



From: Silicon Valley De-Bug [svdebug@newamericamedia.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 4:15 PM
To: Figone, Debra
Cc: Al Morales; Duenas, Norberto; Katashima, Anne; Barbara Black; Carla Cisi; Santana, Deanna; Dolores Carr; Edward Flores; Azevedo, Ernest; Rios, George; Jeff Moore; Jorge Wong; Ryan, Laurence; Wilcox, Leland; Marc Buller; Mendoza, Margarita; Mary Dimeo; Mary Greenwood; Otis Watson; Pauline Leung; Pete Carillo; Gill, Rani; Raul Colunga; Davis, Robert; Rod Schisler; Rose Lee; Spano, Shawn; Sheila Mitchell; Nurre, Shivaun; Skyler Porras; DiNoto, Steven; Reyes, Tess; Kathleen Cordova/Melanie Espino; Victor Rodriguez; Walter Wilson; Webby, Sean; MayorEmail; District1; Kalra, Ash; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; Herrera, Rose; Chirco, Judy; Office of Councilmember Nancy Pyle; Raj Jayadev
Subject: Concerns Regarding Thursday February 26,2009 Public Intoxication Task Force Meeting

To: Debra Figone - City Manager, City of San José (Chair of Public Intoxication Task Force)

CC: Public Intoxication Task Force Members

Mayor and Councilmembers, City of San José

Sean Webby, Mercury News

February 25, 2009

Dear City Manager Figone:

We, the undersigned community stakeholder representatives on the Police Practices re: 647(f) Arrests Taskforce, write to express shared concerns regarding the current overall direction of the Taskforce and the proposed agenda for the Thursday, February 26th meeting. We are hopeful that we can come to a common understanding with city staff which will allow us to move forward in a constructive manner and therefore request that the full Taskforce have an opportunity to discuss these concerns and propose solutions at the beginning of Thursday's meeting.

Concerns To Be Addressed:

We believe that it is premature for the Police Practices Taskforce to be broken into small groups to discuss solutions *before* we have identified the source of the problem and request that the current format (discussion amongst full Taskforce) be maintained at this time.

We believe that we need the police reports to identify the source and better understand the depth of the problem. We ask that all arrest reports for 647 (f) for the year 2007 – with identifying information about the arrestee redacted – be provided to the Taskforce. We note that Councilmember Campos, who

inally proposed the formation of the Police Practices Taskforce, issued a memo to the City Manager on February 12, 2009 calling for the release of the reports to the Taskforce which reads in part,

“One of the underlying purposes behind the creation of the task force was to re-establish trust between stakeholders, the City, and the Police Department. By not providing the task force with copies of the 2007 arrest records, we risk creating a deeper divide between our residents and our Police Department. Furthermore, the City risks creating the perception that the police department is not working in good faith to solve the problem.”

We dispute the distinction made by the City Manager’s office (Memo to Taskforce, dated February 20, 2009) of “council approved” recommendations to consider vs. the recommendations made by Taskforce members – implying that those recommendations made by Taskforce members themselves are less legitimate in this process. The Taskforce should be identifying the scope of the problem and then offering recommendations -- this was the purpose of the task force.

As equals in this purpose and in order to pro-actively address any divergence of goals or concerns regarding process, we request participation in the construction of the agenda for all future meetings.

The concerns raised by both community and City Council members regarding possible practices of false arrests and racial profiling by the San José Police Department in 647(f) arrests are of serious consequence and we look forward to working both collaboratively with city staff and with the deliberateness and care that our role on the Taskforce merits.

Sincerely,

Alfredo M. Morales, representative of La Raza Lawyers Association

Jeff Moore II, representative of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Raj Jayadev, representative of Silicon Valley De-Bug

Pete Carrillo, representative of Silicon Valley Latino Democratic Forum

Skyler Porras, San José Director of the ACLU of Northern California

Walter Wilson, African-American Community Services Agency Board of Directors