



Providing For Future Public Safety

In a continuing effort to provide essential public safety services for our growing community, Mayor Alan Autry, together with members of the City Council, Fire Chief Randy Bruegman, Police Chief Jerry Dyer and Sheriff Margaret Mims announced the creation of a Public Safety Investment Initiative. The initiative is a proactive three-part plan that would include: 1) a new public safety sales tax; 2) a share of state income taxes through a proposed statewide ballot initiative that would allocate a small percentage of sales tax to be returned to cities and counties; and 3) the reauthorization of the federal government's universal hiring program.

Although our City is not currently experiencing a public safety crisis, the fact remains that our population is projected to grow at a record pace. Therefore, the need for additional resources to maintain public safety will need to grow with this increase in population. Without a dedicated funding source, public safety is projected to consume all of the City of Fresno's General Fund by 2011. 73.3% of the City's budget is already committed to Public Safety.

Currently, our Police Chief, Fire Chief and Sheriff are maximizing their use of the resources they currently have, but we cannot afford to become complacent. Fighting crime is a battle that can never be completely won, it is a battle that must always be fought.

Senator Boxer Interested in Gang Prevention Efforts

On August 8, 2007, Senator Barbra Boxer met with Mayor Alan Autry, Police Chief Jerry Dyer and Sheriff Margaret Mims at Fresno City Hall and was provided an update on the gang prevention initiatives for the City and County of Fresno.

Both law enforcement leaders spoke of the increase in gang violence and gang activities as well as the increased arrests and how it is straining local jail populations. Collectively, they expressed the need for the state and federal governments to assist local agencies in combating gangs, a need which Senator Boxer agreed.

Following the meeting, Senator Boxer held a press conference to discuss Mynisha's Law, which was created to give cities, counties or group of counties the opportunity to apply to the U.S. Attorney General for designation as a High-Intensity Gang Area (HIGA).

Senator Boxer praised the Mayor and local law enforcement for their efforts in combating gangs through the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative (MGPI), Operation Bulldog and MAGEC.

Senator Feinstein Visits the Valley

Senator Dianne Feinstein visited Fresno's Sunnyside Country Club on August 23, 2007 for a lunch meeting with City, County and Agriculture leaders from around the Valley.

Mayor Alan Autry introduced Senator Feinstein and called her a "true friend of the Valley and of Fresno."

In her 20-minute speech, the Senator touched on several major areas of concern for the City of Fresno and the Valley, including the severe farm worker shortage and the fight against gangs.
(Continued page 2)



Senator Feinstein Visits the Valley (Cont'd)

Feinstein promoted the "AgJobs" bill, which is being placed as an amendment to the Farm Bill. The "AgJobs" bill would serve as a guest worker program for farm laborers from other countries.

On the topic of gangs, Senator Feinstein discussed the Feinstein-Hatch Bill that would provide law enforcement around the country with more than \$1 billion to combat gangs through suppression, intervention and prevention. Senator Feinstein publicly congratulated Police Chief Jerry Dyer and Mayor Autry for their innovative approach to gangs in Fresno through the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative and Operation Bulldog.



Keeping Our City Safe

Since 2006, the Fresno Police Department has been working to improve public safety by eliminating the criminal element of street gangs from City streets.

Intervention and prevention efforts began with a new and innovative program dubbed the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative (MGPI). This unique program has been highly successful in addressing the root gang activity through a combination of suppression, prevention and intervention programs and efforts. Since its inception, more than 1,400 gang members have been referred to MGPI with hundreds more members signed up to receive services such as anger management, job training, parenting classes and tattoo removal.

On the suppressive side, Operation Bulldog was initiated in 2006 to address the largest criminal street gang in Fresno, the Bulldogs. Members of the Fresno Police Department from Patrol to Traffic was deployed resulting in more than 4,000 felons and 131 weapons being removed from our streets since November 13, 2006.

Last June, Operation Summer Heat (OSH), was created to address the seasonal rise in violent crime during the summer months. OSH focuses on the arrests of gang members, probation and parole violators in strategic areas of our City.

On August 23, 2007, a press conference was held to announce yet another program aimed at eliminating gangs and restoring neighborhoods in Fresno. The program, dubbed Operation West Side, is one of many collaborative efforts between a multitude of law enforcement agencies, using a variety of tools and tactics, to take back our City streets.

To date, these efforts have positively improved safety as the latest crime statistics will attest. Currently, violent crime is down 17.3%, property crime has been reduced 12.5%, and overall crime has fallen 13.1%. Residents of our City can feel safe knowing that the Police Department is focusing its resources where and when they are needed most.

Local Developers to Leave Legacy

Local developers Brian Glover and Chris Cummings announced plans to build a mixed use facility that will include an ice skating rink, retail and residential living next to the Selland Arena in downtown Fresno. The project, dubbed The Legacy Downtown, will be financed using a combination of private investment, tax increment and low income housing funds. Owners of the Fresno Grizzlies, Fuego and Falcons, Mr. Glover and Mr.

(Continued page 3)



Local Developers to Leave Legacy (Cont'd)

Cummings held a press conference with Mayor Autry, Council Members Cynthia Sterling, Mike Dages and Council president Henry T. Perea to announce that the Fresno Falcons hockey team would be returning to the Selland Arena in downtown Fresno for their 2008 season.

This announcement is exciting news for the City of Fresno and is a testament to the opportunities that are underway to improve and revitalize our City's urban core.

Several projects in recent years, including the rehabilitation of the Virginia Hotel, development of the Vagabond Lofts and others have reignited activity and interest in downtown Fresno. As downtown housing grows, so will the need for essential retail services... could that be you?



Bringing Technology within Reach

The City of Fresno recently partnered with Visiotech Solutions to conduct a workshop for visually impaired students on the safety of crossing street intersections.

The City and Visiotech wanted the students to experience a traffic signal up close. City electricians created an interactive traffic signal for the students that included a signal head, pedestrian box and a pedestrian push button. The students were impressed with the signal because they had never been given the opportunity to be so close to one before. One of the students in particular had lost her sight due to an accident in an intersection. She was fascinated about left-turn arrows and how the City knows when to install the left-turn signals.

Kudos to our Public Works team for putting together such a creative and educational display for our visually impaired residents in the City of Fresno. Their efforts make the City's culture of excellence shine and bring us one step closer to becoming a "united City working together to ensure equal access to opportunity, education and quality of life for every man, woman and child regardless of their race, religion, age or socio-economic status."

Laboring Through the Holiday

While many of us enjoy the Labor Day holiday, there are a great number of men and women throughout our community who will be working to provide the services that benefit us all. To those men and women, on behalf of the entire City of Fresno, thank you for keeping our City operating during the holiday. Your efforts are recognized and appreciated.



City Awards and Honors

Kudos to the Kids

Congratulations to the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) for the success of their Healthy Lifestyle Fitness Camp. The combined weight of the 22 youth who participated lost a total of 134 pounds at their last weigh in.

Mayor on the Move

- 8/1/07 Participated in the St. Jude Dream Home First Ticket Buy on the KMPH Fox 26 Great Day Show.
- 8/3/07 Met with Mayor Villaraigosa in Los Angeles to discuss gangs.
- 8/7/07 Participated in a meeting hosted by Congressman George Radanovich to discuss the air quality of the San Joaquin Valley with EPA Secretary Stephen Johnson.
- 8/8/07 Attended a reception to celebrate the naming of the new Federal Courthouse building in honor of Judge Coyle.
- 8/8/07 Participated in a briefing and press conference regarding gangs with Senator Barbara Boxer.
- 8/9/07 Attended a meeting organized by the West Fresno community to address community concerns with the Running Horse project.
- 8/10/07 Attended quarterly meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in Hanford.
- 8/13/07 Participated in a press conference and meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger to discuss health care concerns in the San Joaquin Valley.
- 8/13/07 Attended a meeting hosted by Councilmember Cynthia Sterling to address community concerns with the Running Horse project.
- 8/15/07 Participated in a press conference welcoming the return of the Fresno Falcons hockey team to Selland Arena in downtown Fresno.
- 8/20/07 Held a press conference to announce the creation of a Public Safety Investment Initiative.
- 8/23/07 Participated in a radio interview with Peak Broadcasting to discuss the importance of the Promise Keepers conference.
- 8/23/07 Welcomed attendees at a luncheon hosted by Senator Dianne Feinstein to express her appreciation of her supporters and to discuss legislation she is working on.
- 8/24/07 Traveled to Sacramento to be present at the signing of the State budget by Governor Schwarzenegger.
- 8/29/07 Participated in press conference discussing the Fresno Police Department's plan for addressing gang violence in West Fresno.

Team Fresno



[Comcast Friday Night Movies](#)
May 25th—Sept 28th



Recycle TIP From City of Fresno
Recycling division:
Eat what you buy. Sending food to landfills creates Methane Gas which is 21 times more toxic than Carbon Dioxide.



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Going Green
For information on emerging energy-efficient and green building products & strategies in the City of Fresno call (559) 621-8500



Help conserve water by keeping showers under ten minutes

