

Ivy Drive crime spree continues; council to consider course of action

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council on Jan. 18 took the unusual step of making a matter brought to it in the public forum a matter initiated for its Feb. 1 agenda, going further and saying that it wanted nothing else on that agenda to distract from the issue raised by Ivy Drive resi-

dent Adam Reiner. When a resident brings a matter to the attention of the council, but it is not on the agenda, the council is prohibited from acting on it because it has not been publicly noticed. They may make it a matter initiated and instruct staff to place it on the agenda for the very next meeting.

Reiner both submitted written comments and appeared before the council at its Zoom meeting. He reported that "during the week of Jan. 10, the Ivy Drive neighborhood experienced three brazen home burglaries, some of which involved groups of three men breaking into homes. My next-door neighbor was one of the victims last week, even though they had locked their doors, kept lights on, etc. Two blocks away on Beaconsfield, we had a home invasion with three men entering the home. Video indicates that the alarm was triggered, and yet these three individuals seemed unfazed, while they stole family valuables from the home."

Reiner explained that last March several residents of the Ivy Drive neighborhood brought similar concerns to the city council and spoke with then Orinda police chief David Cook, who has since retired. "Coming out of these engagements, our understanding was that the police would be launching a neighborhood watch program." In addition, he said, the police chief committed to providing information on automatic li-

cense plate readers that could be deployed to assist the police after a crime. Such cameras are deployed in Wilder. However, "all this fizzled out, and we have no idea why such basic ideas all failed to gain traction."

According to Reiner, "the Ivy Drive area of Orinda has become a crime target like never before, and it's up to the city council to acknowledge the issue and then quickly develop an effective plan to address it." He also asked the city to consider setting up a crime prevention commission, as Lafayette has.

Another resident of the area spoke in support of Reiner. "We are living in fear," she said, "and it's just not okay. We just can't have it like this. Children are at home, parents have to go to the grocery store." She expressed shock that the matter is still under discussion after a year and nothing has been done to address residents' concerns.

Council Member Amy Worth noted that Orinda does have a public safety committee, consisting of herself and Vice Mayor Inga Miller. City manager David Biggs said that

the city is currently working on an update, looking back over 2021 and looking forward, focusing on crime statistics and use of force by police officers. That meeting should occur in February or March. He noted that the Orinda police department, like others, has been struggling to fill vacancies, but recently filled two, leaving only one vacancy for a vacation floater. He added that the police department is on top of the Ivy Drive area cases. "It is more than likely looking like an organized ring," Biggs said, but added that he couldn't say more because it is an active investigation. However, additional targeted patrols have been added.

Mayor Dennis Fay said, "This strikes home with all of us. All five council members live in Orinda, and we all feel concerned about this." Council Member Nick Kosla agreed that it should be a matter initiated, and that everything else can take second place so this matter can be addressed.

Unfortunately, the Feb. 1 meeting happened as this issue was going to press. It will be reported in the next issue of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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Turning attention to the five-year budget forecast, Robinson said, "We have an ongoing, what I call a structural deficit. We have between (\$2,000-\$10,000) dollars each year we expect revenues will be short, versus the uses." The net effect of that on the General Fund Reserve is a decrease of \$2-\$300K. By 2025, projections for the General Fund Reserves that most recent data shows is at 68% will dip below the city's 60% targeted limit.

Presenting that structural deficit along with core area maintenance and stormwater pollution prevention deficits, ARPA fund expenditure limitations, and ongoing shortfalls due to the lack of enough staffing to support and complete city council goals, anticipated lease negotiations and the need for more office space, the staff's report recommended creating new permanent positions to replace positions currently filled by consultants or limited duration employees.

The additional staff positions include a code enforcement officer, a senior associate planner, a construction planner, and the permanent positions of senior/associate engineer, senior planner, management analyst, and personnel analyst recommended by Management Partners earlier in the meeting (see related

story on Page A3).

Srivazta said the organizational assessment of city departments by Managing Partners that resulted in 34 recommendations will require review. "They are all worthwhile and worthy of consideration," she said, suggesting coming back to council with an update and plans for implementation in three months.

The staff's recommendation involving immediate action by the council prioritized approving and funding the four positions in Management Partners' assessment and approving Resolution 2022-02 adopting the final budget and workplan and confirming the city's investment policies related to approximately six factors.

Asked by Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok about salaries for the additional staff positions and whether or not the numbers had impact on what has been high turnover and low applicant numbers in similar positions, Robinson

said identifying the underlying explanation was "tricky."



People who relocate and therefore leave positions, high competition with other cities also seeking to fill planner and analyst positions, the lack of a career stepladder for cities of limited size, and other factors might explain the challenging task. Public comment heard by the council was mostly positive in support of adding the staff positions, with Lafayette resident Robert Lavoie urging the council to continue to use financial discretion such as looking for areas to save money through automation, determine if projects are permanent or temporary, taking advantage of office vacancies due to more people working at home, and other methods.

The council after more discussion unanimously approved adopting the Final Budget and Workplan that included the four new staff positions as well as the recommendations establishing the city's investment policy.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org

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, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 9 - Jan. 22

Alarms	40
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	23
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	16
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	60
Public/School Assembly Check	16
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	15
Welfare Check	21




Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Attempt - Grand Theft Vehicle Parts	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.	
Auto Burglary	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
900 Block Leland Dr.	
50 Block Lucas Ranch Rd.	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute	
600 Block Moraga Rd.	
Tc - No Details	
1St St./Deer Hill Rd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Pleasant Hill/Oak Hill	
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.	
4000 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
600 Block Moraga Rd., Mor.	
Other criminal activity	
Computer Fraud	
600 Block Doreen Way	
Forgery	
3100 Block Lucas Cir.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
1000 Block Rahara Dr	
Grand Theft	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
900 Block Village Center	
Identity Theft	
600 Block Sky Hy Cir.	
1000 Block Glen Rd.	
Police Department	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.	
3700 Block Highland Rd.	
3200 Block Springhill Rd.	
1100 Block N Thompson Rd.	
3300 Block Johnson Rd.	
Petty Theft From Veh	

3300 Block Beechwood Dr.	
Residential Burglary	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
3100 Block Windsor Ct.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
Vehicle Theft	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
1000 Block Orchard Rd.	
900 Block East St.	
1000 Block Brown Ave.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Noise	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Party	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.	
900 Block Condit Ct.	
3200 Block Burton Ct.	
Happy Valley Rd./Hester Ln.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Other	
H&S Violation	
10 Block Mountain View Pl.	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
Chase Bank Pit, Pit	
Mentally Ill Violent	
1000 Block Orchard Rd.	
Trespass	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
Lombard Ln/Reliez Valley Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Violation Restraining Ord	
3600 Block Brook St.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Jan. 11 - Jan. 24

Alarms	22
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	30
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	42
Patrol Req./Security Check	13
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Way/Hardie Dr.	
800 Block Villa Ln.	
Excessive Speed	
St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.	
Moraga Way/Iw Dr. (5)	
Moraga Way/School St.	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley	
Moraga Way/Viader Dr.	
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd., Laf	
Donald Dr./Carroll Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
St Marys College	
Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Safeway	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Ascot Dr./Ascot Pl.	
Tamper With Vehicle	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
40 Block Sullivan Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	



Other criminal activity

Burglary	
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	
Child Abuse	
Police Department	
Child Molest	
40 Block Sullivan Dr.	
Grand Theft	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Petty Theft	
400 Block Center St.	
Petty Theft From Veh	
Cvs Lafayette	
Warrant Arrest	
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
Not Available	
Loud Music	
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.	
Campolindo High School	
Loud Noise	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Loud Party	
Shuey Dr./Walford Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
40 Block Woodford Dr.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Homegoods	
Other	
Battery Sexual	
300 Block Park St.	
Mentally Ill Commit	
Not Available	
Unwanted Guest	
Safeway	
Violation Custody Order	
2100 Block Donald Dr. (2)	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon