



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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DATE: October 9, 2012
TO: Board of Supervisors

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SUBJECT: THE *LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO* SAFETY STRATEGY AGENDA: LIVING SAFELY(DISTRICT: ALL)

SUMMARY:

Overview

A County that is Healthy, Safe and Thriving is the vision that guides the County of San Diego. On July 13, 2010 (10) this County embarked upon *Live Well San Diego* - a 10-year initiative that guides County services in support of healthy, safe and thriving communities – with your Board’s adoption of the Health Strategy Agenda: Building Better Health. *Live Well San Diego* is designed to advance the overall well-being of the entire region.

The second part of *Live Well San Diego* is the **Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely**. The Living Safely strategy addresses both the community’s perception of overall safety in San Diego, as well as the actual incidence of crime, injury and abuse. It broadens our view of safety to facilitate how we interact with our residents and provide information that enables them to be proactive in their own safety. It will facilitate collaborative and cooperative policy development across various public agencies and with our private sector partners to support enhanced policy and program alignment. Most importantly, it communicates our shared policy approach to make our communities safer, to ensure that we are proactively working together to achieve a shared vision of a protected, safe and resilient San Diego.

Today’s action presents the County’s Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely. If approved, it will serve as the County’s blueprint for improving the incident and perception of safety and overall quality of life over the next decade. This plan is focused on achieving three key outcomes over time, with the fundamental goal of making San Diego County one of the safest communities in the nation. To this end, we are committed to a San Diego region where:

- Residents are *protected* from crime or abuse;

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- Neighborhoods are *safe* to work, live and play; and
- Communities are *resilient* to disasters and emergencies

Recommendation(s)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive and approve the County’s Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this request. The Safety Strategy is a framework for action for all County departments that will focus on optimizing existing resources, delivering services smarter, and informing residents about the actions they can take and choices they can make to lead safer lives. Improving safety will lead to improved quality of life and result in significant savings to taxpayers.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The impacts of crime, abuse, and serious injuries can have lasting harm, and in the most serious cases, result in a preventable loss of life. All over the nation the problems associated with crime and safety issues provide ongoing challenges for the public sector as well as key business groups, community organizations and residents. Annual spending on law enforcement and related safety programs in San Diego alone runs into the billions of dollars. However, this does not take into account the difficult to measure human costs of crime and safety, including significant emotional costs affecting victims, their families and the broader community.

While San Diego is by national standards a safe region, the Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely emphasizes that we can always work better together in order to keep San Diego County one of the safest communities in the nation. The Living Safely strategy addresses both the community’s perception of overall safety in San Diego, as well as the actual incidence of crime and injury. It broadens our view of safety to facilitate how we interact with our residents and provide information that enables them to be proactive in their own safety. It will facilitate collaborative and cooperative policy development across various public agencies and with our private sector partners to support enhanced policy and program alignment. In addition, it communicates our shared policy approach to make our communities safer, to ensure that we are traveling in the same direction, toward the same vision.

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fundamental goal of making San Diego County one of the safest communities in the nation. To this end, we are committed to a San Diego region where:

- Residents are *protected* from crime or abuse;
- Neighborhoods are *safe* to work, live and play; and
- Communities are *resilient* to disasters and emergencies.

Residents are *protected* from crime or abuse

At heart of reducing crime and abuse is the goal of reducing victimization. Crime and abuse can affect all of us, either as direct victims ourselves, or indirectly, as friends or family members of those who have been victimized, or as witnesses to a crime. The associated costs of crime not only impact our use of limited public resources, but also results in significant social costs that can impact well-being and quality of life within our communities.

Criminal justice and social service agencies within San Diego are committed to a coordinated, collaborative approach to create a region where residents are protected from crime and abuse. Agencies within this County have already made an unprecedented commitment to working together to develop and implement strategies that improve public safety. Locally, our strategy has advanced a balanced-approach model that reduces crime by holding offenders accountable while providing them access to rehabilitation. In addition, we will work towards stronger coordination between County services to better identify and target those at risk of victimization, abuse and neglect, and enhance response and support services for those impacted.

Neighborhoods are *safe* to work, live and play

Tackling safety issues in our region requires more than solely efforts to prevent crime and abuse. Serious injuries and preventable deaths continue to be a major concern in San Diego. Nationally, preventable injuries send nearly 27 million Americans to hospital emergency rooms every year. In 2011, nearly half of all deaths investigated by the County's Medical Examiner were caused by accidents, such as car crashes and drowning. The personal devastation caused by a disabling injury or injury-related death is compounded by the actual costs and related economic burdens. Abuse and other traumatic events cause serious and lasting harm; exposure to abuse and traumatic events exacts a heavy toll, and can shorten life-spans.

The Living Safely strategy aims to improve outcomes by facilitating stronger social ties within neighborhoods to reduce isolation and supporting community design that promotes safety. In addition, this strategy calls for promoting safety in the home and workplace, empowering individuals to lead safer lives. These efforts include addressing safety in our own workplace by incorporating protection into County employee wellness initiatives to maintain a healthy, safe and productive workforce.

Communities are *resilient* to disasters and emergencies

Along with San Diego's idyllic location and weather comes the significant risk of natural and man-made disasters. Within the past decade, San Diego has endured two major firestorms that

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have resulted in significant losses. The topography and geographic location makes the San Diego region highly susceptible to wildfires, earthquakes, environmental and public health threats.

The County of San Diego has undertaken significant efforts to improve our region's ability to respond to emergencies and disasters. Still, natural and man-made risks show few signs of abating. With the financial burdens faced by our region, and across the nation, the County is challenged to think strategically and collaboratively about how we support local and regional efforts to leverage partnerships and empower public engagement.

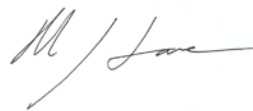
This strategy recognizes that disaster preparedness, at both the community and personal level, is critical to the overall safety and resiliency of the region. Resiliency requires implementation of effective preparedness programs and incident management. But it also requires leadership from our public agencies and public engagement, well before incidents occur. Public engagement is not new and has been an integral part of our strategy in San Diego, but this initiative emphasizes a commitment to strengthening resiliency through civil and community preparedness.

The County's Safety Strategy is about expanding our approach to safety - it communicates our shared policy approach to make our communities safer, to ensure that we are proactively working together to achieve a shared vision of a protected, safe and resilient San Diego. The Safety Strategy is designed to be a cooperative approach with all our local partners, agencies, and most importantly, our residents. All County departments play a role in improving the safety of residents and this plan unifies activities to promote how we can all live safely.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

This requested action is in alignment with the County of San Diego's 2012-17 Strategic Plan. Live Well San Diego and the Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely establish a comprehensive framework that guides our approach to safety in the region. The strategy sets a course for building a better service-delivery system that is innovative, maximizes quality and eliminates waste to improve the safety of our region, and a path that supports positive outcomes, safe living, and policy changes for a safe environment.

Respectfully submitted,



for

WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Safety Strategy Agenda: Living Safely

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

July 13, 2010 (10) - Health Strategy Agenda: Building Better Health

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Safety Group Executive Office

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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