

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH GATE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
January 24, 2018**

**INTRODUCTORY PROCEDURES**

Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Maria Davila.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel, Committee Members Maria De Lourdes Castillo, Fabiola Inzunza, Susan F. Janer, Juliano A. Jarquin, Virginia Johnson, Angelica Martinez, Michelle Montes, Miguel Morales, Maritza Romero, and Jimmy Torres (11/15)

**Late Arrivals:** Chairperson James Manuel and Committee Members John Salas (2/15)

**Excused Absence:**

**Unexcused Absence:** Commissioners Benigno (Benny) Nunez, John Salas, and Anthony Zepeda (3/15)

**Staff:** Joe Perez, Community Development Director, Vivian Garcia, Housing Administrator and Haydee Becerra, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA ITEM(S)**

**1. MINUTES**

Item 1 - Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of January 10, 2018, and Committee Member Virginia Johnson seconded, and the motion carried (11-0).

At this time, 6:36 p.m., Chairperson James Manuel arrived at the Council Chambers.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**      **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FY 2018-19  
PUBLIC SERVICES**

Vivian Garcia, Housing Administrator, advised the committee regarding the use of the new sound/recording system and introduced Joe Perez, Community Development Director, to the Committee Members.

Joe Perez addressed the Committee Members by providing a brief overview of the funding allocation breakdown between non-public service projects and public service projects. Mr. Perez emphasized the importance of the Citizens Advisory Committee providing recommendations on non-public service and public service projects to City Council. He also advised that the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be changing the meeting location to Civic Center Main Room for the meeting of February 7, 2018.

*Commercial Façade Improvement Program:*

Marina Urias, Management Analyst, presented the Commercial Façade Improvement Program. The Commercial Façade Improvement Program proposes to assist at least three (3) local businesses with up to \$40,000 (\$120,000 total) for exterior improvements such as paint, windows and signage. A requirement for this project is for each participant (property owner) to contribute \$6,000 towards the project. This project serves to beautify the business

area and to attract consumers to shop and dine in the area. This opportunity is available to small businesses throughout the eligible census tract, including Hollydale area.

At this time, 6:54 p.m., Committee Member John Salas arrived at the Council Chambers.

*Public Works, Graffiti Abatement:*

Osie Harrell, Public Works Superintendent, presented the Graffiti Abatement program proposal. The program will continue to operate in CDBG eligible low and moderate income service areas (19 census tracts) throughout the City to remove graffiti from residences, businesses, sidewalks, signs, poles, and walls, thereby reducing blight. The demand of graffiti removal has increased due to the increase in CDBG census tracts and due to an increase in gang activity. Graffiti program representatives are working closely with Code Enforcement and South Gate Police Department in creating a strategic plan and discourage the tagging in certain areas. Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment, material and personnel costs.

*Community Development, Code Enforcement*

Ramona Trejo and William Campana presented the Code Enforcement program proposal. This program will continue to provide pro-active and re-active response to complaints submitted by residents as well as those found on routine patrol. Patrolling is now included on a seven (7) day work week and a part time officer has been assigned strictly to illegal dumping (employee is not paid out of CDBG). Communication from the public has increased due to the City's website and mobile applications. By responding to these complaints, Code Enforcement will investigate, inspect and issue the appropriate notice of violation and correction measures to bring the property into compliance. In addition, Code Enforcement is completing neighborhood reviews in nine (9) sectors of the City to encourage community members to voluntarily comply and fix their properties.

*Public Works, Sidewalk Improvement Project, Phase VI:*

Clint Herrera, Assistant City Engineer, presented the Sidewalk Improvement Project, Phase VI. The project will continue the reconstruction of damaged sidewalks, drive approaches, wheelchair ramps, x-gutters, curb and gutters, adjacent asphalt concrete pavement, etc., at various locations citywide. Staff explained the repair and replace method using concrete for this project in comparison to the use of asphalt for emergency or liability purposes with tripping hazards. The grant funds will be used to pay renovation and construction within set areas of the eligible census tract.

At this time, 7:45 p.m., Committee Member Maritza Romero was excused from the meeting and departed from the Council Chambers.

At this time, 7:50 p.m., Vice Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel was excused from the meeting and departed from the Council Chambers.

*Police Department, Family Violence and Prevention & Education Program:*

Laura Maldonado, Program Coordinator, presented the Family Violence Prevention & Education Program. Laura Maldonado emphasized on the support provided to the domestic violence victims; the support may be provided during urgent matters, for court purpose(s), or as motivation for personal stability and becoming self-sufficient. A domestic violence survivor presented the importance of participating in this group. Grant funds will be used to pay for the empowerment sessions with a focus on resolving trauma symptoms, workshops addressing psychological symptoms, and cell phone usage of office staff.

*Police Department, Police Explorers:*

Evelyn Garcia presented the South Gate Police Explorers Program. The Police Explorers program continues to provide training and orientation to young persons, ages 14 to 21, interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Police Explorers are used as a supplement to sworn personnel in non-hazardous situations and events. They perform duties such as traffic control, community patrol and assist customers at the Police Department. The volunteers must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and must be attending high school or college. Grant funds will be used to pay for uniforms, safety equipment and training/competition events.

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Audience Comments: None

City Staff Comments: None

Citizens Advisory Committee: Committee Member Virginia Johnson Requested for the funding breakdown be provided with the applicant packet in the future.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the time being 8:08 p.m., Chairperson James Manuel moved to adjourn, Committee Member Maria De Lourdes Castillo seconded and the motion carried (11-0) to adjourn.

Respectfully,

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Vivian M. Garcia, Secretary  
Citizens Advisory Committee

APPROVED:

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James Manuel, Chairperson  
Citizens Advisory Committee