

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
June 28, 2022

Security

ITEM 6c

Police Officer Three-Month Trial

District Management strongly recommends the retention of the District's Police Program. This program obviously costs more than the private security service but it is felt that the benefits outweigh the excess cost. A police officer can issue speeding citations, make arrests, break up loud parties when necessary, liaison with the local PD, and generally provide a police presence that serves as a deterrent. A call to Sheriff's Dispatch coming from another police officer is received with much more weight and consequence than from that of a private security person, and is more likely to get an immediate police backup response to Beach Road.

An option on cost could be to eliminate one of the AUS patrol shifts to help offset the expense of the police officer. This, however, would require an increase in the current 2 days/week police officer schedule. Also, given that the Board had initiated a plan a few years ago to have double security patrols on duty at the same time at night, there is the further option to eliminate the extra patrol plus one of the regular shifts and replace with the police officer on a full-time schedule.

The District office has currently received no calls from homeowners regarding the presence of the new police officer. Possibly a polling of the community now and also at the end of September when the three-month trial period is over might provide some useful feedback from homeowners on the effectiveness of the program.

Recently, a gang tagged our RR block wall with spray paint, down in the 400-block (on the RR side of the wall, visible from PCH). If those people knew and could see the blue/red police light bar on top of the vehicle instead of the yellow hazard lights as the vehicle passes up and down the road, it's likely that they wouldn't risk the exposure to tag our block wall.

In another recent security issue, two individuals were caught on a homeowner's security camera as they rifled through his car right there on his driveway. These individuals aren't as likely to be so comfortable knowing a police officer is nearby.

Maybe the suggestion made in the previous agenda item about the security contract to increase the Benefit Assessment could include a component to help offset the Police Program cost.