

# City employee Therese Kain made the right call by dialing 911

By Lou Fancher



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

## Therese Kain on left with Mayor Dawson

Mayor Dawson at the council meeting on Feb. 26 recognized Therese Kain for the life-saving actions the engineering department assistant took following a phone call with a Lafayette resident on a day earlier in the month.

"It is my pleasure to introduce recognition for Therese Kain, who works in our staff. Therese, with her usual care and due diligence, encountered an unusual circumstance where she acted to help one of our residents in a time of need," Dawson said in her opening remarks.

On Feb. 2, while answering phone calls at the city office's front counter, Kain was discussing with a resident how to obtain a tree permit. During the conversation, the caller began to have difficulty communicating. Kain quickly became convinced the resident might be having a medical emergency, but the call ended before she could get more information. Her concern led her to pursue the matter, and by

searching a Planning Department database, she located the resident's address.

Kain placed an immediate call to 911 and gave the emergency operator the necessary information for sending emergency personnel. The EMT team found the resident, later self-identified at the city council meeting as Claudia Bubeck, at home by herself. She was transported to the hospital where it was determined she had suffered a stroke.

Dawson at the recognition ceremony invited public comment and the council first heard from Bubeck herself. She recounted her experience when discussing with Kain information about permitting related to trees on her property. She found herself "saying words that had no relationship to anything else and I was baffled." Bubeck felt fine and even so, sat down. Minutes later, the EMT's arrived. At the meeting, Bubeck turned from the podium to face Kain and thanked her for "being so quick on the mark."

Former Mayor Erling Horn spoke second, thanking Kain for her acute perception on the phone and calling her swift actions "remarkable." Mike Moran, director of engineering and public works, said Kain's investigative techniques were significant and administrative department assistant Dana Anderson remembered and recognized Kain's reserve and calmness that day.

In presenting the plaque, Dawson read the tribute aloud. Kain thanked all the medical first responder personnel involved, police chief Ben Alldritt, and others, and called it a "once in a lifetime happening." She thanked the resident for phoning the offices the following week to let staff know she was recovering and offered a tribute to the many "unheralded" 911 workers who assist and protect Lafayette's citizens.

# High speed chase from Lafayette to Orinda ends in injury crash with child in vehicle

By Sora O'Doherty

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office has no comment about why a robbery at a fast food restaurant in Lafayette was considered appropriate for a high speed chase that ended in an injury accident in Orinda with the discovery of a young child in the suspect vehicle.

At about 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, Lafayette police officers responded to a report of a robbery at a fast-food restaurant on the 3500 block of Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, according to Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office. That restaurant, which is the only one at that block, has been identified in social media as Taco Bell.

According to Lee, officers identified the suspect vehicle and determined it was involved in armed robberies in Solano and Marin Counties earlier. About 12 minutes after the robbery was reported, a Lafayette officer located the suspect vehicle traveling westbound on Highway 24. The vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed, leading the officer on a pursuit that went west on Camino Pablo to-

ward El Sobrante.

On Camino Pablo in Orinda the suspect vehicle collided with another car traveling in the opposing lane. Police arrested two suspects, 24-year-old Black male, Jajuan Ojeda of Oakland and 39-year-old Black female, Aevra Traylor of Sacramento. They also discovered a 7-year-old boy in the suspect vehicle who was identified as the child of the driver. Ojeda and Traylor were booked into the Martinez Detention Facility and are facing charges that include robbery, felony evasion, and child endangerment. Both also had multiple warrants for their arrest.

The driver of the vehicle who was struck on San Pablo Dam Road was taken to the hospital as a precaution.

When asked why this incident was deemed suitable for a high speed chase, or if the officers involved knew about the child in the car, the Sheriff's Office offered no comment. No information is available about whether the child was returned to his family or taken into care. The investigation is ongoing. Both suspects remain in custody at the time of publication.



## The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill several volunteer positions.

- Citizens Advisory Committee to CCTA
- Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Senior Services Commission
- Transportation & Circulation Commission

For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website [lovelafayette.org/volunteers](http://lovelafayette.org/volunteers) or e-mail [cityhall@lovelafayette.org](mailto:cityhall@lovelafayette.org)

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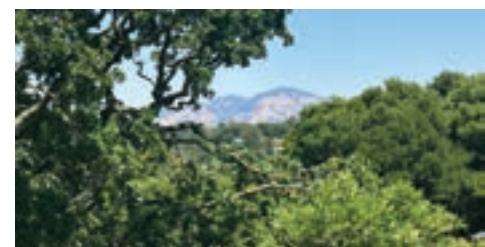


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