

All good news in this update!! Sit a moment and enjoy this newsletter.

### Meeting with SCPD

As you all know, by reading earlier newsletters, we had a dickens of a time arranging a meeting with the City police, like that we held with the County's Sheriff Dept.

With perseverance and diplomacy, we arranged a meeting of just two of us with Lt. Dan Flippo, hoping that we could grease the skids for a larger City community meeting. I suggested that Lt. Flippo talk with the County's Lt. Greg Lansdowne, so Greg could assure Dan that such a meeting would be productive and worth the time. It worked! We met with Lt. Flippo and Officer Keith Deeg for an hour on December 29th.

As with the meeting with the Sheriff, we learned from one another. Lt. Flippo liked some of our simple suggestions and was ready to prepare to implement them.

As an example, we mentioned that putting up signs on Hwy 17 on July 4th was too late. He agreed. We asked for those City-installed signs to go up several days before the 4th, acknowledging that would take extra officer time and money. Pshaw, replied Flippo. "That's budget dust and we can do it, its a good idea" (words to that effect).

He also suggested what would be best for us to address to the City Council and we will follow through with that, probably in March. We'll come back to all of you in a

couple of weeks, so City residents can be an integral part of this planning.

Flippo also said he will arrange a public meeting in the SCPD Community Meeting Room this spring (maybe April or May) so that all City residents could attend.

### Presentation to the Board of Supervisors

We were at least a dozen people standing before the BOS on January 12, using a collective 3 minutes to formally give them our Report with Recommendations, developed after months of research, study and meetings with appropriate officials and other interested parties.

Special thanks to all of you who made the trip to the County Government Center early on a week day morning!

We were proud and we were happy, standing there together.

After our presentation, Supervisor Zach Friend took the opportunity to speak on behalf of the whole Board, when he thanked us for our work and our report, noting that what we had accomplished and drafted for them was very important. We also received applause from the full Board chambers audience as we left the podium.

### Meetings With Supervisors

We have met with four of the five supervisors. We had arranged that constituents for each district be at each

meeting. Thanks one and all. We're still working on a meeting with Supervisor Caput. When we have a date we'll ask for volunteers from the 4th District to attend also.

The results of the first four meetings have been very good. John Leopold (District 1) and Zach Friend (District 2) were especially proactive and they will no doubt take the lead on the issue in developing Board actions on our recommendations for the BOS specifically. Interestingly, Supervisor McPherson (District 5) really was not aware of the issue, having received either no or little complaints from his constituents. But he will vote with us! Supervisor Ryan Coonerty (District 3) is very supportive and was interested to know we had met with SCPD and that we will be approaching the City Council also.

### Additional Supporters

While we had wanted to get as many testimonials from organizations as possible, to illustrate to the BOS that there is community-wide support for enhanced enforcement of the fireworks ordinance, we were quite surprised that the supervisors did not need as much as we thought they would. Zach Friend said it best, when we explained why veterans had not been public about their PTSD in regards to fireworks. Friend said "It doesn't matter because if its against the law, it is against the law and our job is to see that laws are enforced for the good of the community" (words to that effect).

That said we do have an additional organization added to our list of supporters: The Santa Cruz SPCA and Humane Society. Their exemplary resolution, passed by their Board of Directors, is found by going to our Supporters page at <http://freedomfromfireworks.weebly.com/supporters.html> and scrolling down toward the bottom. On your way down that page you will also notice that we are now showing the names of 137 of our 148 supporters.

### Deletions of Some Recommendations

In our next update, we'll explain more fully the reason a couple of our recommendations have been deleted from our original submittal to the BOS. As an example, we had asked that the County's Citizens Connect application incorporate a means for reporting fireworks in our neighborhoods. Were we informed by three of the supervisors that the Citizens Connect app was never meant to replace 911 and that reporting ongoing infractions of laws was still to be done via 911.

We also have more information about how the existing County Social Host Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance can be appropriately used to deal with fireworks as irritating, penetrating noise.

We'll pull all of this together and add it to the library of information on our web site, so stay tuned. Here's to a peaceful spring.

Jean