



**Joint Meeting
Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees/Visalia City Council**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 - Visalia Convention Center - 303 E. Acequia

5:00 p.m. Dinner - Executive Board Room (Elected officials and senior staff)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting (San Joaquin B, C, D)

City of Visalia

Mayor: Jesus J. Gamboa
Vice Mayor: Greg Kirkpatrick
Council Member: Greg Collins
Council Member: Donald K. Landers
Council Member: Bob Link

Visalia Unified School District

President: Donna Martin
Clerk: Michael Lane
Board Member: Rodney Elder
Board Member: Juan Guerrero
Board Member: Larry Jones
Board Member: Jim L. Qualls
Board Member: Robert Stephenson

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTIONS/COMMENTS

CITIZENS REQUESTS - This is the time for members of the public to comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Visalia Unified School District Board/Visalia City Council. The Board Members and Council ask that you keep your comments brief and positive. The Board/Council members cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen request items that are introduced tonight. In fairness to all who wish to speak tonight, each speaker from the public will be allowed three minutes or a total of 20 minutes per topic. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your address.

1. VUSD Annual School Report to the Community – Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent, VUSD
2. Pinkham/Walnut Signage/Signal Update – Eric Bons, Engineering Department, City of Visalia
3. Youth Service Officers/School Administration 2007 Orientation Meeting – Police Chief Bob Carden, City of Visalia

4. VUSD Summer Facilities Update – Randy Groom, Director Administrative Services, VUSD (*written material, if any, will be distributed at the meeting*)
5. Update on Riverway Sports Park Opening – Vince Elizondo, Director Parks and Recreation, City of Visalia
6. Police Sub-Station Openings Update – Police Chief Bob Carden, City of Visalia
7. Gang Suppression, Intervention, and Education Update – Police Chief Bob Carden, City of Visalia

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming City Council Meetings

- Monday, September 24, 2007, 5:00 p.m. - Joint Meeting of Visalia City Council/Tulare City Council/ Tulare County Board of Supervisors/ Tulare Irrigation District/ Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District – Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia
- Monday, October 1, 2007, Work Session 4:00/Regular Session 7:00 – City Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia
- Monday, October 15, 2007, Work Session 4:00/Regular Session 7:00 – City Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia

City of Visalia Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: September 18, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk):

Agenda Item Wording: Status report for the intersection of Pinkham Street and Walnut Avenue.

Deadline for Action: Not Applicable

Submitting Department: Public Works Department,
Traffic Safety Division

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director, 713-4340
Eric Bons, Senior Civil Engineer, 713-4350

Background

City traffic engineers anticipate that there will be a significant increase in traffic on Pinkham Street when the new elementary school opens on Pinkham and Laura. Much of the new traffic will pass through the Pinkham and Walnut intersection. This intersection already carries high traffic volumes. The new school will also bring added pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the intersection. A new traffic signal is planned to be installed at this important intersection. Funds for new signal were allocated from "Gas Tax revenues" when the City budget was approved in June 2006. The project was scheduled in the budget for fiscal year 2007/2008.

City staff recently performed a traffic study at this intersection which determined that all-way stop control was warranted. New stop signs were installed on the Walnut Avenue approaches on August 28, 2007.

The traffic signal is scheduled to be installed and functional before school opens next August. City staff has selected a consultant to design the signal. The project scope and fee amount is being negotiated. Staff anticipates that the agreement will be executed within the next two weeks. The design work will take approximately two to three months. The schedule calls for the project to be advertised for construction bids in late December, 2007 or early January, 2008. The project will be awarded to the low bidder in late February, 2008. The City will order the traffic signal equipment in advance of awarding the contract in order to compress the construction schedule. The hardware usually takes about 90 days to procure so construction will start in May. The project is scheduled to be completed in late July.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 2

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

City Manager Recommendation:

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected): Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Funding Source: Gas Tax Fund (1111)

Budget Recap:

Total Estimated cost:	\$225,000	New Revenue:	\$
Amount Budgeted:	\$225,000	Lost Revenue:	\$
New funding required:	\$ 0	New Personnel:	\$
Council Policy Change:	Yes _____	No	<u>X</u>

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review: No

NEPA Review: No

Tracking Information: (*Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date*)

None



Item #3

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 4, 2007

To: Visalia City Council
Visalia Unified School District Board

From: Bob Carden, Chief of Police

Subject: 2007 Visalia Police Department/Visalia Unified School District
Orientation Meeting

On Wednesday, August 29, 2007, the Visalia Police Department Youth Service Officers met with the principal and vice-principals from each school site to discuss the responsibilities of a Youth Services Officer. Also present at the meeting were Visalia Unified School Superintendent Stan Carrizosa, Director of Student Services Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, Police Lieutenant Perry Phipps and Police Sergeant Ernie Villa, as well as other School District administration personnel.

The meeting began with the introduction of the nine officers who are assigned to the Youth Services Unit. Each officer is assigned to a specific school site or multiple school sites and are responsible for any police actions at the school. YSO's also attend off-site school functions such as athletic events and social events.

The structure of the meeting consisted of a Power Point presentation conducted by Sergeant Ernie Villa outlining the daily activities of a Youth Services Officer, including the characteristics of when an arrest is made and what happens to the student after the arrest. Sergeant Villa also identified that the goal is to educate the student on proper behavior and actions with non-enforcement alternatives when possible.

Lieutenant Perry Phipps discussed with the group about the school site as being a "focal" point in each neighborhood and that its influence and responsibilities extend beyond the fencing around the school property. This thought fuels the idea that a YSO may have to leave the school site to assist in an incident that may influence school activities. Lieutenant Phipps also conveyed his desire to open the communication process with the school district

and become more of a family environment where the communication is seamless and required for proper functioning.

In closing, Superintendent Carrizosa and Lieutenant Phipps agreed that the primary focus and responsibility of a YSO is to ensure the safety of the school site.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

BC/cm

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: September 18, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 5

Agenda Item Wording: Grand Opening Of The Visalia Riverway Sports Park Project

Submitting Department: Visalia Parks & Recreation Department

Contact Name and Phone Number: Vincent Elizondo, Director of Parks & Recreation, 713-4367

For action by:

- City Council
- Redev. Agency Bd.
- Cap. Impr. Corp.
- VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

- Work Session
- Closed Session
- Regular Session:
 - Consent Calendar
 - Regular Item
 - Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): _____

Department Summary:

The much anticipated grand opening of the Visalia Riverway Sports Park took place on Saturday morning, August 25, 2007. The new park, located on north Dinuba Boulevard and Riverway Avenue, had an overflow crowd of over 8,000 people visit the park throughout the day.

The initial phase of the project includes the development of 48 acres on the eastern side of the park adjacent to Dinuba Boulevard. The total park acreage is 83 acres. The initial phase includes the development of ten (10) soccer fields, of which three (3) fields have state-of-the-art athletic lighting.

Other Phase I park amenities include a soon-to-be unique one-of-a-kind playground modeled under the nationally recognized Leathers Playground concept; three sheltered group picnic facilities; an interactive water playground; another smaller children's playground; a BMX (bicycle) racing track; concession and restroom facilities; off street parking for 300+ vehicles; a Heritage Courtyard; and many other unique park features.

AYSO has begun using the complex for league play on Saturday's. Other major users include the CYSA (Neighborhood Church) program; City adult soccer leagues; COS varsity soccer play; and a host of other organized users.

The park got off to a roaring start during the Labor Day weekend as CYSA held a state tournament that attracted 64 teams. The majority of the games were played at the sports park, with tournament games also held at the Neighborhood Church facility.

This document last revised: 09/14/07 9:04:00 AM

By author: velizondo

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The Leathers Playground project is scheduled to be an ambitious five day project that will run from September 18-23. The six-day project will include hundreds of community volunteers coming together to build the playground.

Council Approves Phase II

On June 18, 2007, the Council authorized City staff to proceed with the construction and bid documents for Phase II of the project. Phase II will be located in the northwest section of the park and will feature four youth baseball fields; support amenities such as restrooms and concession facilities; and additional parking and roadway improvements.

If authorized by the Council, Phase II could also include the athletic lighting for two more additional soccer fields; lighting for the BMX track; or an additional group picnic area and playground for this section of the park. This decision will be made at a future date.

A preliminary budget of \$5.8 million dollars has been established for Phase II. Funding for the next phase construction will be requested in the spring of 2008 as part of the City's 2008-10 bi-annual budget. Construction could begin by the Fall of 2008.

Future Phases

At the June 18 Council meeting, the Council inquired about future phases of development. Future phases of construction will depend on a number of factors including available funding and emerging trends in youth and adult sports.

As currently planned, the Phase III would be the development of the southwest portion of the park to include four regulation sized lighted softball fields. These fields could also be utilized for youth softball play as well. If funding is appropriated, this phase would be constructed during the 2010-12 time frame.

The final phase would include the central section of the park and is earmarked for a recreation center and an aquatic complex. Again, this is subject to change depending on emerging issues and needs in the community. This phase would probably be developed after 2012.

Review and Approval - As needed:

Department Head Review (Signature):

City Attorney Review (Signature):

City Manager (Signature):



Item #6

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2007

To: Visalia City Council
Visalia Unified School District Board

From: Bob Carden, Chief of Police

Subject: Police Sub-Station Openings Update

The Police Department is pleased to announce that our two new Police Sub-Stations are now operational and serving the public. As you are aware, a dedication ceremony was held at Sub-Station 1, located at 204 N.W. 3rd Street, on August 6th. Many dignitaries, the Measure T Committee, and numerous officers and citizens were in attendance. Following an official ribbon cutting, all in attendance were invited to tour the station while some of the children played in the new Rotary fountain.

Sub-Station 2, located at 4100 S. County Center, was officially opened on August 27th. An open house will be conducted on September 27th, starting at 3:00 P.M., and will serve as an opportunity to again thank Measure T supporters and introduce the station to area businesses and residents.

Lieutenant Michele Figueroa has been selected as the Commander of Sub-Station 1 and Lieutenant Steve Puder is the newly appointed Commander of Sub-Station 2. Both sub-stations have a full complement of officers and front office staff.

We continue to move forward with plans to expand our Community Policing efforts, and feel that these two new Sub-Stations will play a major role in the success of the program.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at your convenience.

BC/cm



Item 7

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: September 5, 2007

To: Visalia City Council
Visalia Unified School District Board

From: Bob Carden, Chief of Police

Subject: Gang Suppression, Intervention, Education Update

On Monday, August 20, 2007, Assistant Chief of Police Dennis Swiney presented an update on Visalia Police Department gang suppression, intervention, and education strategies to the Visalia City Council. This presentation provided an overview of the efforts that were made between July 8th and August 15th in response to a spike in gang violence in early July. In addition, this presentation highlighted redeployment efforts by the Visalia Police Department in order to sustain enforcement measures on gangs and to maximize efficient uses of current resources.

The following strategies are in place or in the implementation stages at this time:

- Creation of the Special Enforcement Bureau that includes the Gang Suppression Unit (formerly the Special Enforcement Unit); the Narcotics Unit (redeployed from the Investigations Division); GREAT Program Officer (Gang Resistance Education and Training) which had been previously assigned to Youth Services in the Investigation Division.
- Thirteen gang suppression details involving allied agency assistance through MAGNET (Multi-Agency Gang Network Enforcement Team) and the Tulare County Gang Task Force have been conducted between July 8th and September 2nd.
- Increased efforts with Probation & Parole searches targeting known gang offenders.
- Evaluating the feasibility of gang injunctions within the City of Visalia. The Visalia Police Department is working closely with the City Attorney's Office and District Attorney's Office to pursue the use of the gang injunction process. The gang injunction

process would allow a civil judgment to be obtained against an identified criminal street gang and allow the court to impose court ordered restrictions targeting activities of identified/noticed gang members. This includes, but is not limited to association with other gang members, curfew, consumption of alcohol/drugs, wearing/displaying gang colors, signs, etc., and intimidation.

- Funds approved for the assignment of a Probation Officer to the Gang Suppression Unit. A Memorandum of Understanding between Probation and VPD is under construction at this time, and pending approval of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.
- GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program is in progress at schools in the Visalia Unified School District to teach kids between 2nd and 6th grades to avoid the gang lifestyle.
- LOOP (Local Organization Outreach Program) Bus is providing safe transportation for kids to and from Community Centers in Visalia after school and on Saturdays.
- Visalia Police Youth Services Officers have extended their shifts to an hour before and after school to provide greater presence around the schools to prevent gang violence. In addition, the YSO's were assigned to the Community Centers during the summer months allowing them to build relationships and provide a police presence with kids at the centers.
- Visalia Gang Prevention Task Force continues to work towards intervention and prevention strategies through a variety of community resources.

Gang suppression efforts that have occurred between July 8th and September 2nd have resulted in 179 gang related arrests, 99 of those for felonies, and 7 homicide arrests. These efforts have been the result of a cooperative effort between the Visalia Police Department and 10 other state and local law enforcement agencies.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

BC/cm