



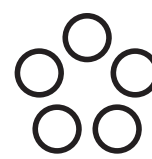
MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Body-worn cameras – an MPD staple for over five years

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department has used body-worn cameras since February 2015 to record enforcement and other contacts with the public, as well as using them during criminal investigations. BWCs have become a vital tool in providing transparency of any law enforcement agency that uses them – something the American public has come to demand with their own recordings of police activity in recent

years. According to a 2017 report from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, “The past several years have witnessed significant growth in the number of police agencies using body-worn cameras. It has been reported that over one-third of the 18,000 or so law enforcement agencies in the United States have begun using this technology.” The report adds that “BWCs were seen as a remedy for resolving issues of community trust and a way to increase

police accountability.” In an Oct. 28 staff report to the town council, MPD Chief Jon King stated, “While body-worn cameras do not tell the complete story of what happens during an incident, they do provide important information that can be used in both criminal and administrative investigations.” MPD’s current system is outdated and has experienced software and hardware problems for the past two years. Continual glitches have made the current sys-

tem ineffectual and bothersome. After researching replacement systems, MPD found that Axon cameras and backup equipment are best suited for the town’s needs. Axon, Inc. is the largest provider of BWCs in the U.S. and throughout the world. The Axon Body 3 unit, which is what MPD would like to purchase to replace the old system, comes with a feature that reduces motion blur during recording. This means, according to Axon, clearer evidence during

playback with a near photographic level of detail. The Axon Body 3 will allow you to “see truth in the moment.” The town council unanimously approved Axon’s proposed 5-year services and purchasing agreement which includes new cameras, docking stations, software, secure cloud storage and related hardware for a total maximum cost of \$62,874.04 payable over 5 years. The Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget includes \$20,500 for Police Department Equipment Replacement for this purchase.

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Sustainable Moraga – take up the challenge

By Vera Kochan

Accepting a Climate Action Plan in 2014, the town of Moraga committed to do its part to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Land use and transportation projects have seen a Moraga Walk/Bike Plan to address safety and education; participation in the Lamorinda School Bus Program that is geared to transport 1,500 students round-trip from home to school; projects to promote non-vehicular travel such as sidewalks, bike lanes and crosswalks; the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations; and a 2015 ordinance allowing residents to keep small animals and certain types of livestock for food production. Another effort, residential and commercial energy use, saw the town adopt CALGreen building standards in 2016, requiring new construction to meet energy efficient standards. In 2017, Moraga enrolled in Marin Clean Energy in order to give residents and businesses an opportunity to select renewable energy options. Solid waste (in the form of food waste) is part of an organics collection program implemented at the town’s offices, and recycling receptacles are provided at all events held on town property. In 2015, the town adopted the Model Water Ef-

ficient Landscape Ordinance requiring new developments to conserve water, and as of 2016, all construction projects must treat storm water runoff on site. Day-to-day town operations have also been affected by the CAP. HVAC upgrades have been made to the town offices; park facilities contain recycled benches and trash cans; water fountains and water bottle refilling stations discourage single-use plastic bottles; an Integrated Pest Management program reduces/eliminates the use of dangerous pesticides while Bay-friendly planting is used on town property; and almost all of the town’s streets use energy efficient lighting. Representatives from Sustainable Contra Costa (www.sustainablecoco.org) gave the town council a presentation during the Oct. 28 meeting asking Moraga to become a sponsor and issuing a Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge to its residents. The town council agreed to sponsor at the \$1,500 level for the FY 2020-21. The funds will come out of the Planning Department’s consulting budget. Sustainable Contra Costa President/CEO Tina Neuhausel and Community Organizer Colleen Noland encourage residents to join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge (www.cleanercontracosta.org) in making Moraga even more sustainable for years to come. In order to join the challenge, residents

can go to the website and enroll as a household, business or team. SCOCO is currently working on a Moraga landing page, but in the meantime all participant efforts can be seen at the county level. User information is completely private and the best part of all, incentive prizes are rewarded. The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge began in 2019, sponsored not only by the county but by the cities of Walnut Creek, San Pablo and Antioch. Neuhausel estimates programs much like this one currently involve approximately 20 cities nationwide. Noland added, “There is the need to create a cleaner, healthier and more resilient community for tomorrow.” SCOCO’s goal is to use the challenge to help residents and businesses to realize the many cost-cutting actions to save water and energy. A sampling of several things citizens can do on the challenge include: telecommuting, choosing green electricity, eating lower down the carbon chain, taking shorter showers, recycling, composting, adjusting the thermostat, line drying clothes and turning off lights in an unoccupied room. Besides giving tips to residents, SCOCO has been involved in numerous presentations to schools and local organizations in an effort to spread the word for a more sustainable planet.


2020 Moraga Town Council election results posted

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council race had five candidates vying for three available positions in the Nov. 3 election. As of early results posted on Nov. 6, top vote-getter was Renata Sos with 5,518 votes (26.76%). Sos, an incumbent, was appointed to the Moraga Town Council in 2018. She

has also served as the town’s planning commissioner. David Stromberg garnered the second highest number of votes with 5,447 (26.42%). Stromberg has served two years on Moraga’s Design Review Board along with three years on the Planning Commission, including two years as its current chairperson. Teresa Onoda filled the

last position available with 4,705 votes (22.82%). Onoda has previously served on the Moraga Town Council between 2014-18 and was mayor in 2017. Kendall Langan received 3,928 votes (19.05%) followed by Ursula Schilling with 1,020 votes (4.95%). Final results will be certified Dec. 3.



Town Council Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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