

March 14, 2001

4:11:02 p.m./3850t2

R9K Discussion Regarding Dennis Donegan's Letter on Quality of Life Problems in North Beach.  
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(Requested by Commissioner Jose Smith)

ACTION: Commissioner Smith referenced the letter written by Dennis and Mimi Donegan regarding North Beach safety and quality of life issues. Specific issues include drug dealing, panhandling, vagrants blocking the sidewalk, closed or abandoned property, and the two fatalities on Harding Avenue.

Chief Barreto addressed each of the properties identified in the Donegan's letter. Regarding the homeless issue, there are a lot of businesses selling alcoholic beverages which contribute to the problems. The Legal Department has resolved the Salvation Army contract issues. This will address some of the homeless issues and it will have a visible impact in the area. The Department has also put into place a zero tolerance program for panhandling. He also stated the Graffiti program which will also have an impact on the quality of life.

Chief Barreto spoke about the fatalities on 79th and 78th Streets and Harding Avenue. He stated that both accidents were caused by drinking impaired drivers. He also stated that there is a 10 block stretch on Harding Ave. which can be driven without hitting a single red traffic light. Harding Ave. is a major north south artery and recommended that the City contact FDOT to have the traffic signal lights changed, crosswalks added, install additional traffic signals, and add signage. Traffic enforcement in the area has been increased. Chief Barreto and Joseph Johnson to contact FDOT.

Vice-Mayor Garcia suggested that a community workshop be held for the North Beach area to address safety and quality of life issues. The meeting needs to be advertised to ensure community participation. Chief Barreto to handle.

Carlos Corea, an area resident, asked for the support of the City Commission to take the necessary actions to try to correct some of the traffic problems and thanked the Commission for their support.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to prepare a resolution requesting FDOT to immediately take the necessary steps to adjust the traffic light signalization on Harding Ave.; seconded by Commissioner Liebman; Voice vote: 5-0; Absent: Mayor Kasdin and Commissioner Cruz. Legal Department to handle.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to refer to the Neighborhoods Committee a request for the Administration to develop a plan for the area addressing traffic calming measures such as signage, parking, crosswalks, and any other item which may be needed; seconded by Commissioner Dermer; Voice vote 5-0; Absent: Mayor Kasdin and Commissioner Cruz. Ronnie Singer to handle.

Handout:

1. Petitions submitted to Commission Garcia
2. Color photos of some of the trouble spots

June 27, 2001

C6B Commission Memorandum No. 388-01

Report of the Neighborhoods Committee Meeting of June 4, 2001: 1) Discussion Regarding the Lower North Bay Road/Sunset Islands/Alton Road "No Left Turn" Sign and 20th Street Improvements; and 2) Discussion Regarding Short and Long Term Recommendations to Improve Conditions on Harding Avenue.

ACTION: Written reports accepted. Fred Beckmann to handle.