



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 7, 2011

TO: Mayor Myrna de Vera and City Council Members
City Employees
Members of the Public

FROM: Liz Warmerdam, Interim City Manager
Special Thanks to Anton Jungherr and Lori Chinn for Assisting with this report.

SUBJECT: Interim City Manager's Weekly Report

Overview of Report: The following topics are included in this weekly's update:

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WELCOME STEVE DURAN, NEW CITY MANAGER

Steve Duran's first official day is Monday, October 10, 2011, though City Hall is closed for Columbus Day (furlough day). Residents are encouraged to stop by on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 to welcome him to Hercules.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank many of you who have been so supportive during my tenure as Interim City Manager. In particular I would like to thank the City Council for having faith in my abilities to steer the ship until a new Manager could be appointed. We accomplished many things, not the least of which was the new direction for Sycamore North, the certification of

the Intermodal Transit Center (ITC) and Bayfront Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), solidifying our partnership with the City of Pinole and the joint operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, reaching out to our State and Federal representatives in an effort to build lasting relationships, and most importantly, creating an environment where our newly elected City Council could begin to work together and take back our City.

Special thanks also go out to Lori Chinn and Anton Jungherr who have not only helped me with the weekly report, but who have taken the time to check in from time-to-time and offer their words of encouragement. Their support has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, a huge debt of gratitude to the City staff that have been through so much over the past year. It has been a very tough environment to work in Hercules from scandal, to layoffs, to multiple State audits. These were the result of actions in which they had no part. While unfortunately the staff continues to live with the legacy of past administrations, please know that they are committed to quality service regardless of circumstances. Thank you so much for everything they do!!

GRAND OPENING/POTLUCK - DUCK POND PARK – OCTOBER 15, 2011

The grand opening of this newest city park is scheduled for **Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 4:00pm**. This is a family-friendly pot-luck event and an opportunity for the neighborhood to get together. The City will provide the basics, but is asking the community to bring a dish to share. Council Members will be challenging those of you brave enough to a game of horseshoes. Losers make contributions to the Library!

FUNDRAISER FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE BRAVO FIRE - OCTOBER 22, 2011

The Rotary Service Club will be hosting a fundraiser/dinner at the Hercules Swim Center to help the families that were affected by the fire at the Bravo neighborhood on **Saturday October 22, 2011**. For more information on how you can help or to buy tickets, please contact Rotary President, Dee Lopez at (510) 299-5799, (510) 724-0997 or deliamlopez@aol.com.

HELP LIBRARY GALA, 5th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE - OCTOBER 23, 2011

The Hercules Emergency Library Project (HELP) is a group of Hercules Library supporters who are conducting a community-wide fundraising campaign to ensure that the Library remains open 40 hours a week. The financial crisis in Hercules meant that the city was forced to cut the library's hours. Unless \$50,000 can be raised for this fiscal year, the Library will be open only 35 hours a week.

In an effort to raise these funds this year, HELP is sponsoring a masquerade party on **Sunday, October 23, 2011**. There will be dinner, dancing, drinks and prizes. Masks are optional but encouraged and can be purchased at the door. Evening events include a no host bar by the Lions Club from 5p.m. to 6:30p.m., dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and dancing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PLANNING, PROJECTS AND REDEVELOPMENT

Bayfront Project: As mentioned in my last report, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council certification of the Bayfront Environment Impact Report (EIR). The City Council will vote on the certification on Tuesday night, October 11, 2011.

Sycamore North: We have received two offers on the project and expect to receive several more by early next week. Staff and City Council are determining what information can be shared publically and what, because of the nature of real estate negotiations, will need to remain confidential. The City Council is committed to being as transparent as possible.

HERCULES LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Founding President Joanne Ward will be convening a special meeting of Library supporters, including the Mayor, our Librarian Allison McKee, Friends of the Hercules Library Board Member Anita Rodgers-Field, and either myself or the new City Manager to help make appointments to the Library Foundation Board. Thank you to those of you who have recently submitted your applications. We now have eight (8) applications for five (5) positions. If anyone else is interested in being on the Board, please download an application or contact me at lwarmerdam@ci.hercules.ca.us.

RASH OF CABLE THEFT

The City is currently experiencing a resurgence of cable/wire theft in several hot spots. This activity ebbs and flows with the economy, as one can imagine. Areas hardest hit include Victoria by the Bay (especially along the path and shoreline) Baywood neighborhood, and the stretch of San Pablo Avenue from Hercules Avenue to the Kinders Shopping Center. The thefts have already cost the City thousands of dollars.

Police and Public Works are asking for everyone's assistance in this matter. If you see a street light suddenly go out, or perhaps suspicious activity such as an individual walking with a gas can late at night, please call our dispatch as soon as possible. An additional sign of this activity includes small fires along the waterfront. We have convened a special task force to brainstorm ideas to create a multi-pronged approach to this very costly matter but would greatly appreciate community help in this matter. In fact, most crimes are solved with the assistance of local residents!!

POLICE REPORT

Possession of Stolen Property: On September 28, 2011 at 7:34 a.m., Hercules Officers conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 4 at San Pablo Ave., conducted an engine inspection, checked the engine Serial Number and found the transmission VIN plate removed. The engine number was determined to be taken off of a stolen Acura recovered by Richmond PD. The driver of the vehicle told the Officer he bought the car 2 months ago for \$4,500 from Craigslist. At this time, he appears to be a victim only. The officer conducted further investigation and determined there will be no chargeable suspects in this case. The vehicle will be released back to the driver the records are updated to reflect the stolen engine as recovered and installed on the Honda.

Warrant Arrest: on September 28, 2011 at 3:03 p.m., Hercules Officers conducted a pedestrian stop on Forest Run at Sycamore Ave. The driver had a warrant out of Clearlake and was arrested and transported to MDF.

Hit and Run: On September 30, 2011 at 2:38 p.m., a vehicle collided into a signal control box on San Pablo Ave at John Muir Pkwy. The vehicle was, according to witnesses, possibly an import, silver in color and “smaller than a Camry.” The suspect driver was described as an adult black female in her 20's wearing a dark plaid shirt. Per marks in the roadway, the vehicle was traveling westbound Highway 4 and last seen traveling southbound San Pablo Ave. The collision disconnected the entire box from its foundation and wires rendering all traffic signal devices inoperable.

Felony Vandalism: On October 1, 2011 at 10:50 a.m., a vehicle suffered over \$7,500 worth of damage when it was “keyed” by unknown suspect(s) sometime between 9/30-10/1/2011. The vehicle was parked on Miramar by its registered owner. There was no evidence or suspect information. The victims recently moved from San Jose.

Suspicious Person: On October 1, 2011 at 12:11 am, the Manager of Sycamore Hills called to report seeing a suspicious male that attempted to jump over the rear security gate at the back of the complex. She reported the male ran after being confronted. Officers arrived and saw a white male run from the west side of the parking garage area to the south side of the building. He was described only as having blond hair and wearing a white tank top and dark colored shorts. An area check of the parking garage area was done but the male subject was not located.

Warrant Arrest: On October 2, 2011 12:30 p.m., Hercules Officers stopped a suspicious male in the 800 block of Willow Ave. and found he had a warrant out of San Francisco. The warrant was confirmed and he was arrested without incident.

Missing Child: On October 2, 2011 at 6:59 p.m., Hercules Officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Paradise Dr. for a report of a missing 8 year old child. He was last seen approximately 30–50 minutes prior to the call by his older sister. Officers searched the area for approximately 1 hour and found the child on Laurelwood Dr. The child stated he was afraid to come home because he left without permission. He was brought home to his mother.

Battery: On October 2, 2011 at 7:12 p.m., Hercules Officers responded to the area of 1550 Sycamore Ave. for a report of an altercation that occurred in front of Sycamore Hills Care Home. The victim stated the suspect, a female of Rodeo, assaulted him by scratching his arm and hitting him with her car keys. The victim stated the suspect is his mother-in-law’s former caretaker and is still upset about being fired. The suspect was gone on arrival and a voice message was left seeking her version of events. The victim did not desire prosecution and only wanted the incident documented.

Residential Burglary: On October 2, 2011 at 9:47 p.m., Hercules Officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of Lupine Rd. for a report of a residential burglary. The victim reported an unknown Suspect entered her home sometime between Friday afternoon and the time of call.

The suspect gained entry into the home through the rear sliding glass door. The only items reported stolen are jewelry and a backpack with school books.

Residential Burglary: On October 3, 2011 7:44 a.m., a Hercules Realtor reported an unknown suspect(s) entered a vacant property in the 100 block of Eucalyptus Knoll over the weekend and stole the GE stainless steel gas oven from the residence. The rear downstairs sliding patio door was left ajar. The Realtor stated that all bank owned properties are re-keyed to a common key that all his realtors have. The theft occurred between Friday noon and Sunday 3:34 p.m. No witnesses were located during the neighborhood check.

Burglary and Vehicle Tampering: On October 3, 2011 at 5:57 p.m., a green Ford pickup truck was broken into in the 1400 block of Willow Ave. between the hours of 2 p.m. and the time of the call. Access was gained by manipulating the front passenger door lock open. The suspect stole the in-dash Jensen DVD stereo and broke off the ignition switch but was unsuccessful in stealing the vehicle.

Miscellaneous: On October 3, 2011 at 6:15 p.m., Hercules Officers were contacted by an employee at L&L, reporting a suspect, tall black male, associated with a black vehicle stole the tip jar money which only contained five dollars. This is similar to the description of a suspect who stole tip jar money from Pete's coffee in Pinole earlier.