

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: RAINER NAVARRO, POLICE CHIEF  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF THE RESPONSE TO PEACEFUL  
PROTESTS AND CIVIL UNREST IN MAY AND JUNE 2020

AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Police Department that the Council hold a Study Session to receive information, ask questions, discuss and provide feedback to staff regarding the After Action Review of the response to the peaceful protests and civil unrest in May and June 2020.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD) had a comprehensive after-action review completed by an independent consultant, Hillard Heintze, LLC, analyzing the City's response to the peaceful protests and civil unrest in May and June of 2020. The review encompassed protest activity and the Department and City's overall response. This review examined the planning, strategy, and response to the events by reviewing written and digital information and interviewing key stakeholders.

This study session is provided for Council's information. Council will have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss, and provide feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

During May and June of 2020, there were several protest activities and civil unrest throughout the City of Santa Rosa. On June 18, 2020, the City issued a request for proposals seeking a highly qualified vendor to prepare a comprehensive After-Action Review analyzing the response by the Police Department and other City departments. The proposals were submitted on June 30, 2020 and reviewed by several key staff for the best-qualified proposal. The contract was awarded to Hillard Heintze, LLC and fully executed on August 31, 2020.

AFTER ACTION REVIEW  
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Hillard Heintze, LLC interviewed key members of SRPD both sworn and civilian, the City Manager and other key City staff, community stakeholders, and reviewed numerous reports and watched hours of body work camera footage. The documentation included:

- Police reports
- Intelligence reports
- Dispatch reports
- Incident action plans
- Training plans and records
- Policies
- Procedures
- Body-worn camera footage
- Other digital media
- Police department mission and goals

The attached final report summarizes the findings from the analysis, indicating what worked well, any issues, and lessons learned.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

None

ANALYSIS

SRPD utilizes an Incident Command System, or ICS, response model, when responding to planned incidents requiring resources that rise above normal capacity. SRPD responds to numerous large gatherings and demonstrations on an annual basis. These include demonstrations at a specific location and groups which become mobile and march in the streets.

Between May 30, 2020 and June 5, 2020, SRPD responded to large demonstrations which led to civil unrest, violence, and property damage within the city. The unlawful activity required a large police response that exceeded the capacity of the department.

Hillard Heintze's analysis examined the SRPD's planning, strategy, and response to the events. As noted above, the assessment included information such as police reports, intelligence reports, dispatch reports, incident action plans, training plans and records, policies and procedures, body-worn camera footage, and other digital media. The consultant also interviewed key employees and stakeholders to determine firsthand accounts of actions taken before, during, and after the event.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This study session is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that this action may have significant effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – After Action Report

CONTACT

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