

March 4, 2004

**Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Hermosa Beach Planning Commission**

**Regular Meeting of
March 16, 2004**

SUBJECTS: REVIEW OF INCIDENT REPORTS FOR PIER PLAZA AND DOWNTOWN AREA

Recommendation:

That the Planning Commission receive and file this report.

Background:

On January 20, 2004, the Planning Commission conducted an annual review of downtown conditional use permits and directed staff to provide police incidents reports for the businesses. The incident reports were provided at the February 17, 2004 meeting and the Commission reviewed the incident reports and a memorandum from the Police Chief. The Planning Commission directed staff to set a hearing for review of two business conditional use permits and further directed staff to have the code enforcement officer investigate whether there were any code or CUP violations.

Analysis:

In response to the Commission direction, staff has reviewed the incident information again and rather than proceeding at this time on a program to review two businesses, staff suggests a broader approach to deal with area problems or concerns. This approach should focus on a reduction of the number of police and fire response calls and ensure that the Downtown area is not taking an undo amount of city resources. As you may be aware, from time to time staff has met with representatives of all of the Pier Plaza and Downtown businesses to review issues and concerns that have been expressed about the operation of businesses, general activities and special events. These meetings have been an effective communication tool in the past, and with active and continued participation by all concerned parties, staff is confident that they can be an effective tool to deal with the present concerns. The task for this group will be to come up an area wide approach and solutions that result in less need for police response in the downtown. The group will include participation from area merchants and staff and can be expanded to include others, should there be broader interest in participating. Once the group has developed strategies and a consensus for dealing with area concerns, staff will document the recommendations, which can be made available to the Planning Commission and the City Council for review and possible response. Further actions may include changes to conditional use permits or other parts of the Municipal Code.

This approach is being suggested as it is difficult to lay the blame at any one business in the area. Hopefully, this will allow for a broad discussion of the problem and potential solutions.

Sol Blumenfeld, Director
Community Development

Mike Lavin,
Police Chief

Russell Tingley,
Fire Chief

Concur:

Stephen R. Burrell,
City Manager

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