClure elementary school. What can be done to stop this drug use occurring so close to the school?
  - Does a person being charged for a crime have the ability to know the identity of the witness who reported them?

### Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Méndez

#### a. Questions and Answers for attendees

1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?

- No.

2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?

- Yes. Is there a neighborhood block watch in the McClure Elementary neighborhood?

3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?

- More police patrolling in the area
- More awareness about the location of registered sex offenders

4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?

- Lack of mandatory training for school staff and students for active shooter lock-downs
- McClure Elementary School is no longer staffed with an assigned police officer

5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?

No input from residents.

6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?

- Report crime

7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?

- Yes
- Some people are deterred from reporting crime due to fear of having their identity exposed to the suspect(s) of the crime

8.) What are short term needs?

No input from residents.

9.) What are long term needs?

- Validate concerns
- Increase awareness about improving public safety

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Schools should mandate parents to "Parent Nights" if they have students in the Yakima School District

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #7**

Location: Lewis & Clark Middle School Cafeteria

Date/Time: Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Language: English with Spanish translation

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Lieutenant Sean Boyle, Gang Unit Sergeant Chad Janis, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Carmen Méndez, Dulce Gutiérrez

Public attendance: 8

Also in attendance: Lewis & Clark Middle School Principal

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Méndez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - After reporting a drug crime to the Yakima County Sheriff's office do city prosecutors and city police know about the report too?
  - Is YakBack available online in Spanish?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety

Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Méndez

- a. Questions and Answers for attendees
  - 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?
    - Yes



- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Yes, for long-term neighbors but it may not be helpful for short term neighbors.
  - Building relationships with neighbors and local officials help people address their concerns.
  
- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - Need sidewalks for student population
  - The lack of sidewalks also increases the vehicle traffic on private property
  - Need more police patrolling
  - When school is out there is greater risk of violence
  - Fencing the parks help children feel safer
  - The lack of sidewalks demonstrate a lack of safety
  
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - Lack of communication about domestic violence
  - Sometimes fear prevents residents from reporting a public crime they were witness to
  - People need to speak up more about public crime and also find solutions to domestic violence
  - More people need to say something when they see something
  - Continuing constant communication between the school and immediate neighbors
  
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - Neighbors check in with other neighbors
  - Parents can talk with children and family members about staying out of trouble
  - When people trust one another they are more open to talking about problems
  - Building trust and communication should be key
  
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - Be vigilant for outsider
  - Call the police if you see something suspicious at a neighbors residence
  - Report suspicious vehicles
  - Communication
  - Ensuring YakBack is accessible to as many residents as possible including spanish speaking residents
  - Have a YakBack telephone number that provides the same service as YakBack online for residents who don't have internet access
  
- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - Yes, having private residents work closely with law enforcement is very helpful.
  
- 8.) What are short term needs?
  - Sidewalks!

9.) What are long term needs?

- Public safety through environmental design; around the school and inside of school
- Sidewalks!

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Encourage students to speak out about violence and suspicious behavior
- Students don't feel safe reporting peers who are behaving violently or suspiciously
- Barb wire on school buildings to prevent active shooters from having rooftop access
- The City of Yakima should directly contact schools to promote Police community events.
- Have more Police community events on school properties.

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #8**

Location: Franklin Middle School Cafeteria

Date/Time: Friday, February 24, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Language: English

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Lieutenant Linda Watts, Sergeant Kelly Willard, Officer Jorge Quinones, Officer Eric Jones, Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Kay Funk, Kathy Coffey, Dulce Gutiérrez

Public attendance: 15

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Funk

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - What is the non-emergency phone number for safety issues?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - Is there a minimum standard for the number of K-9 dogs on duty?
  - Is recruiting officers for the YPD going well?
  - Can the YPD help revitalize a previously active neighborhood block watch?
  - How big of an area does a neighborhood block watch cover?
  - Is the police making an effort to reach and interact with middle school students?
  - Is the police engaging in local sport tournaments?

Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Funk

- a. Questions and Answers for attendees
  - 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?
    - Yes

- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Yes
  
- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - Reducing clustered housing facilities of registered sex offenders
  - Suspicious individuals may be gone by the time law enforcement arrives to the scene
  - It's unsafe for pedestrian traffic attempting to walk in north-south directions to cross vehicle traffic going east-west on Tieton and east-west on Summitview
  - Police need to patrol residential areas (not only main streets)
  
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - Some people may be hesitant to report crime
  - After hit-and-run incidents, victims don't know what happens with their report
  - People are worried about exposing their identity when reporting a crime
  
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - Police officers were great in responding to a report of an individual walking from house to house asking residents for the opportunity to work for cash.
  
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - Report all crime regardless of how small or unimportant the crime may seem.
  - Report all crime even when suspect has evaded the area.
  
- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - Yes
  
- 8.) What are short term needs?

No input from residents.
  
- 9.) What are long term needs?
  - Be consistent with suppressing aggressive pan handling
  - Be consistent with bike patrolling
  - Be consistent with code enforcement of non-operating vehicles parked on front lawns
  
- 10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?
  - Have crossing guards at high traffic intersections

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #9**

Location: Yakima – Washington Middle School Cafeteria

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Language: Spanish with English translation

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Officer Gonzalo Deloza, Nicki Sandino, (Community Services Division), Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Dulce Gutiérrez, Jason White

Public attendance: 37

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM**

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Gutiérrez

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - Can texts be sent to 911 in Spanish?
  - Do 911 dispatchers ask callers about citizenship status?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - What is the age requirement for participating in the Community Academy?
  - Is citizenship required to participate in the Community Academy?
  - How do people sign up for the Community Academy?
  - What are options for an individual who feel they were victimized by law enforcement officials?
  - Can the city do something about parked vehicles that block road access and/or parked vehicles that increase risk of vehicle collision?

### Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Gutiérrez

#### a. Questions and Answers for attendees

- 1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?
  - Some said yes, some said no.
- 2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?
  - Yes
- 3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?
  - Improving lighting
  - Communication with law enforcement officials
  - Need to increase police presence significantly
  - Neighborhood residents need to be informed about public safety on a consistent basis
  - Programs, activities and mentorship for youth
  - Reducing speeding
  - Reducing graffiti
- 4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?
  - Gangs
  - Need more family involvement in their children's' lives
  - Need enforcement of curfew for youth
  - Gang intimidation of other neighborhood youth
- 5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?
  - Folks are typically familiar with immediate neighboring homes & neighbors
- 6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?
  - Call 911 when gunshots are heard; gunshots are heard almost daily in this neighborhood but neighbors are afraid to speak out, or unsure of who the offenders are, or simply don't feel confident talking to law enforcement
  - Youth programs
  - Mutual respect for quiet hours by all neighbors
- 7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?
  - Yes
- 8.) What are short term needs?
  - Sidewalks
  - Trees
  - Maintain alley ways in descent conditions
  - Improving south 4<sup>th</sup> street
  - Better standards for maintaining lawns/properties

9.) What are long term needs?

- More vigilance
- Lighting in alley ways
- More street lights
- More speed humps
- Youth programs
- Workshops for kids during after-school hours
- Stronger PTA
- More community engagement to uphold safety

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Alley way next to Adams Elementary School is poorly maintained
- Support for removal of trees that cause sidewalk eruption
- Intersections with deep potholes flood during heavy raining/melted snow
- Vehicles are broken into frequently but victims do not always report the crime because often no arrest is made (leaving people with little confidence in the 911 reporting system)
- Cameras do not always ensure an arrest will be made
- Scammers that go home to home
- Theft of mail
- School lock-down procedures for active shooter situations
- Parents need to know how their children will be protected from violence while on school premises
- Preventing students from carrying weapons onto school premises

---Forum Concluded---

## **City of Yakima - Public Safety Neighborhood Forum #10**

Location: Wesley United Methodist Church

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Language: English

Staff: Cliff Moore, City Manager; Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager; Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney & City Prosecutor; Captain Gary Jones, Nicki Sandino, (Community Services Division), Yakima Police Department

Council-members: Holly Cousens, Brad Hill, Dulce Gutiérrez

Public attendance: 10

### NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Welcome and Intro – Councilmember Cousens and Councilmember Hill

- a. Welcomes attendees
- b. Introduces staff at forum
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3

Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack
  - What does the City do to address graffiti?

Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety
  - Can the City release information on a consistent basis regarding arrests made of suspects?
  - Why do some residents claim they have called detectives during an investigation and have not been called back from law enforcement officials?
  - Do all neighbors receive a block-watch sticker or do only active members of block-watch receive a block-watch sticker?
  - Is there data to quantify how effective a block-watch is?
  - Is the City helping homeless service providers in their effort to patrol streets looking for homeless individuals to serve?
  - What is the common age range for people participating in the Community Academy?
  - Why has a young African American male been experiencing being pulled over in his vehicles multiple times on his own neighborhood in recent months?



### Section 3 - Crime Prevention -- Councilmember Cousens and Councilmember Hill

#### a. Questions and Answers for attendees

1.) Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?

- Yes

2.) Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?

- Yes

3.) What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?

- Speeding and careless driving on Chestnut
- Radar cameras to reduce speeding
- Street lights to improve lighting
- Improving compliance with Stop signs
- Improved infrastructure that removes light poles out of the middle of sidewalks

4.) What challenges do we face in reducing violence?

- Not enough police officers
- Prevalence of gang activity
- A diverse community can present challenges; 40%+ of city population is Latino and 15% of police force speaks Spanish.

5.) What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?

- Some neighborhoods have a lot of space and nice features
- Most people don't want to be gang affiliated.

6.) As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?

This question was not stated.

7.) Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?

No input from residents.

8.) What are short term needs?

No input from residents.

9.) What are long term needs?

- Satellite police facilities throughout different neighborhoods
- Sharing more information about City resources intended to support public safety
- Making gym space more accessible for physical health activities

10.) What else needs to be addressed for public safety?

- Sidewalks on McKinley are so bad they're dangerous
- Working to improve sidewalk infrastructure better in all areas is important
- The City shouldn't recreate another plan similar to Gang Free Initiative (nor fund it)
- Is there anything being done in the schools to teach about active shooter situations?
- Pass ordinance that requires housing developers to construct sidewalks on both sides of street
- Incentivize police officers to live in the neighborhood/area they are assigned to patrol by covering the cost of housing expenses (for as long as the officer resides in the area he/she patrols)
- Does the City offer premium pay for bilingual police officers?
- Speed bumps shouldn't make drivers slow down to 5mph or 10mph (it's excessive)
- Grateful for the neighborhood forums on public safety

---Forum Concluded---

## **Limitations of Neighborhood Forums on Public Safety**

1. The selected locations used to host neighborhood forums were determined by the individual(s) who requested the forum. These locations were not selected based on crime or violence rates.
2. Due to a lack of funding, there was very limited advertising of these neighborhood forums. The two main approaches used to promote the neighborhood forums included Council-members delivering invitations door to door and also school officials sharing forum details with students.
3. At the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> forum, residents expressed their concern about sharing their experiences in regard to crime at the forums due to fear of retaliation by criminals in their neighborhood.

## **Full Compilation of Resident Input**

### **Welcome and Introduction – Facilitated by councilmember(s)**

- a. Welcomes attendees**
- b. Introduces staff at forum**
- c. Explain the forum format for section 1, 2, and 3**

### **Section 1 - How to Report Crime -- Staff**

- a. Process of reporting a crime for witnesses and victims**
- b. Policy regarding inquiries about citizenship status for witnesses and victims**
- c. How to report crimes using Crime Stoppers, 911 Text and YakBack**

- Is texting 911 treated as a priority?
- Are services available in Spanish, specifically 911 Text services?
- After reporting a house burglary the victim received a case number but it remains unknown if officers actually arrived to the scene of the house burglary
- Does the non-emergency phone number operate 24/7?
- Can you track down the progress of a report you make?
- About 6 years ago, a resident's sister attempted to contact YPD from her location in Phoenix AZ during a relative's emergency in Yakima and couldn't reach the YPD. How does someone reach the local 911 line when calling from outside of the jurisdiction?
- Is there a best practice for contacting 911 while driving if there is an emergency?
- A resident witnessed a woman who had her car broken into and was waiting for a police officer to arrive to make the report. The resident observed a police officer in his vehicle nearby. Why wasn't this officer able to attend to this problem if he was nearby?
- What crime is considered substantial enough to call 911? What crime is considered a non-emergency?
- After reporting a drug crime to the Yakima County Sheriff's office do city prosecutors and city police know about the report too?
- Is YakBack available online in Spanish?
- What is the non-emergency phone number for safety issues?
- Can texts be sent to 911 in Spanish?
- Do 911 dispatchers ask callers about citizenship status?
- What does the City do to address graffiti?

### **Section 2 - Neighborhood Patrolling -- Staff**

- a. How the YPD generally patrols residential areas**
- b. Resource limitations, volume of crime and prioritization**
- c. Community policing and participation improve public safety**

- Is 911 text available in Spanish?
- What is the police response time for a shooting?
- Is there an immediate response to reports of speeding in a school zone?
- How can law enforcement prevent speeding in residential neighborhoods?
- Is it hard to get a speed bump installed to help reduce speeding?

- Why doesn't the detective division reach out to the victim's family after a homicide happens?
- Why won't detectives return phone calls to family members of homicide victims?
- Can a witness report a tip anonymously by being given an incident number?
- Can the City provide victim's advocates or support services for the families of victims?
- What can a family of a homicide victim do to protect itself from the suspected perpetrators that killed their relative?
- Is the City setting aside money to hire more officers?
- Can community members help (or participate in the city's process to) recruit officers to the YPD?
- After years of discussing public safety problems, who is actually accountable for providing the proper resources to respond to these public safety problems?
- Is there an overlap in officer training for new officers to learn from well-experienced officers?
- Why hasn't the city contracted an outside agency to help reduce gang violence and other problems?
- Why doesn't the city have reserve officers?
- Where can a Block Watch be established?
- Can a Block Watch (or civilian) conduct a citizens' arrest?
- How can the city help prevent youth behavioral problems?
- A resident had his property broken into so he drove to the police department for a case number and was told to go back to his shop and wait for an officer. The resident felt it was more important at the moment to drive to a store and purchase a new door to replace the broken-in door damaged by the burglars. Why does an officer need to enter the property to verify his claim that his property was broken into?
- If neighbors/officers don't know the neighbors is it really a neighborhood?
- Are there "beat" officers assigned to each of the nine districts?
- If a property/house security alarm goes off does the tenant or a neighbor need to call for police response?
- How do pawn shops prevent stolen items from being bought/sold in their establishment?
- How are the pawn shops monitored to ensure they are reporting accurately?
- Are second hand stores held to the same standards?
- How many vacancies does the YPD have right now?
- Do all officers live in the city of Yakima?
- Can the City of Yakima pay for officers' living expenses for officers who are willing to live in east Yakima?
- What protocol does the school use during an active shooter situation to keep kids safe?
- When a 14 year old was killed around noon and students were outside within school premises located only 1 block away of shooting, there wasn't a warning by Yakima Police Department. What should school staff do in these situations?
- Can the City ask for a clear answer regarding active shooter drills from the Yakima School District?
- People are partaking in drug use in the next door parking lot to McClure elementary school. What can be done to stop this drug use occurring so close to the school?

- Does a person being charged for a crime have the ability to know the identity of the witness who reported them?
- Is there a minimum standard for the number of K-9 dogs on duty?
- Is recruiting officers for the YPD going well?
- Can the YPD help revitalize a previously active neighborhood block watch?
- How big of an area does a neighborhood block watch cover?
- Is the police making an effort to reach and interact with middle school students?
- Is the police engaging in local sport tournaments?
- What is the age requirement for participating in the Community Academy?
- Is citizenship required to participate in the Community Academy?
- How do people sign up for the Community Academy?
- What are options for an individual who feel they were victimized by law enforcement officials?
- Can the city do something about parked vehicles that block road access and/or parked vehicles that increase risk of vehicle collision?
- Can the City release information on a consistent basis regarding arrests made of suspects?
- Why do some residents claim they have called detectives during an investigation and have not been called back from law enforcement officials?
- Do all neighbors receive a block-watch sticker or do only active members of block-watch receive a block-watch sticker?
- Is there data to quantify how effective a block-watch is?
- Is the City helping homeless service providers in their effort to patrol streets looking for homeless individuals to serve?
- What is the common age range for people participating in the Community Academy?
- Why has a young African American male been experiencing being pulled over in his vehicles multiple times on his own neighborhood in recent months?

**Section 3 - Crime Prevention – Facilitated by councilmember(s)**

**a. Questions and Answers for attendees**

**i. Do you recognize any of your neighbors here today?**

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Some said yes, some said no.
- Yes

**ii. Do you think it would be useful to know your neighbors' name and/or phone number?**

- Yes
- Yes, it would be great if the City can help create neighbor phone lists; Toppenish neighborhoods make good use of neighborhood phone lists; Service providers, La Casa Hogar, the Church, and the food bank also serve as hubs that help families know one another in the neighborhood
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes. Is there a neighborhood block watch in the McClure Elementary neighborhood?
- Yes, for long-term neighbors but it may not be helpful for short term neighbors; Building relationships with neighbors and local officials help people address their concerns.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

**iii. What is most important for the safety of this neighborhood?**

- The safety of our children and our neighbors.
- When crime occurs, that police keep in touch with the family of victim to share updates (relatives may know information helpful to the investigation).
- Arresting criminals before they become embolden to harass, threaten, or taunt the family members of victims.
- When parents have any information on the homicide of their child, that detectives listen respectfully and investigate information thoroughly.
- Ensure police have the ability (time) to build positive relationships with residents and bridges of communication *prior* to crime occurring in the neighborhood.
- Homicide victims be picked up from crime scene within reasonable timeframe.
- Communication is necessary.
- Action is key.
- Community coming together is important
- Being friendly towards neighbors is important
- Knowing your neighbors
- Extend the downtown district boundary to Walnut Avenue
- Reporting crimes, no matter how small the crime
- More lighting
- Cleaning up streets and alley ways
- City employees who pick up trash should be allowed to report sightings of illegal dumping
- Reporting graffiti
- Neighbors need to get together and know one another
- More police patrolling in the area
- More awareness about the location of registered sex offenders

- Need sidewalks for student population
- The lack of sidewalks also increases the vehicle traffic on private property
- Need more police patrolling
- When school is out there is greater risk of violence
- Fencing the parks help children feel safer
- The lack of sidewalks demonstrate a lack of safety
- Reducing clustered housing facilities of registered sex offenders
- Suspicious individuals may be gone by the time law enforcement arrives to the scene
- It's unsafe for pedestrian traffic attempting to walk in north-south directions to cross vehicle traffic going east-west on Tieton and east-west on Summitview
- Police need to patrol residential areas (not only main streets)
- Improving lighting
- Communication with law enforcement officials
- Need to increase police presence significantly
- Neighborhood residents need to be informed about public safety on a consistent basis
- Programs, activities and mentorship for youth
- Reducing speeding
- Reducing graffiti
- Speeding and careless driving on Chestnut
- Radar cameras to reduce speeding
- Street lights to improve lighting
- Improving compliance with Stop signs
- Improved infrastructure that removes light poles out of the middle of sidewalks

**iv. What challenges do we face in reducing violence?**

- If no arrest is made after a homicide, those close to the deceased victim feel compelled to retaliate against suspected individual, even if unlawfully.
- Reports of a family party are sometimes responded to within a shorter timeframe than reports of gunshots.
- Some residents may feel resentment towards LEO for underperforming in duties (specifically, delayed police response time).
- There's more talking about the problem than action being taken to solve the problem.
- Some residents have felt disregarded by detectives when reporting new or additional information related to a crime committed against their family member.
- Verbal fights are common
- Difficult to distinguish when crime is occurring in areas with heavy loitering
- Bad lighting
- Lack of support for after-school programs for kids
- Naissance motels/hotels
- Community involvement and awareness is lacking
- More neighbors need to report crime or voice concern
- Not enough police officers
- Need more people to care about the violence problem



- Broken families
- Reduction in programs for youth
- High level of dependency on police and not enough community involvement
- Lack of communication to youth community
- Lack of love for youth within their families
- Need programs that provide youth jobs
- Not enough advertising of YPAL
- Not enough staff/volunteers at YPAL
- Not everyone is on the same page about public safety priorities
- Police cannot be everywhere
- Neighbors may not know what role they play to help reduce crime
- Need more activities for Youth besides sports activities. Youth are either home alone or on the street and can make bad decisions under these circumstances, in particular youth that don't play sports. The options for youth activities are too narrow.
- There is less home ownership now so people are less invested in where they live, and they often don't know or don't trust their neighbors.
- Experience with police response time has been great in her neighborhood in central Yakima. Once she was called by an officer in response to a report and felt very reassured by it. She is concerned residents in east Yakima are not experiencing the same police response time.
- Crime in other areas of town are just as meaningful as in their own areas and vice versa so the city has to fix safety problems across the city.
- Lack of mandatory training for school staff and students for active shooter lock-downs
- McClure Elementary School is no longer staffed with an assigned police officer
- Lack of communication about domestic violence
- Sometimes fear prevents residents from reporting a public crime they were witness to
- People need to speak up more about public crime and also find solutions to domestic violence
- More people need to say something when they see something
- Continuing constant communication between the school and immediate neighbors
- Some people may be hesitant to report crime
- After hit-and-run incidents, victims don't know what happens with their report
- People are worried about exposing their identity when reporting a crime
- Gangs
- Need more family involvement in their children's' lives
- Need enforcement of curfew for youth
- Gang intimidation of other neighborhood youth
- Not enough police officers
- Prevalence of gang activity
- A diverse community can present challenges; 40%+ of city population is Latino and 15% of police force speaks Spanish.

**v. What positive things do we have as a neighborhood that can help reduce violence?**

- Once community conversations begin, communication among neighbors is positive and unified because of shared experiences of neighborhood violence.
- The Henry Beauchamp Community Center
- All the churches, social services and community centers in the neighborhood
- Naches Parkway
- Association of Churches holds “Moment of Blessings” after fatal shootings
- Block Watch programs can be positive for our neighborhoods
- Full family participation (including children)
- Programs at parks
- PTA
- After school programs
- Robertson Elementary School offers an after-school art program
- Strong and active PTA
- Neighbors check in with other neighbors
- Parents can talk with children and family members about staying out of trouble
- When people trust one another they are more open to talking about problems
- Building trust and communication should be key
- Police officers were great in responding to a report of an individual walking from house to house asking residents for the opportunity to work for cash.
- Folks are typically familiar with immediate neighboring homes & neighbors
- Some neighborhoods have a lot of space and nice features
- Most people don’t want to be gang affiliated.

**vi. As neighbors, what do we need in order to keep violence and crime down?**

- More lights because it is too dark.
- Have activities for kids while they're still young because some kids in Yakima begin to witness violence from a young age. These kids need protection and prevention work so they don't become violent, as well.
- Have curfew for delinquent youth.
- More neighbors involved in making criminals feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.
- Address and hold responsible landlords who own rental property and constantly rent it out to gang members or drug dealers.
- Having a police officer station his/her vehicle near areas of suspected of criminal activity to discourage overt criminal activity, even if for a short period.
- Crack down on school truancy; enforcement needed.
- Neighbors need to call police and report crimes as they happen.
- Neighbors need to know one another better.
- Cameras located on street intersections that can read vehicle license plates.
- Law enforcement at the YNHS Depot because Camp Hope services have not relieved homelessness in the neighborhood and there are homeless people who say they can’t go to Camp Hope (uncertain of reasoning)
- Speaking/being friendly to neighbors
- If someone sees something criminal, they should report it.

- Report naissance houses
- Yakima police officers who also live in this neighborhood
- More police presence
- Report crime
- Be vigilant for outsider
- Call the police if you see something suspicious at a neighbors residence
- Report suspicious vehicles
- Communication
- Ensuring YakBack is accessible to as many residents as possible including spanish speaking residents
- Have a YakBack telephone number that provides the same service as YakBack online for residents who don't have internet access
- Report all crime regardless of how small or unimportant the crime may seem.
- Report all crime even when suspect has evaded the area.
- Call 911 when gunshots are heard; gunshots are heard almost daily in this neighborhood but neighbors are afraid to speak out, or unsure of who the offenders are, or simply don't feel confident talking to law enforcement
- Youth programs
- Mutual respect for quiet hours by all neighbors

**vii. Would "Street Captains" be helpful for fearful witnesses who wish to report crime?**

- Yes, affirmative support from residents to establish "Street Captains."
- Probably so but depends on the neighbors and the neighborhood; Difficult to sustain Block Watch program with transient/temporary housing
- Could be helpful
- Some neighbors are unwilling to place their name on a Block Watch list
- Yes
- Possibly yes but Captains must be trustworthy/creditable.
- Yes; Some people are deterred from reporting crime due to fear of having their identity exposed to the suspect(s) of the crime
- Yes, having private residents work closely with law enforcement is very helpful.
- Yes
- Yes

**viii. What are short term needs?**

- More neighborhood forums to continue this conversation on public safety.
- "Night Out" gatherings for neighbors to meet neighbors.
- Inform neighbors of the wanted criminals on Yakima's Crime Stoppers list.
- Identify "Street Captains" and create "Street Coordinated Phone Lists."
- Getting to know neighbors
- Get to know your neighbors
- Don't feel fearful of troubled youth - adults need to report criminal youth
- Surveillance cameras on intersections
- Repair of eroded sidewalks

- Handicap ramps
- Volunteers for block parties, youth programs, community policing program, and helping protect others
- Culturally relevant programs
- Sports activities
- Open up schools during evening hours
- Provide support for educational success and strengthen youth skills
- More facilities within walking distance for youth
- Transportation options for youth to access youth services (example: bus passes)
- Develop stronger resources
- Treat kids to positive activities (example: youth field trips)
- Sidewalk needed on Powerhouse Rd between Lincoln and Englewood
- Sidewalks!
- Sidewalks
- Trees
- Maintain alley ways in descent conditions
- Improving south 4<sup>th</sup> street
- Better standards for maintaining lawns/properties

**ix. What are long term needs?**

- More police/patrolling in residential streets.
- Focus on gang prevention and drug prevention with youth.
  - > Reformed gang members can discourage at-risk youth from joining gangs.
  - > Encourage youth to do a "Ride-Along" with police/SRO in middle school.
- Enable older youth to provide mentorship for younger youth.
- Redirect city investments from wine/alcohol events to youth centers/programming.
- Better lighting
- Improving Naches Parkway
- Improving streets
- Clean up blighted areas
- Reducing the number of abandoned properties
- Responsible spending to preserve funding for public safety
- Revive old programs like "The Alley Cats"
- Pool in east Yakima
- Tutoring services (education support)
- Emphasis on family unity and parents as first teachers of youth
- Teach (children) love, teach consistency, teach about valuing other people's property, and to be a decent person
- Affordable indoor sports activities during (extreme weather in) the winter and summer seasons
- More parents willing to volunteer at youth facilities
- Access to school facilities for youth activities
- Sidewalk and street lighting needed on Powerhouse Rd between Lincoln and Englewood
- Strengthening code enforcement

- Reducing the amount of non-operating vehicles parked on lawn yards and streets
- Reducing homelessness
- Validate concerns
- Increase awareness about improving public safety
- Public safety through environmental design; around the school and inside of school
- Sidewalks!
- Be consistent with suppressing aggressive pan handling
- Be consistent with bike patrolling
- Be consistent with code enforcement of non-operating vehicles parked on front lawns
- More vigilance
- Lighting in alley ways
- More street lights
- More speed humps
- Youth programs
- Workshops for kids during after-school hours
- Stronger PTA
- More community engagement to uphold safety
- Satellite police facilities throughout different neighborhoods
- Sharing more information about City resources intended to support public safety
- Making gym space more accessible for physical health activities

**x. What else needs to be addressed for public safety?**

- Can parents legally discipline by spanking? How does the YPD handle a call made by a minor who is being spanked/disciplined by their parents? How do YPD officers deal with parents in this scenario, specifically how do YPD officers deal with parents who are undocumented immigrants?
- If someone calls 911 to report a crime, do police officers disclose at the scene who called 911? Is it necessary for police officers to speak with the individual who called 911 at or near the scene of the crime? Is there a way for witnesses to report a crime immediately as it occurs without speaking with LEO in front of neighbor?
- How should a street captain report a crime on behalf of a primary witness? What is the best way for a "Street Captain" to be an effective liaison for his/her neighbors?
- Residences that sell drugs need to be reported
- Heard a neighbor was upset/felt ignored after reporting a house suspected of selling drugs because uniformed officers did not arrive to the scene
- Keep school gyms open during after school hours to increase opportunities for kids
- Develop a support system to keep young people safe
- Many small children unsafely walk home alone to and from school
- The creation of a Centro De la Raza community center to improve community pride
- Job training opportunities for low-income parents (with the intent to help parents avoid employment that require long work hours and perpetuate the absence of parents in their children's lives)
- Early learning support services and high school diploma/GED support services

- Youth programs in different parks
- Engagement of Yakima School District
- Increase engagement of community members
- More communication between parents and the Yakima School District
- Public report on results of public safety forums
- Incentives for police officers to reside in neighborhoods most impacted by crime
- Expand Lincoln between 24<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>
- Police officers can use baseball cards to engage kids to know law enforcement
- Schools should mandate parents to “Parent Nights” if they have students in the Yakima School District
- Encourage students to speak out about violence and suspicious behavior
- Students don’t feel safe reporting peers who are behaving violently or suspiciously
- Barb wire on school buildings to prevent active shooters from having rooftop access
- The City of Yakima should directly contact schools to promote Police community events.
- Have more Police community events on school properties.
- Have crossing guards at high traffic intersections
- Alley way next to Adams Elementary School is poorly maintained
- Support for removal of trees that cause sidewalk eruption
- Intersections with deep potholes flood during heavy raining/melted snow
- Vehicles are broken into frequently but victims do not always report the crime because often no arrest is made (leaving people with little confidence in the 911 reporting system)
- Cameras do not always ensure an arrest will be made
- Scammers that go home to home
- Theft of mail
- School lock-down procedures for active shooter situations
- Parents need to know how their children will be protected from violence while on school premises
- Preventing students from carrying weapons onto school premises
- Sidewalks on McKinley are so bad they’re dangerous
- Working to improve sidewalk infrastructure better in all areas is important
- The City shouldn’t recreate another plan similar to Gang Free Initiative (nor fund it)
- Is there anything being done in the schools to teach about active shooter situations?
- Pass ordinance that requires housing developers to construct sidewalks on both sides of street
- Incentivize police officers to live in the neighborhood/area they are assigned to patrol by covering the cost of housing expenses (for as long as the officer resides in the area he/she patrols)
- Does the City offer premium pay for bilingual police officers?
- Speed bumps shouldn’t make drivers slow down to 5mph or 10mph (it’s excessive)
- Grateful for the neighborhood forums on public safety

**END OF REPORT**