



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 26, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Due to a change in reporting by the Lafayette Police Department, we were unable to get complete information before press time.

Lafayette's Police Chief moves on

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is losing one of its most popular public figures, as Chief of Police Eric Christensen takes up a position with the Oakley Police Department.

City Manager Steve Falk said in a letter to the community earlier this month that Christensen and his deputies have lifted up the Lafayette community in ways both expected and unexpected and, in so doing, have established a new benchmark for effective community policing in the city.

"During his six years with Lafayette, Chief Christensen has employed a variety of techniques and technologies to solve and reduce crimes, prepare the community for emergencies, address bias, and empower people and their neighborhoods," said Falk. "He's done it with intelligence, humor, an unrelenting work ethic, and a generosity of spirit that he has extended to everybody he encounters."

Christensen says that so far his time in Lafayette has been the best assignment he has had in his career within the sheriff's office. He says he will miss the people of the Lafayette community most of all.

"I have had the opportunity to make a lot of good friends here in the city and I will miss all of them," said Christensen, adding, "It's always seemed that we were working together to make our neighborhoods a little safer."

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City continues to hash out conflict of interest policy

By Pippa Fisher

The conversation at the Lafayette City Council continues on how best to restore trust in local governance, specifically within the commissions.

In the fall Vice Mayor Cam Burks and Council Member Ivor Samson formed a subcommittee to revise and update the recusal policy applying to commissions and committees, particularly addressing conflicts of interests in cases of those with financial interests presenting to boards on their own, or their firm's projects.

Samson explained at the

March 12 meeting that in addition to updating this recusal policy draft (Version B), the subcommittee also drafted a resignation policy (Version A) – a much stricter policy that Samson described as a "solid conflict of interest policy." He said that although they tightened up the recusal policy in Version B, he still did not think it was meaningful, likening it to putting "lipstick on the pig."

Essentially, in Version A commissioners would not be able to recuse themselves or abstain from participation in a situation of con-

lict, but would have to resign and furthermore a one-year post-service period of exclusion would apply.

Mayor Don Tatzin expressed concern about the quality of commissioners the city would be able to attract on the board if conditions are made too punitive, pointing to the potential for loss of business for a year after service. "Just don't join to begin with," he worried would be the reaction of some.

Samson pointed out that since this is a large metropolitan area

there is a talent pool of people who don't do business in Lafayette. "Public service is a privilege and part of that is saying I'm willing to put aside that sort of financial opportunity for a time."

Several members of the public spoke favoring the stricter policy. Several said they had experienced unfair decisions against them as a result of "reciprocal voting" – commissioners voting for each other's projects, with one speaker saying, "Recusal by itself is just window dressing."

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Traffic relief in downtown inches closer

By Pippa Fisher

Strategies

Short-Term

1. Coordinated traffic signals on Mount Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road
2. Southbound left-turn lane at Moraga Road / Moraga Boulevard
3. Signalize the intersections of Deer Hill Road / Oak Hill Road and Deer Hill Road / Happy Valley Road
4. Additional School Pick-up & Drop-off Zones
5. Student-Pedestrian Safe Routes
6. School Street Bike-Ped Pathway Connection to Trail
7. Enhanced School Bus Program
8. Regional Trail Connection to BART/Downtown

Long-Term

9. Brook St / School St intersection realignment
10. BART Pedestrian Bridge over Oak Hill Road
11. Moraga Rd Extension Behind McCaulou's / Whole Foods To 1st St

Requires Council Deliberation

12. 2nd NBR turning lane at Mt Diablo Boulevard / Moraga Road

7 Enhanced school bus service, not shown

ARUP

The city of Lafayette looks set to keep all remaining options on the table for traffic relief.

Image provided

Lafayette is very close to adopting the remaining approved strategies for dealing with downtown congestion as the city council voted unanimously to approve all proposed strategies minus a previous proposal for a BART pedestrian bridge and with certain modifications to wording. To allow city staff time to work on language, the item will be placed on the consent calendar for the next meeting with no further discussion.

The motion was worded to include a pilot test period and barriers put in place should strategy number 12, allowing a second northbound right turn lane from Moraga Road onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard, be implemented. Additionally, strategy number 9 will be worded to give priority to a footbridge (9A) and secondly to the realignment (9B).

At a prior meeting the council members had discussed and approved the proposal for signal lights on Deer Hill Road at Happy Valley Road and Oak Hill Road (strategy number 3).

Most of the discussion at the March 12 city council meeting centered around by far the most controversial proposal – that of the Brook Street/School Street realignment (strategy number 9), which would involve creating a single sweeping intersection straight from School Street through Brook Street through what is now the Masonic Lodge, which would have to be purchased and demolished.

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