

FOURTH OF JULY COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

2017

ITEM 6b

Introduction

The Capistrano Bay District is entrusted with the responsibility of providing for the safety of its property owners and guests. As the population of the community quadruples over the Fourth of July holiday it is essential to have an effective and comprehensive plan in place to deal with the increase in problems that arise from fireworks violations, recreational beach fires, speeding motorists, illegal parking and loose dogs.

Each year we learn from the mistakes and the successes of the prior year. The following community safety plan strives to address the concerns voiced by property owners each year. The safety plan outlines instructions for equipment, personnel training, scheduling and public awareness that are essential to a safe and successful Fourth of July.

SECTION I – TIDES-WEATHER-CALENDAR FORECAST

The holiday this year lands mid-week before the full-moon lunar phase so the tides will be increasing in the evening. The early high tide is at 8:00 AM and the late high tide peaks at 7:19 PM (5.4 feet). The foot-patrol officers on the beach will have some wave runup to deal with beginning about 6:00 PM but will have total access all night. We can expect a cooling marine layer but with a comfortable evening – there should be less people out on the beach than last year. With the holiday landing on a Tuesday, most visitors will have to work the next day so we expect a lighter and more behaved crowd.

SECTION II – SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

NO ARMED BEACH PATROL OFFICERS

Rent 10 Motorola HT750 hand radios with chargers and external mics/earphones

We get these directly through the services of Securitas which forms a part of the overall service contract for the holiday event. Contact Bert Szathmary at 714-920-9201.

Two way radios are essential so that all officers on duty can listen to the back and forth communications (talk-around) and respond accordingly. Our District Police will be equipped with a special radio handset that communicates directly with the Dana Point Police Command Center for emergency backup.

Trash Barrel for Fireworks Disposal

A trash barrel must be set up filled about half full with water to immerse any confiscated fireworks. The barrel is to be placed inside the fence of our northgate maintenance yard next to the patrol vehicle parking area and utility water faucet for easy access by officers.

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SECTION III - PERSONNEL

Watch Commander

District Police Officer Williams must be on duty beginning at 2 pm to serve as central watch command to provide authority, direct personnel and oversee activities. All personnel will be instructed to direct all calls for assistance and back up through Officer Williams for proper deployment of the most immediate resources. Since all staff will be listening via their own two-way radio sets, all calls will be heard simultaneously by everyone on duty. To prevent confusion it will be necessary for a single point of command to control who responds to the scene. Officer Williams will be within radio-call proximity in the community through the day and evening until activity quiets down, typically around 10 PM when most guests and vehicles have left the community.

Officer Williams met on Thursday, June 22nd with the Dana Point Police and the Orange County Fire Authority to discuss the City's implementation of its safety plan and how those resources will be coordinated throughout the City, especially regarding traffic control at the RR grade crossing and entrance to the County Beach Park.

Securitas Patrol

Regular patrol shift schedule only. There is no plan to double up the regularly scheduled Securitas patrol shifts except for a one-hour overlap at shift changes. Patrol responsibilities are the same as during a typical busy summer day or night. Maintaining an open fire lane will be their primary duty. It must be top priority in order to preserve clear and continual access for emergency vehicles. Second to this will be watching for speed violators. Parking control comes next and will be carried out in two ways; if patrol observes a vehicle in the fire lane they will immediately intervene, locate the owner and call for a tow truck if necessary. If a vehicle happens to be in the wrong RR parking space but out of the fire lane it may be left alone until the officer is done with responding to other complaints. It is just too busy to tie up the patrol officers by making this a top priority. Officers will respond on this if they are not tied up with a life-safety issue. Watching for fireworks, illegal beach fires, disorderly conduct and loose dogs will be assigned to the Securitas SPG beach patrol unit of five officers.

Gate and Traffic Control at the Turn-in to our Community Entrance

An extra front gate officer will come on at 10 AM and continue through 10 PM. It is essential to double-team the guard shack during the peak hours to assist with incoming phone calls for guests and complaints, cyclists and pedestrians coming to the gate, etc. As the day gets underway the activity at the gate becomes very busy with hundreds of vehicles coming in and hundreds of telephone calls. At certain times the Sheriff's deputy on duty at the county beach park may suddenly close the access gate into the park (usually when he sees a grid-lock forming in the parking lot) which causes an unbelievable traffic jam at the RR grade crossing and intersection. Also, throughout the day the public continually attempts to drive down our driveway looking for parking. This is the time when access into our community is most at risk and it is essential that two traffic officers be present to prevent the jam up of vehicles from overflowing down our driveway. This procedure has worked well in past years.

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Special Beach Patrol (sector boundaries are 35195 – 35391 – 35581 – 35707)

Contract with Securitas for 5 Special Police Officers to patrol the beach on foot. These special officers are retired or off-duty law enforcement officers who work special events on contract through Securitas. They are licensed to carry firearms but will conduct an UNARMED patrol of the beach beginning in the afternoon about 4 PM and continuing through 11 PM. The later hours are to assist with traffic control during the great vehicle exodus out of the community immediately following the city's fireworks show and to be a presence for the later party revelers who want to shoot off their explosives after the activity winds down. The officers will be on the beach to watch for, intervene, and confiscate illegal fireworks, check beach fires for smoke and proper distance from homes and burned in approved wood burning rings and containers, respond to public disturbances, loose dogs and generally watch for incidents that would require some level of lawful intervention. The beach patrol will be divided into 5 sectors (as noted above) to maximize on the officers' presence in smaller defined areas.

District Police Officer - Armed

District Police Officer Williams will be on duty in the District police vehicle from 2 PM through 11 PM thus providing 2 patrol officers on the road (in separate vehicles) all afternoon and evening. Officer Williams' primary duty will be as Watch Commander and enforcement of speed. As a POST-certified and trained police officer he will be valuable in responding to complaints requiring more of a show of force and authority. Being close by will enable him to respond quickly to calls for backup. If additional police aid is required, Dana Point PD dispatch will be immediately contacted via the special police radio handset.

SECTION IV - TRAINING

Fireworks, Intervention and Private Citizen's Arrest Procedures

All duty officers have been briefed regarding illegal fireworks, how to intervene, arrest/citation procedures, city traffic control policy and will meet with city police officers assigned to our end of town. The city will be addressing their Fourth of July Operational Plan in a meeting on June 22nd and will coordinate with our District on police, fire & life safety resources designated for the south end of town (Sgt. Rich Himmel, 949-248-3551).

Radio Dispatch Coordination

All staff will be instructed to clear all calls for assistance, complaints and questions through Officer Williams who will be on duty and in touch by radio and cell phone.

Property Owners

Property owners are urged to contact security by telephone immediately upon observing trouble of any kind. Property owners have been asked in the past to post their house

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address numbers on the beach-side so our beach patrol officers can identify their location but this was not well received for privacy reasons. The beach officers should be able to ask someone nearby what the house address is if it is needed.

Beach Bonfires

All officers will be briefed on the enforcement of District Ordinance No. 06-203, "CONTROLLING RECREATIONAL OUTDOOR WOODBURNING FIRES."

Canine Leash Law

All officers will be briefed on the enforcement of District Ordinance No. 06-122, "REGULATION OF OWNER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANIMAL NUISANCES."

Speed Control and Parking

Officer Williams and all Securitas Patrol Officers will be briefed to rigorously enforce the 15 mph speed limit and vehicle parking along the roadway to maintain an open and unobstructed firelane to the greatest extent possible.

Written Reports

All incidents will be carefully documented on all Daily Activity Reports (DAR's) through the period and the Securitas SPG beach patrol supervisor will provide a detailed and comprehensive summary report of the holiday event by Friday, July 7th. This year's supervisor is Retired Police Capt. Henry Quan who worked his last eight years with the LA City PD as Watch Commander in Watts and is extremely practiced in dealing with conflict resolution, mainly with uncooperative and impaired adults.

SECTION V- PUBLIC AWARENESS

Notice/Flyer Handout

A colored paper information sheet informing guests that FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED, will be handed out to all incoming guests beginning on Friday, June 23rd and will continue through Tuesday, July 4th.

Additionally, signs will be posted, with the same fireworks restrictions, alongside both community entrance lanes, also on Friday, June 23rd.