

MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S NOISE TASK FORCE

Thursday, May 21, 2009
10-11:30 AM, Room 278, City Hall

Task Force Members Present:

DPH, Thomas Rivard
DPH, Patrick Fosdahl
DPW, Nancy George
Film Commission, Christina Monday
Entertainment Commission, Bob Davis
Planning, Christine Haw
Park and Recreation, Denny Kern
City Attorney, Cecilia Mangoba
311, Scott Oswald
Board of Supervisors, Sheila Chung Hagen

Motorcycle Noise Enforcement Program:

Tom Rivard reported that he had met with Sgt. Bob Guinan of Traffic Enforcement. At the meeting, Tom had agreed to train a group of motorcycle police officers assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Division. The training was conducted on 5/20 and approximately 12 officers attended the training. The training was designed to help the officers quickly identify excessive motorcycle noise without the aid of a decibel meter. These trained officers will conduct an enhanced noise enforcement effort in the Fishermen's Warf area on May 30, 2009. Drivers of motorcycles producing excessive noise will be issued "fix it" tickets.

Siren Noise:

Tom Rivard reported that he had attended a meeting with Supervisor Chiu regarding the siren noise in the Tenderloin. Arrangements have been made to track emergency response vehicles and coordinate the intersection traffic lights to correspond with the vehicle routes. This will allow the vehicles to safely traverse the intersections without using excessive siren noise. The system will be piloted on Polk and O'Farrell streets.

A question was asked about the status of the Emergency Medical System's policy of dispatching two paramedics to every medical call. This policy was discussed and Sheila Chung Hagen agreed to contact a representative from EMS to attend our next Task Force Meeting.

Place of Entertainment Permits:

Bob Davis discussed the problem of patrons leaving places of entertainment late at night and producing noise that is disturbing the surrounding neighborhoods. He discussed the difficulties in trying to control this type of noise. Nancy George mentioned that people leaving noisy environments, such as exist at night clubs, can experience a

temporary hearing threshold shift. People experiencing this temporary shift tend to speak very loudly because their hearing has become attenuated. Bob mentioned that it would be helpful to have parking lots closer to these venues and to provide more public transit during these late night hours. Bob also mentioned that the smoking ordinance has forced the smokers outside of the bars and clubs which created more noise in the neighborhoods.

Planning Projects

Tom Rivard mentioned that there is a draft proposal for a new Candlestick Park to be built on the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard land. Tom stated that as this project begins to take shape that it will require input from the Noise Task Force.

Night Construction Noise Permit Policy:

Rassendyll Dennis of DPW explained the proposed changes in the night construction noise permit process for DPW. Tom suggested that a meeting take place with him, Nancy George (DPW) and Laurence Kornfield (DBI) to discuss the issue of night time construction and noise.

Bob Davis mentioned that DPW had an employee (Alex Peterson) who used to monitor the night time noise at construction sites. It was mentioned that this practice seemed to be a good way of ensuring that there was not an excessive amount of noise at these construction sites.

Emergency and Special Event Electrical Generators:

Tom Rivard stated that there is a need for producing a specialized standard for back up generators. It was suggested that Laurence Kornfield, Bob Davis and Tom meet as a subcommittee to review this issue and generate possible recommendations to the Task Force.

Helicopter and Helipad Noise:

It was mentioned that both General Hospital and the new Mission Bay development have discussed the possibility of installing pads for helicopters.

Christina Munday from the Film Commission mentioned that there is a new series (Trauma) being filmed in San Francisco which will involve trauma scene helicopters. Christina explained that the pilot episode for the series involved a good deal of helicopter film footage but that the actual filming for the series would not require as much helicopter usage. The question was raised regarding news helicopters being required to use pool footage as opposed to having each news carrier utilize separate helicopters. It was generally believed that the news agency wanted unique footage and would not share footage.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.