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...thanks

Moraga audience presses MOFD chief over his proposed fire code



Photo Nick Marnell

MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker outlines new fire code

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Chief Dave Winnacker spelled out the rationale for his proposed fire code, which will

affect district parcels, remodels and new construction, to an audience of nearly 100 at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium Jan. 28. The chief covered many of the regulations that would take effect upon adoption of the new code, but most of the audience questions focused on two elements: the ban on the use of combustible ground cover within 2 feet of each district structure, and that all vegetation must be trimmed within 2 feet of each structure.

Winnacker explained that in the '70s, '90s, and 2010s, the area adapted to a changing environment as drought forced people to rethink the suburban ideal from expansive green lawns to lava rock or drought tolerant native

plants. "Now the environment is changing again as a series of major fires since 2017 have made clear," the chief said. "To adapt, now is the time to rethink our landscaping to create fire resistant space around our homes with particular emphasis on the last 2 feet."

Attendees asked Winnacker for a list of approved materials to surround district structures. "We need pictures and diagrams so we know what we are trying to accomplish," said one audience member.

"If it will burn, or if it drops things that will burn within 2 feet of a structure, it is not allowed," explained the chief, noting that succulents, aggregate, river rock and bare mineral soil were acceptable

ground covers within the 2 foot perimeter of a structure. Winnacker acknowledged that the regulation will result in major changes to landscaping.

"You've hired me to worry about this problem," the chief said. "I understand this is a big ask. If you agree, let your elected officials know." The fire code ordinance will be presented to the district board, the district municipal boards and the Board of Supervisors for approval, likely in February or March, and the ordinance will go into effect immediately upon adoption.

A link to a draft of the entire fire code can be found on the home page of the district's newly redesigned website at mofd.org.

Traffic concerns at heart of residents' objections to 315-unit development

... continued from Page A2

Clearly most members of the public in attendance that night did not agree as speaker after speaker spoke of the extreme congestion on that corridor and concerns for what would happen in an evacuation given the area is deemed to be high fire risk.

O'Brien Homes Project Manager Dave Baker acknowledged that the Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Road intersection is the biggest challenge but pointed out that this development is proposed for open space, not tearing down existing businesses, near BART, and by the freeway. Baker pointed out that this development, zoned as administrative-professional office, is less than half the amount that could be developed on the site. "Where you saw problems, we saw all the opportunities." He said this

site had so many positives that influenced their decision to build a multifamily complex there.

Public speaker Matt Regan, senior vice president of public policy at the Bay Area Council and an Association of Bay Area Governments representative, agreed, stating the need to build housing for Lafayette's work force. He said it would reduce traffic for people driving to their jobs in Lafayette. "Look at the big picture. House your own work force," he said.

Regan, however was in the minority and the only member of the public to speak for the project on this night. Kristen Altbauer, founder of the North East Residents For Reduced Traffic group formed to address traffic congestion along Reliez Valley Road, told the commissions that she has presented traffic relief conceptualizations, which she

believed could work for a smaller development of the site. "I'm amazed that the affected parties are not getting together with the spirit of getting something there that is going to work for all residents' satisfaction," she said.

Attorney Bryan Wenter, counsel for the applicant, took the opportunity to remind the room of the project alternative. "This project (the Terraces) exists today because the voters saw fit to referend the single-family homes project that could have been built," he said. He emphasized that the traffic report

shows that the project will not impact traffic at Deer Hill Road.

Michael Griffiths, founder of the group Save Lafayette, which sued the city over the proposed single-family homes development, is highly skeptical of the TJKM report. "The city should never have selected TJKM to do the traffic study - TJKM has a very obvious conflict of interest, as it was recently on the developer's payroll," he said.

Griffiths says in a letter to the council that in view of this, "Save Lafayette has hired an independent transportation consulting firm to do a peer review

of the new traffic study." He expects the report to be ready in a few weeks.

"We would review all materials the public bring forward," said Wolff after the meeting when asked about a further, independent study.

Recent legislation designed to address the housing crisis, limits the number of public meetings on any application to five. The next Planning Commission meeting on the subject will take place on March 16.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055

Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820

Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Jan. 12 - Jan. 25

Alarms	41
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	19
Traffic	115
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	32
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	45
Patrol Req./Security Check	57
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	29
Vacation House Check	2
Welfare Check	15
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3100 Block Linda Vista Ln.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	

3200 Block Marlene Dr.	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Golden Gate Way	
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.	
Nordstrom Ln./Glen Rd.	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
Estates Dr./Canyon Rd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3400 Block S Silver Springs Rd.	
3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Taylor Blvd.	
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Glenside Dr./St. Marys Rd.	
Beechwood Dr./Hawthorn Dr.	
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.	
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.	
30 Block Crest Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
900 Block Mountain View Dr.	
Fraud Credit Card	
3500 Block Wildwood Ln.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
900 Block Colina Ct.	
800 Block Mountain View Dr.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Grand Theft	
1200 Block Barott Rd.	
Petty Theft	
3300 Block Vaughn Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Carol Ln.	
10 Block Ewart Dale	
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
3100 Block Lucas Dr.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Warrant Service	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
900 Block 1st St.	
10 Block Eleven	
Disturbance-fight	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
500 Block Merriewood	
Loud Noise	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Loud Party	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
20 Block Old Millstone Ln.	
Summit Rd./Quandt Rd.	

3300 Block Glenside Dr.
Vandalism
900 Block Hough Ave.
200 Block Lafayette Cir.

Other

Ordinance Violation	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hilltop Dr./Hastings Ct.	
Phone Harass	
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.	
Revocation of Probation	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Trespass	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Unwanted Guest	
1100 Block Monticello Rd.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Jan. 14 - Jan. 27

Alarms	17
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	56
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	28
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	5
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
10 Block Josefa Pl.	
10 Block Corte Amigos	
3900 Block Campolindo Dr.	
10 Block Corte Amigos	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
CVS	
3800 Block Via Granada	
1100 Block Rimer Dr.	
Homegoods	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Via Granada	
Fayhill Rd./Fay Hill Rd.	
St. Mary's College	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Vehicle Theft	
St. Mary's College	
Other criminal activity	
Burglary	
100 Block Devin Dr.	
90 Block Devin Dr.	

10 Block Camelford Ct.
Fraud Credit Card
20 Block Indian Wells
Identity Theft
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.

Petty Theft

Police Department (2)	
100 Block Donald Dr.	
10 Block Kings Crown Ct. (2)	
90 Block Devin Dr.	
10 Block Dolores Ct.	
10 Block El Paso Ct.	
60 Block Buckingham Dr.	
100 Block Ascot Ct.	
10 Block Donald Pl.	
10 Block Buckingham Dr.	
80 Block Buckingham Dr.	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd, Orinda	
200 Block Birchwood Dr.	
Safeway	
7/11	
10 Block Dolores Ct.	
10 Block Benedita Pl.	
10 Block Camelford Ct.	
600 Block Moraga Rd.	
Theft Access Card	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	
Wells Fargo	
Warrant Arrest	
John Muir Medical Center, WC	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	

Nuisance to the Community

Indecent Exposure	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Loud Music	
200 Block Corliss Dr.	
Not Available	
Loud Noise	
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way	
Loud Party	
Not Available	
2100 Block Ascot Dr.	
10 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Phone Harass	
30 Block Maison Ct.	
Public Nuisance	
100 Block Oxford Dr.	
Vandalism	
Round Table	
Campolindo High School	

Other

Accident Property	
20 Block Hour Fitness	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
20 Block Williams Dr.	
Fireworks	
Los Perales Elementary School	
Mentally Ill Commit	
1300 Block Rimer Dr.	
Campolindo High School	
Shots Fired	
Taco Bell	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 29 - Jan. 11

Alarms	23
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	32
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	39
Public/School Assembly Check	8
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	5
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
Del Rey School	
Accident Property	
Woodland Rd./Moraga Way	
50 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Auto Burglary	
Safeway	
Beverages And More	
10 Block El Toyonal	
Miramonte High School	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
20 Block Warford Terrace	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.	
Moraga Way/Hall Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
10 Block Oak Flat Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
90 Block Diablo View Dr.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Whitehall Dr.	
Residential Burglary	
100 Block Ardith Dr.	
100 Block Ardith Dr.	
Warrant Arrest	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Nuisance to the Community	
Vandalism	
10 Block Orchard Rd.	
Other	
Unwanted Guest	
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.	