



City Manager's Report
April 12, 2016 City Council Meeting
Prepared By: M. Cleve Morris

Item#: 15.3

Subject: Informational Report on Vandalism and Criminal Activity Occurring at City Facilities.

Discussion: Over the past year, we have been seeing increased vandalism and other problems at our facilities, primarily parks and restrooms. Most recently we have seen a severe problem at the Park and Ride facility on Mosquito Road. Staff has made attempts to deal with the problems, and police have been called to assist when criminal activity is discovered. Because of the seriousness of some of these incidents, Staff feels it is important to make Council and the public aware of these issues.

The most recent problem at the Park and Ride Facility has become so severe that we have closed the restroom and have provided a portable facility in the interim. The following occurrence is one example. Parks staff went to the facility to clean the restrooms. The men's restroom was occupied so they proceeded to clean the women's restroom. Upon exiting the women's restroom, three police officers arrived to investigate a call they had received, not from our parks worker. They knocked on the door of the men's restroom, identified themselves as police and asked the occupants to come out. Two men exited the restroom which was full of smoke. One of the men was arrested. The parks worker was then approached by a female who asked why he had called the police on her boyfriend, and stated "She was going to kill him".

In another example, staff received a call from a commuter who wanted to park at the Park and Ride. They asked if there was another area where they could park for the day because they did not feel safe leaving their car at the Park and Ride, due to some of the people who were hanging out there.

We present this information to show the type of activity and the fairly consistent problems our staff faces in maintaining these facilities. We have had similar problems at Benham Park. Due to problems in the restroom, we closed them and placed a portable on site. Shortly thereafter, someone lit a fire in the portable and it was destroyed, which we had to pay for.

Staff is working on various solutions to stop these problems. Installation of the cameras at the Park and Ride should help at that facility. Any further required improvements will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Options: Information only.

Cost: None at this time.

Budget Impact: None.

Recommendation: No action.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager