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August 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Community Policing

As we start to fall back into our autumn routines, one topic we have been discussing with members of our police department is community policy, just one component of the San Francisco Police Department's strategic plan. Members of the community have been sharing their ideas about what community policing is, examining best practices and discussing why community policing is more important now than ever before.



Community policing is a philosophy that starts with trust and mutual respect between the police and community. This sets the foundation for both sides to develop partnerships that focus on better problem solving and crime prevention. It empowers beat officers to familiarize themselves with the communities they serve and to be creative about solving issues as they arise. In our experience, both sides need to see a mutual benefit from working together - i.e. crime rates go down and the perception of safety in our communities improves.

We are still gathering best practices, but there are certainly many opportunities to engage with your local police department, including events such as National Night Out, BBQs, youth programs, police advisory committees and certainly meetings - focused not on complaining about the issues, but on problem solving and sharing data.

One program that we have launched in Union Square, that has added value and strengthened our partnership with the police, is our security camera program. By installing a network of 350+ cameras in our district, we can provide video footage of crimes directly to the police and other law enforcement officials. This has led to more arrests and the ability to build stronger cases against chronic offenders. Our Ambassadors still serve as the "eyes and ears" for the police, but now we have a better sense of what is happening 24/7 in our district and can use this information to help solve crimes.

As police departments are under scrutiny nationwide for some high-profile incidents and their own resources for staffing are down, it is important to work in partnership to make our communities safer. This is especially true with many of the quality of life incidents we all experience where there is not a simple law enforcement solution, but a need to involve public health officials and other resources.

As always, I welcome your thoughts on community policing, what has worked in your individual districts and what success stories you have to share.

Sincerely,



Karin Flood
Executive Director
Union Square BID
karin@unionsquarebid.com

Have a news story or a project you'd like to highlight in the *CDA District Digest*?

[E-mail us today!](#)

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Downtown Oakland Association/ Lake Merritt
Uptown District Association
Downtown Oxnard Merchants Association
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Downtown San Diego Partnership
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San Luis Obispo Downtown Association
South Park BID
The Downtown Burbank Partnership
The Placemaking Group
The River District

CDA POLICY CORNER

Countdown To End Of 2017 Legislation Session Begins; But, High Stakes Bills Remain In Play

August 21-September 15 is the homestretch before the Legislature adjourns the 2017 legislative session. The following key dates are deadlines to anticipate.

- September 1: Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Assembly and Senate Floors
- September 5-15: Assembly and Senate Floor Session only
- September 8: Last day to amend a bill on the Floor
- September 15 : Last day for any bill to be passed, Legislature adjourns for the year
- October 15: Last day for the Governor to sign or veto all Legislation

PRIORITY LEGISLATION FOR CDA

CDA'S GRASSROOTS ADVOCAY EFFORTS UNDERWAY ON BILL TO ADD CIVIL LIABILITY PROVISION TO CA'S PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

AB 1479 (Bonta, D-Oakland) - Civil Liability, Public Records Request Act

The bill allows a court to assess a civil penalty against any agency in the amount of not less than \$1,000 to no more than \$5,000, which shall be awarded to the requester, if the court found that an agency or non-profit organization knowingly and willfully failed to respond to the PRA request. CDA has taken an "oppose unless amended" position on the bill and we are asking for a specific amendment to protect non-profit organizations from the civil liability provisions in the bill.

The bill was heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on August 21 and was sent to the "Suspense File" which places the bill on hold until the Committee votes up-or-down on all of the bills during the final Appropriations hearing on September 1st. CDA is coordinating advocacy efforts directly with the Chair of the Committee, Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Long Beach).

We received very good news when the Department of Finance (DOF), which serves as the Governor's chief fiscal policy advisor, who issued an "oppose" position on the bill. The DOF analysis stated, "...by creating a cause of action whereby plaintiffs can seek a direct pecuniary benefit, this bill increases the likelihood of frivolous PRA requests and lawsuits." We couldn't agree more - and CDA's advocacy efforts will continue to oppose the bill unless an amendment is taken to protect non-profit organizations like PBIDs/CBDs. We would like to thank the members of CDA who have submitted letters and assisted with this important advocacy effort.

SUPPORT

SB 611 (Hill, D-San Mateo) - Reforms to the Disabled Parking Placard Program

This bill will implement recommendations of the California State Auditor that are designed to improve oversight of disabled driver placards and plates that enable users to park in more accessible spaces and park free at meters without time limits. Specifically, the bill will, a) require DMV to conduct quarterly audits of applications and work with state health boards in analyzing applications to ensure that information is accurate, b) require DMV to use the Social Security Administration's Death Master File to cancel placards whose permit holders have died, c) require all permanent placard holders (not license plate holders) to reapply every 6 years, d) require applicants to provide proof of their name and DOB through driver's license or birth certificate, e) limit replacement cards per person to 4 every 2 years. The bill has been approved by the Assembly policy committee and will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations on August 23. Should it be approved by the Appropriations Committee, it will be heard on the Assembly Floor in early September.

SB 2 (Atkins, D-San Diego) - Affordable Housing

The bill would enact the "Building Homes and Jobs Act" and impose a fee of \$75, not to exceed \$225 per transaction, at the time of recording of specified real estate documents in order to generate approximately \$200-\$300m annually to fund affordable housing projects. Funds would be deposited in the Housing and Community

Tracy City Center Association
Tulare Downtown Association
Ukiah Main Street Program
Union Square BID
Urban Place Consulting Group,
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Vista Village Business
Association
Walnut Creek Downtown
Business Association
Westwood Village Improvement
Association
Wilshire Center Business
Improvement District

Development's Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund to support eligible affordable housing projects. The bill was approved by the Senate and now heads to the Assembly where it will be eligible to be heard in policy committee and the Assembly Floor in the coming weeks.

Jason Bryant
Bryant Government Affairs
August 2017 Legislative Update

IN THE NEWS

Why You Should Stick Your Hand in This Mystery Box at the Bus Stop

Los Angeles Magazine

What does gentrification smell like? Lavender, coffee, cocoa, and vanilla, says former LADOT artist-in-residence Alan Nakagawa.

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Shoreline Gateway East Tower, Long Beach's Tallest Building, Set to Break Ground

Longbeachize

The second phase of one of the largest developments in Long Beach at Ocean and Alamitos will be breaking ground soon-and bring the...

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Fate of 21 National Monuments Will Land on Trump's Desk this Week

The Sacramento Bee

The Trump administration this week is expected to release plans for potentially shrinking or revoking the status of 21 national...

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The Word on the Street: Show your Love for Local

Daily Journal

Ukiah Main Street Program has completed a part of our refreshed marketing and branding.

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San Diego Launching National Search for Next Police Chief

The San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego is launching a national search for the city's next police chief, who will replace Chief Shelley Zimmerman when she retires...

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If Sacramento Must Take on 'Aggressive Panhandling,' Then Do It This Way

The Sacramento Bee

No one should have to be followed down the street by a homeless person asking for money or screamed at while having a nice dinner...

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SF Officials Break Ground on Tenderloin Family Housing Project

San Francisco Examiner

San Francisco officials broke ground Tuesday on a new affordable housing project in the Tenderloin that will provide 113 much-needed...

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The Rise of the Super Commuter

The New York Times

Commute times have shot up across the country, but California has seen some of the worst of it.

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The Million-Dollar Neighborhood

Public Square

Walkable mixed-use neighborhoods help families build wealth-enough to help fund big-ticket items like college and retirement.

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Walmart Dives into Voice-Activated Shopping with Google

East Bay Times

Walmart is diving into voice-activated shopping. But unlike online leader Amazon, it's not doing it alone.

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How Cities Can Rebuild the Social Safety Net

CityLab

In an age of employment uncertainty and a growing income gap, urban America needs to find new ways to support its citizens.

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During Divisive Political Times, Eclipse Unifies Southern Californians

CBS Los Angeles

The Southland may not have been in the "path of totality" but we still had a great view of the Great American Solar Eclipse.

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California has a Climate Problem, and its Name is Cars

Vox

Further decarbonization means wrestling with transportation.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCE NEWS

Breakout Sessions have been posted for the IDA Annual Conference & Tradeshow taking place September 13-15, 2017 in Winnipeg, MB. Sessions including CDA Members are:

- [Calculating the Value of US Downtowns and Center Cities](#), featuring **Steve Welliver**, Deputy Chief Executive, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.
- [NIMBYs, Elites and Socialists, Oh My!: How Downtown Organizations are Navigating New Political Turbulence](#) featuring **John Caner**, CEO, Downtown Berkeley Association.

Learn more about sessions and other conference highlights by clicking [here](#).

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Marketing & Communications Manager, IDA

Do you have your ear to the ground when it comes to the latest downtown news in your region?
To submit news to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact Allison Shashok at allison@downtown.org.

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