

Lauren Crandell

From: Dan Fink
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: City of San Rafael Questions and Answers

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to e-mail the City Council regarding the issues with the downtown corridor of San Rafael. I apologize for the delay in responding back to you but I was out of town at training last week. I am a Lieutenant in the police department and one of my duties is to manage the Special Operations Unit (SOU) which houses the downtown foot beat officers, the mental health outreach liaison, and the open space rangers. The main responsibility of the SOU is education and enforcement of the applicable laws and codes in the downtown core of San Rafael and our city parks. This group also works hand in hand with many of the agencies that provide services to the homeless which allows us to impact this group in different ways.

I will address your five points/questions individually:

1. **The Transit Center:** The San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) regularly patrols the transit center and occasionally conducts plain clothes operations there as well. Barbier Security is also at the Transit Center (hired by Golden Gate Transit). We are extremely proactive at the transit center and encourage you to please call the police department at 415-485-3000 (or 911 if emergency) if you see criminal activity occurring.
2. **Massage Parlors:** The City of San Rafael has been spending significant resources on massage parlor enforcement. An outside contract was procured to do administrative inspections on the establishments which has resulted in many citations as well as one administrative hearing where the massage parlor's license was revoked. There is another hearing scheduled on a different massage parlor shortly. The City Council has recently placed a moratorium on new massage businesses coming into the city and there is ongoing discussion surrounding this issue.
3. **Day laborers:** This issue has been discussed at length. It is not illegal to stand on the sidewalk as long as someone walks by, the person moves so the path is not blocked. If you see criminal activity by any of the day laborers please call the aforementioned numbers.
4. **Gang Activity on Woodland:** SRPD has a dedicated unit that works on gang enforcement. The SRPD Street Crimes Unit is staffed by a Sergeant and two Officers. They also proactively work prostitution and narcotics activity. They regularly do probation searches and contacts in the Woodland Avenue area. As mentioned above, if you see criminal activity please call the aforementioned numbers.
5. **Downtown:** In December of 2013, the San Rafael Police Department created the SOU. The SOU consists of three foot beat patrol officers, two parks and open space patrol officers, a civilian homeless and mental health outreach provider, a police sergeant, and a police lieutenant.

Since the start of our unit we have been able to help more than twenty mentally ill homeless people get off the streets and into the appropriate treatment programs. Our foot beat officers are often on foot or on bicycles in and around our parks and the downtown area. Although it is not illegal to be homeless, our officers work very hard to enforce any violations of the law.

In addition to creating the SOU, the city has welcomed the Downtown Streets Team. The Downtown Streets Team employ homeless and low income men and women. Members are often seen cleaning the streets of downtown San Rafael on a daily basis. The mission of the Downtown Streets Team is to "end homelessness by

restoring the dignity and rebuilding the lives of unhoused men and women. Serving the community through work teams prepares members for permanent employment and housing.

The Marin Mayors & City Council members (MCCMC) have also established a committee on homelessness with representatives from each town and city.

I hope this addresses some of your questions. If you would like to discuss further, I would be happy to speak with you on the phone or in person.

Thanks....Dan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Fink', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lieutenant Dan Fink
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San Rafael Police Department
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