

**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: 2/2/15 Letter to City Council re: item #14 on the agenda

-----Original Message-----

From: Cybele Garcia Kohel [<mailto:cybelegarcia@me.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:38 PM  
To: Jomsky, Mark  
Cc: Kennedy, John; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); West, Jana; Syms, William; Clawson, Jason Allen  
Subject: 2/2/15 Letter to City Council re: item #14 on the agenda

Mark,

These are my remarks regarding item #14 on the agenda for the City Council meeting tomorrow, February 2, 2015. Please submit them as part of the public record. Please send me an email confirming the receipt of this letter.

Honorable Mayor Bogard, Vice Mayor Robinson and City Council,

Thank you for your attention to the matter of the increased violence in Northwest Pasadena. I am unable to attend the Council meeting, so I am submitting my comments in this letter. I live in District 3, on Los Robles just south of Washington. I am the Vice President of Craftsman Heights Neighborhood Association. My neighborhood constituents are very concerned about the recent spike in shootings and violence in the area. I have been getting many phone calls and emails on the matter, and wish to share some thoughts with you. I must also commend Councilmember Gordo for the rapid community outreach response he has made; it certainly helps when people get good information, are able to vent frustrations, and bring ideas for violence abatement forward. I am also grateful to all the city officials who attended the two meetings he had. We greatly appreciate their presence and information sharing.

The following ideas come from the residents of Craftsman Heights Neighborhood Association. The ideas fall into two categories: long term and short term strategies.

Short term violence abatement strategies:

1. Full time parks and recreation presence in all Northwest parks that don't already have them, offering programs for youth, families, and elderly (ASAP). Get feedback from the community on what kinds of programs would work (community gardens, tutoring programs, classes, etc.).
2. Enforcing park curfews and locking parking lots up at night.
3. Have a community healing event at Washington Park, a candlelight vigil for all persons affected by violence.
4. The three Councilmembers with districts in Northwest should have a joint meeting where they show a united front in approaches to violence abatement.
5. Determine if the ATF or FBI, or some other law enforcement agency can support the Pasadena Police Department in the short term.

Long term violence abatement strategies:

1. Support the literacy program at Madison Elementary with tutor recruitment, money for a librarian, books for students to take home, and new tutoring materials. Every student who succeeds in school is less likely to join a gang.
2. Support a living wage in Pasadena, as soon as possible, getting the business sector on board, and raising it without negatively impacting business long term. Perhaps focus on implementing it with larger employers first and giving smaller employers longer to raise the wage. Make sure to have no exemptions for contract employees.

3. Expand the Neighborhood Connections program so that staff can support Neighborhood Associations with tools for community engagement and timely information.
4. Bring back Pasadena Police Bike Unit and expand it. Utilize it in and around the parks.
5. Do away with the contracted security, and hire more police on foot as well.
6. Make a big push to develop the North Lake business district. Work with the community closely on this.

These are the ideas I have heard coming from my neighbors. I urge you to take short term action, and begin organizing for long term planning and implementation. Last, you should know that board members of some neighborhood associations in Northwest are building a coalition now and would like to support you in seeing this work through. Please contact me if you wish to be in touch with us.

Sincerely,  
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