

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 13, 2020

ITEM 3

RECEIVE A PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KENSINGTON EVACUATION ROUTE PLAN, AND CONSIDER INITIATION OF COMMUNITY REVIEW FOR AMENDED PARKING REGULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE KPPCSD POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FOR IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY.

SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

The Kensington Police Department, together with the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and Contra Costa County, have been working on an evacuation plan for Kensington residents. Elements of this evacuation plan include proposed parking orientation changes on six Kensington street segments. The changes would position parked vehicles to face in the direction to which they would be evacuating in the event of an emergency.

The recommendation at this juncture is to have the Board receive a presentation concerning the evacuation route plan, and consider initiating a public review process to include extensive community outreach to inform residents regarding the reason for the proposed changes. This community outreach would include preparing an educational video, distributing informational flyers, and contacting local print and social media.

The estimated total cost to reconfigure parking on the six Kensington streets is \$14,900, with the cost shares among participating agencies undetermined at this time.

There is no anticipated cost to making the video, as the KPD is soliciting volunteer services for this purpose, and other outreach activities can be done within the adopted KPD budget for FY 2020-21.

BACKGROUND

In May 2020, Kensington Police Department Officer Brad Harms was assigned to review and prepare evacuation plans for the Kensington community. Based on the recommendations contained in the "Kensington Evacuation Research Project," which was commissioned by the Kensington Fire Board, Officer Harms began coordinating with other agencies including:

- Contra Costa County Public Works;
- East Bay Municipal Utility District;
- Kensington Fire Protection District;
- Office of County Supervisor John Gioia;
- West Contra Costa Unified School District; and
- Sunset View Cemetery.

Supervisor Gioia's office facilitated meetings with all involved agencies to ensure a coordinated effort. As a result of these efforts, the following enhanced community safety measures have already been implemented or are in the planning stages:

1. An arrangement with Sunset View Cemetery has been established for gaining access to unlock all three gates on the property in the event of a massive evacuation. According to the Kensington Evacuation Research Project, unlocking these gates will ease congestion on Kensington roads by 30%. Under the arrangement, if there is an evacuation alert, the on-duty Kensington PD officer will immediately respond to the cemetery and unlock the gates. The officer will also provide traffic control at a predetermined location.
2. Evacuation signs have been installed at Sunset View Cemetery.
3. The locked steel bollards near the school and the parks have been removed and replaced with removable chains. This will increase emergency egress and allow more options for vehicle evacuation. The chain will be attached between the poles with a sign that states, "Emergency Evacuation Route Only - Violators Will Be Prosecuted per CVC 21461 (A)."
4. Representatives from County Public Works and Officer Harms have met and toured Kensington several times together, and the parties agreed on the need to change the parking on six streets in the first phase of the evacuation planning. The specific proposal is to have these streets change their parking and no parking areas the opposite sides of the street where they currently exist. This would allow the evacuation to be more efficient for traffic flow.

The street segments that are affected by this proposal are:

- a. York Avenue: Parked vehicles would face Westminster and would no longer face the end of the cul-de-sac.
 - b. Windsor Avenue: Parked vehicles would face Westminster and would no longer face the end of the cul-de-sac.
 - c. St. Albans: Parked vehicles would face Westminster and would no longer face the end of the cul-de-sac.
 - d. Purdue Avenue between Beloit Avenue and Kenyon Avenue: Parked vehicles would face downhill towards Arlington Avenue.
 - e. Kenyon Avenue between Purdue Avenue and Wellesley Avenue: Parked vehicles would face downhill towards Arlington Avenue.
 - f. Kenyon Avenue between Willamette Avenue and Westminster: Parked vehicles would face downhill towards Arlington Avenue.
5. Community outreach is proposed to be coordinated among all involved agencies, and would consist of the following:
 - a. Educational video;
 - b. Flyers mailed to effected residents;
 - c. Kensington PD Facebook;
 - d. Nextdoor;
 - e. KPPCSD and KPF D websites;
 - f. Kensington Outlook Newspaper;
 - g. Zoom/other virtual community meetings

The above activities represent the first phase of implementing the evacuation plan, which is estimated to be at least a two-month project that may take longer due to Covid-19 challenges. The second phase of the evacuation plan may include one or more of the following:

- One-way streets;
- Additional signage;
- Reducing two-sided parking to one-sided; and
- Identification of intersections and pinch points that need red markings.

All activities would involve extensive public outreach prior to any authorized implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive a presentation concerning the planning and implementation of the Kensington Evacuation Route plan, co-sponsored by the Kensington Police Department, Kensington Fire Department, Contra Costa Public Works Department, Office of Supervisor John Goia, and the Sunset View Cemetery.
2. Consider initiation of community review of amended parking regulations proposed by the KPPCSD Police Department, the Kensington Fire Protection District, and Contra Costa County for improving neighborhood safety.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated total cost to reconfigure parking on the six Kensington streets is \$14,900, with the cost shares among participating agencies undetermined at this time.

There is no anticipated cost to making the video, as the KPD is soliciting volunteer services for this purpose, and other outreach activities can be done within the adopted KPD budget for FY 2020-21.

ATTACHMENTS

Kensington Evacuation Research Project Final Report, January 8, 2020

SUBMITTED BY:

Walt Schuld
Interim Chief of Police

PRESENTED BY:

Brad Harms
Traffic Safety Officer