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Moraga Police Chief updates council on departmental procedures



Moraga Police Department

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King expressed his disgust in the actions leading to the death of George Floyd during his June 10 town council presentation, and assured council members that his department has facilitated conversations with staff regarding current events. It also continues to develop a diverse workforce that is training in crises intervention, de-escalation and implicit bias.

What King wants his department to be doing right now is listening and hearing the community. "As we know, listening is perhaps

the most overlooked portion of communication," he said.

King stated that the entire Moraga Police Department Policy Manual is posted online and that MPD uses Lexipol, the nation's leading provider of public safety policy and training solutions.

King also explained whether or not MPD uses eight policies recommended for use in police agencies by Campaign Zero, an American police reform campaign linked with the Black Lives Matter movement (www.8cantwait.org).

Restraint chokeholds/strangleholds have never been authorized

within MPD. However, the carotid control hold, which stops the flow of oxygenated blood to the brain rather than stopping the flow of air to the lungs, has been used. King suspended its use in early June.

With regards to a de-escalation requirement, MPD officers can only use that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary. Officers are required to give a verbal warning and must make efforts to identify themselves prior to use of force.

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Criminal charges filed against former Moraga Community Foundation treasurer



Lamo archive

Robert (Bob) Fritzky

By Vera Kochan

United States Attorney David L. Anderson and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Kareem Carter, through the Department of Justice, on June 17 announced charges filed against Francis Robert Fritzky, the former treasurer of the Moraga Community Foundation. Fritzky was charged with filing a false tax return, wire fraud and aiding

and abetting.

In early September the MCF revealed that Fritzky allegedly made unauthorized withdrawals as Foundation treasurer, between June 23, 2016 through July 24, 2019, of more than \$250,000 from MCF's bank accounts to himself, to his majority owned company MedMatRx, LLC and to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation which he founded and controlled. Fritzky also allegedly provided false financial reports to MCF's board of directors.

According to DOJ, the maximum statutory penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum statutory penalty for making and subscribing a false tax return is three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. However, any sentence will be imposed by the court only after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence.

As a reminder, the charges at this point are allegations only. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of

law. The case will be prosecuted by the Special Prosecutions Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office as a result of an investigation by the Moraga Police Department and IRS Criminal Investigation. Fritzky's initial court appearance in this matter is awaiting scheduling.

Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus stated, "I can't speak on this matter on behalf of the Town or the Town Council, but I personally remain horribly stunned and saddened by the entire situation." She added, "I hope that justice is served in the end, and that Jeanette Fritzky's children find their way to better days as quickly as possible."

New town website now operational

By Vera Kochan

The town unveiled its new website June 15, which according to Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, includes powerful new features and functions that will help improve information sharing.

Five headers include important facts about Moraga along with a tab for easy access to the Chamber of Commerce website, access to Administrative Services, General Government, the Moraga Library website, Moraga-Orinda Fire District website, Parks and Recreation (with a shortcut to the Hacienda de las Flores website), Planning Department, Moraga Police Department website and the Public Works Department. It also allows access to agendas, meeting minutes, committees and commissions, local agencies, town council

information along with town departments and offices. There's also a header titled "How do I..." that functions as an informational page.

By clicking on "Notify Me" the public can sign up for various notifications, and "Report an Issue" acts much like the Mobile Moraga app whereby things such as graffiti, hazards and potholes can be reported. There is also an "Activity Guide" which mirrors the mail-out version put out by Parks and Recreation; "Maps and GIS (Graphic Information System)" includes an interactive parcel mapping app; and the "About Town Newsletter" has current and archived town news.

Users can offer suggestions for the website (www.moraga.ca.us) at the bottom of the home page by clicking on "What did we miss?"

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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