

## MINUTES

City Council  
McNutt Room—City Hall

July 22, 1996  
7:30 p.m.

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Tim Lusk, President; Pat Farr, Kevin Hornbuckle, Barbara Keller, Nancy Nathanson, Jim Torrey.

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Shawn Boles, Laurie Swanson Gribakov.

The adjourned meeting of July 17, 1996, was called to order by Her Honor Mayor Ruth Bascom.

Mayor Bascom amended the agenda such that the two public hearings concerning street vacations were moved ahead of the public hearing concerning the proposal for a tax base increase.

### I. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of City Council minutes of May 29, 1996, Lunch Work Session; June 4, 1996, Special Meeting; June 4, 1996, Meeting; June 10, 1996, Dinner Work Session; June 10, 1996, Meeting; and June 12, 1996, Lunch Work Session

B. Approval of Findings and Recommendations of Hearings Official and Adoption of Resolution Forming a Local Improvement District for Crescent Avenue

Res. No. 4499—A resolution forming a local improvement district (LID) for paving, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, sanitary and storm sewers, and street lighting on Crescent Avenue from Crescent Meadows to Game Farm Road. (Job #3341)

Mr. Lusk moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, to approve the items on the City Council Consent Calendar. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

### II. PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE CONCERNING A STREET VACATION (MCKAY—SV 96-3)

CB 45E3—An ordinance vacating an unimproved 40-foot-wide right-of-way extending 50 feet south of Royal Avenue.

#### A. Staff Report

Bill French, Planning and Development, gave the staff report, noting that the applicant, Bruce McKay, was proposing to develop tax lot 2600 utilizing a private street system. He added that the original dedication was acquired on anticipation that tax lot 2600 and a portion of tax lot 2500 would be dedicated with a public right-of-way; however, the cluster subdivision process allows for private streets and a little higher density because the density is based on a gross instead of a net. He said that the notification had been sent to adjacent property owners and no responses had been received. He indicated that there were no public utilities in the subject area nor was there anticipation of any being added; therefore, no easement was required.

#### B. Council Questions

Ms. Keller noted that the ordinance did not specify an amount to be paid for the property and asked for clarification. Mr. French answered that it did not specify, however the City of Eugene right-of-way agent had assessed the property based on values of the adjacent properties and had issued a recommended amount of \$3,200. The applicant had agreed to that amount and deposited it to the City.

Ms. Keller said that \$3,200 was payment for one half of a house lot, and she could not buy a house lot for \$6,400. She asked if there could be a review of the amount the public could reap from sale of the property. Mr. French answered that he would return to council with information regarding the dollar amount per square foot that the engineering staff had evaluated. He said there had not been any additional assessments.

Ms. Keller said that she had a concern about the valuation that was being put on public property and what was being asked for recompense. She said she would like a better explanation of the valuation before the council proceeded.

#### C. Public Hearing

Mayor Bascom opened the public hearing.

Bruce McKay, 2970 Ingalls Way, said he was the developer in the area. He explained that his goal was to provide some quality housing at an affordable price. He added that he had spent many years building higher-end and custom housing, and he saw a need for good, affordable, well-built housing. He said that he was addressing the issue of access to the adjacent property directly. He said that by developing the piece of property in the way that he was, he was able to keep costs down and bring the units in for just over \$100,000 for a 1200 square-foot home with three bedrooms and two baths. He again stressed the need for affordable housing. He said that he had attempted to use the current right-of-way, but what it created were long thin lots, which were not workable or aesthetic. He said that the \$3,200 was based upon the purchase price of the property.

Steve Lee, 2830 City View, addressed Ms. Keller's question about value by saying that in 1971, when the partition was recorded, the City did not pay any money to the people when they requested the partition. Further, he noted that if the council did state a higher value tonight, the City would

eventually pay more money when it wanted to do improvements because it would have set a precedent to raise the prices on such purchases.

There being no other requests to speak, Mayor Bascom closed the public hearing.

#### D. Council Discussion

Mr. Farr stated that he believed the City was receiving a fair price for the land. He said that the developers had been assessed at \$1.58 per square foot when they purchased the land for \$1.38 per square foot, so he thought it was a fair price.

Mr. Torrey stated his interest in knowing what City staff thought was the best use for the land. He said that he believed that, given the size of the property, the amount the City was charging was adequate. He added that, like Ms. Keller, he thought the council should be constantly vigilant about the value and price of public land. He said that he would support this issue, but would also support reviewing how value was placed on public land.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, that the bill, with unanimous consent of the council, be read the second time by council bill number only, and that enactment be considered at this time. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, that the bill be approved and given final passage. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 6:0 and became City Ordinance 20054.

### III. PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE CONCERNING AN ALLEY VACATION FOR LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT (LTD) (AV 96-2)

CB 4584—An ordinance vacating the following described two 14-foot-wide alleys between Olive Street, Willamette Street, 10th Avenue, and 11th Avenue to wit, and declaring an emergency to exist:

The entire 334 foot by 14 foot north-south alley which extends from 11th Avenue to 10th Avenue, located between Willamette Street and Olive Street, and the entire 334 foot by 14 foot east-west alley which extends from Willamette Street to Olive Street located between 10th and 11th Avenue, as more particularly described in Exhibit A attached hereto.

#### A. Staff Report

Steve Nystrom, Planning and Development, issued the staff report noting that LTD was requesting the vacation of two alleys on the block bounded by Olive and Willamette streets and 10th and 11th avenues. He said that a conditional use permit for the project was approved in 1994 and required the approval of alley vacations for the site. He said that LTD had obtained the required consents from adjacent and surrounding property owners for the vacation request. He said the request had also been routed to the various agencies and departments within the City and to the various utility companies.



He said that there were public utilities in both of the easements so the City would retain easements over both of the vacated alleys. He noted that the public hearing had been posted and no comment had been received by staff. He said that the issue of assessments had been addressed in January 1996 by the council as part of the intergovernmental agreement that was signed by both LTD and the City. Referring to the emergency clause, Mr. Nystrom stated that LTD had requested the emergency clause because a delay would severely effect the construction schedule.

#### B. Public Testimony

Mayor Bascom opened the public hearing.

Kirk Bailey, 795 Willamette Street #305, representing the LTD Board, said that he and the LTD staff were available to answer any questions that the councilors might have. He urged the council to support the emergency clause so that delays would not occur with regard to construction.

There being no other requests to speak, Mayor Bascom closed the public hearing.

#### C. Council Questions

Responding to Ms. Nathanson's question, Mr. Nystrom stated that this request was consistent with the plans that the council had reviewed through the entire process. He added that the use of the alleys was addressed at the beginning of the process and the vacation of the alleys had always been a part of the project.

Ms. Nathanson said that the action was, while very important, also a housekeeping measure. She stated her support for the emergency clause because to delay the project would not be in the public's best interest.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, that the bill, with unanimous consent of the council, be read the second time by council bill number only, and that enactment be considered at this time. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, that the bill be approved and given final passage. Roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously, 6:0 and became City Ordinance 20055.

### IV. PUBLIC HEARING: TAX BASE INCREASE TO FUND COMMUNITY POLICING

#### A. Staff Report

Chief Leonard Cooka, Department of Public Safety (DPS), issued the staff report noting that the proposal represented implementation of the next phase of community policing and said that it was the product of many years of planning and collaborating with different parts of the community including the City Council. He said the proposal came to the council from the City Council Public Safety Committee (CCPSC), which was created to define and identify long-range financial strategies for the implementation of community policing. He added that it followed five years after the council's

adoption of the Long-Range Public Safety Plan, seven years after the City's first community policing initiative, the Community Response Team, after the completion of a major citizen survey, and several years of planning.

Chief Cooke listed the community policing measures that would be implemented by the proposal: 1) a rapid deployment unit and two Safer School officers would have permanent funding; 2) nine patrol officers would be added to reach the level recommended in 1994 by an outside consultant; 4) each sector would gain one officer fully dedicated to problem solving; 5) a new Bethel Public Safety station would be staffed and existing Whiteaker and West University stations would expand their hours; 6) the traffic team would increase its neighborhood traffic safety programs and civilian positions would be added for a variety of prevention programs; 7) social service and crisis intervention programs would be expanded; and 8) a domestic abuse unit would be created. He noted that the total increase over two years would amount to 35.5 positions at a cost of \$4.7 million. He said the bulk of the positions would be non-sworn, and the focus of the programs would be intervention, prevention, problem solving, and neighborhood support. He said that the tax increase would factor out to about \$.62 per \$1,000 of assessed evaluation, which would be about \$62 annually for the owner of a \$100,000 home or about \$5 per month.

Chief Cooke concluded his remarks by saying that the CCPSC, in recommending this proposal, used three general criteria to prepare its recommendation: 1) that it must be consistent with the Long-range Plan and the information gathered from the citizen survey; 2) that the proposal recognize the interdependency of the component parts of the criminal-justice system; and 3) that the proposal be consistent with the vision and guiding principles of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC), a regional/metropolitan public safety and criminal justice planning group. He urged the council to support the proposal and welcomed the input of citizens and councilors to help define the future of community policing in Eugene.

#### B. Public Testimony

Mayor Bascom opened the public hearing.

Robert Toser, 715 Chestnut Street, said he was moved to testify by Ms. Kaller's assertion that "we all agree that we need more police," because he did not believe that Eugene needed more police. He stated that Eugene had declared war on the homeless, the throw-away teens, the marginalized, the Hispanics, the Blacks, and the environmentalists. He said that the City had criminalized the activities that used to be the proudest cornerstones of democracy. He asserted that the City did not need any more police, armored vehicles, automatic weapons, \$40,000 robots, armed helicopters, and 24-hour "ninja road officers." He said that the City should be afraid of funding the office that taught Mrs. Thompson about gangs, that arms police, and admits them into the junior high school corridors. He urged the council not to fund the rapid deployment unit and stated that everyone should be leery of committing more and more money exclusively to the police force.

Muriel Renov, Eugene, testified that most people moved to Eugene because of the cultural advantages afforded by the University of Oregon (UO), and the Hult Center, and excellent medical support. She said the greatest disadvantage was the high and ever increasing property tax. She said that the increase in property values and the Oregon law that provided for deferment of property taxes had no value to those who were forced into other types of housing by illness or who wanted to retire in the

area. She observed that Eugene was a Mecca for those who placed a high value on civil rights and no value on civil responsibility and added that increased police protection was necessary to combat those groups of people. She suggested an alternate method of funding: the posting of a \$100,000 bond for any organized group; i.e. Grateful Dead, refundable after deducting the cost of extra police and post-activity clean-up. She commented further that in the case of smaller groups, such as Resist and Exist, the City should turn these groups away.

John Brown, 1260 Charnelton Street, testified that he had lived in Eugene his entire life and he had watched the quality of life steadily erode in that time span. He said that the City had listened to a vocal minority and a few elected officials that wanted to create a quality of life that most citizens had chosen not to live. He said that graffiti was unacceptable to him and complained about the large number of bicycle thefts within the city limits. He encouraged the City to enforce its camping and littering policies in order to maintain the quality of the city parks. He said that people should not have to come to the council and beg for a basic service, community policing. He said that the things the citizens should be voting on are whether or not to have concerts in the parks not whether or not the police force would be funded. He urged the council to support the proposal.

Sherman Smith, 1133 Willamette Street, representing the Midtown Business Association (MBA), stated that the MBA was becoming proactive with regard to public safety because the business owners were watching their neighborhoods go down hill because of crime, transiency, vandalism, and drug dealing. He relayed an experience wherein a person came into his deli and attempted to sell marijuana to his employees and customers. He said that it took the police one hour to arrive at the scene. He urged the council to support the tax base and help the citizens protect the community.

Gary Rayer, 2373 Washington Street, stated his support for the community policing effort. He spoke highly of community policing, noting that it was proactive and preventative. He spoke against the increased tax base proposal because he believed that the effort should be funded within the regular budget. He said he resented being offered the choice of very desirable programs attached to a tax base increase. He said it was hard for him to want to support this measure because, as a consumer of the City's services, he had felt disrespected. He said that he had voted for the Library twice and the Hult Center, but he was so dismayed with the state of government that he could not bring himself to support this proposal.

Marlene Colbath, 2230 Churchill Street, remarked that policing is a basic essential service that should be funded first as a top priority within the budget. She said that she had already offered her support to the council for the Safer Schools Program. She said she questioned the tax base increase and the serial levy. She said that it was her understanding that community policing would cost about \$2 million, and she questioned from where the \$4.7 million arose. She voiced concern about the property tax increases that were already in the works and stated that with crime being a socioeconomic problem, more problems in crime would occur because less affordable housing would exist. She remarked that the City was in need of the funds that were going out in public subsidies and tax incentives, and asked the council to consider the fourth and fifth year Hyundai subsidies and the value of asking Hyundai to support some of the community policing projects. She concluded by saying that she was also concerned about the \$10 cap.

Sheila Dill, 1162 Willamette Street, representing Peace Health Medical Group, stated that her organization was open 7 a.m. to midnight, had 1200 patients, and 400 employees and physicians all



of whom were vulnerable when entering or exiting the hospital onto unsafe streets. She relayed an incident of an elderly patient, recovering from eye surgery, who was assaulted on 13th Avenue and Olive Street as she left the clinic. She said there were eight tire slashings over the course of a month and the clinic had experienced a dozen incidents of vandalism during the same time frame. She added that two cars were stolen from the lots, and panhandling and drug dealing were becoming more prevalent. She said that Peace Health had increased the lighting in the parking lots, increased security guard coverage, and added car patrols. She said that the last place people should have to worry about safety was at the entrance to their doctor's office.

Ron Crawford, 58 West 11th Avenue, president of Smith and Craig's Insurance Company, said that he had worked for the company for 20 years and he had seen crime steadily increase. He said that it was disconcerting for employees to see sleeping bags stuffed among the bushes along side of the building and find people sleeping in the dumpsters. He added that as the day-light hours became shorter, he was very concerned for their safety as they walked to and from their cars. He encouraged the council to increase police coverage in the city.

Audre Keller, 539 East 13th Avenue, manager of the Copy Shop, testified on behalf of the business owners in the West University District between Alder and Willamette streets on 13th Avenue. She said that crime was a serious problem in that area. She recounted an incident wherein her day began by dealing with four drunk people playing their boom box at full volume while they danced and kicked their bottles into the street. She said that the men began to urinate on a building across from her place of business and when she confronted them they yelled obscenities and walked on down the street. She said that she spends much of her time reassuring her customers that employees were working to eliminate the problems. She said that the area was subjected to public drunkenness, indecent exposure, unsafe sidewalks, physical and verbal abuse, and the use of public areas as toilets. She asserted that the people contributing to these problems on 13th Avenue were the deliberately derelict who had contempt for others. She urged the council to take positive action. She said that no one had the constitutional right to urinate in her parking lot.

Rose Marie Slegle, 663 Van Buren Street, requested that the council consider closing an east-west alley between Blair and Van Buren streets and 6th and 7th avenues in Eugene. She read a letter from her neighbors requesting the alley closure due to gang activity, graffiti, personal threats, violence, prostitution, drug usage, vandalism, night time noise, shootings, burglaries, and generally turbulent nights and disturbed days. She said that she asked the DPS, three years ago, what could be done and it had no answers. She said that the neighbors needed help with the crime, but they also needed help without increased taxes. She urged the council to support the closure and added that she was a piano teacher who no longer saw her students at her home because of the crime in the area.

Jim Antonini, 564 East 13th Avenue, General Manager of Atiyeh Brothers cleaning firm, testified in favor of the tax base increase because he believed it was the last chance to save the West University Neighborhood. He said the only protection from the crime was a police presence. He remarked that there had been some success with the addition of the Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) coming into the area. He reported that Eugene was known throughout the country as a place where drug usage and disrespectful behavior was acceptable and tolerated. He asked the councilors if they would tolerate the kinds of things they had heard that evening in their places of business or in their homes. He urged the council to move forward with putting the tax base increase on the November ballot.

Sister Barbara Haase, 574 East 14th Avenue, speaking on behalf of Peace Health and Sacred Heart Medical Center, testified in favor of the tax base increase and it being placed on the ballot in November. She said that it was imperative that community policing be supported with a sustainable, ongoing funding source. She noted that some differences had occurred since the West University Substation had been in place and added that a sincere partnership had been forged between DPS and the business owners. She said the neighborhood was in crisis and the problem needed to be faced and solved. She commented that members of Peace Health had served on the board and worked with the people of the University Small Business Association for more than 10 years, members had worked with the City and paid \$15,000 for increased area lighting on 13th Avenue, members had provided much in-kind support for the DPS substation, and members had committed \$15,000 to help pay for the West University guides. She said that the presence of patrol cars and the bicycle patrol had been most welcome. She urged the council to put the tax base increase on the ballot. She also assured the public that at the convent, they did pay property taxes.

Tony Lum, 1030 Spyglass, said that although he had not experienced any of the crime described personally, he had observed many of the actions. He said that he was the co-chair of the Chief's Forum and had the opportunity to ride along with a police officer on his patrol. He said that witnessing what the officers went through during their shifts was incredible. He expressed his support for the tax base increase and said that he would be willing to pay for the extra protection.

Maurie Deanner, 3688 Wilshire Lane, spoke in favor of the increased tax base for two reasons: 1) the police department was excellent and deserved support; and 2) the neighborhoods were in serious crisis. He said that after having read the West University Study completed by the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) he became convinced that the City needed to take firm action immediately and bring the level of local staffing up to adequate levels for all neighborhoods and all situations. He said that as a member of the Police Forum he believed that the long range plan needed to be implemented and added that community policing was both effective and efficient. He said that as a homeowner he was often frustrated with the costs involved; however, he believed that the tax base increase would be beneficial. He said that the timing was crucial and if the council decided not to put the increase on the ballot in November, it would be forced to wait until 1998 before it could go for another tax base increase.

Bob Lee, 860 East 13th Avenue, urged the council to refer this tax measure to the voters on the November ballot. He said that as a homeowner and a small business owner he felt the public safety needs were both extreme and immediate and action needed to be taken now.

Shannon McCarthy, 1510 Mill Street, Chair of the West University Neighbors, testified for herself, her family, and twelve of her neighbors in favor of the increased tax base. She said that more officers were needed and a permanent RDU would be most welcome in the West University area. She said that a tax base measure would provide ongoing funding whereas a levy would have to be renewed. She noted that the ballot measure was in keeping with the long range plan and she urged the council to put the measure to the voters.

Rita Litin, 700 Fair Oaks Drive, spoke on behalf of a small neighborhood in north Eugene. She said that the neighborhood had always been safe and comfortable and it had changed. She said there was an urgent need for the measure because more community policing was needed.



Ed Omsreider, 1524 Barber Drive, manager of Olive Plaza, stated that the descriptions that the council had heard were prevalent in his neighborhood and directly affected the residents of Olive Plaza. He said that more and more the people who come to Olive Plaza feel confined due to the amount of crime in the area. He said that the woman who was mugged outside of the Eugene Clinic lived at Olive Plaza. He said he supported the measure and urged the council to support a stronger police presence. He added that he supported a police substation to be placed near the new LTD station.

Dan Dismore, 1100 Willamette Street, manager of the Washington Mutual Branch, stated his support for public safety and community policing. He expressed his concern for his employees and customers and urged the council to put the measure to the vote of the people.

Richard Greene, 766 East 13th Avenue, expressed concern that the City of Eugene was being lost to crime, block by block, street by street, and neighborhood by neighborhood. He said that the issue was political and he wanted councilors Nathanson, Farr, and Hornbuckle to listen closely to the stories being relayed. He invited them to visit 13th Avenue and he asked them how long the City could afford to wait to handle these problems. He said the proposal was intelligent, logical, consistent with the long range safety plan, and it helped permanently fund community policing. He urged the council to fund the plan. He said the criminals were listening closely to this conversation and they wanted to hear that the funding would not be available for this plan, and he stressed the importance of not sending that message.

Jan Gund, 1670 Lorane Highway, said she served in the development of the Public Safety Long-Range Plan and she was a citizen representative to the PSCC. She said she supported the vision of the PSCC and its goal of delivery of services efficiently and effectively in order to reduce crime. She said the DPS was operating with fewer officers as the population of Eugene increased. She urged the council to support the tax base increase.

Kip Leonard, Lane County Courthouse, Presiding Judge of the Lane County District and Circuit Courts and member of the PSCC, said that he did not want to take a position on the issue but rather offer a neutral position. He said that a system-wide perspective might be of some help to the councilors as they wrestled with the issue. He stated that this issue touched the County and the State as well as the City and all of those resources had to work in concert in order for the system to work smoothly. He noted that the Lane County Jail was currently full, the District Attorney's Office was understaffed, State prisons were full, and parole and probation could not currently adequately supervise all of the people in its caseload. He said that 80-90 percent of all felony convictions result in probation and added that the most effective way to reduce recidivism is intensive supervision and programs, yet those programs were unavailable.

Karen Dayton, 561 East 13th Avenue, testified that she resided in the UO district and owned a business in that area. She shared that over the last 18-24 months she has experienced a marked difference in the amount of crime and disintegration of the community. She said that she cleans up human and animal feces from the area frequently. She noted that a woman was run down by a person riding a skateboard. She noted that drug use and drug dealing was prevalent in the area. She expressed concern that her customers were being chased away by the crime and the disrespectful behavior. She noted that her car was stolen from her parking lot. She gave her full support to the increased tax base.

**Maurizio Paparo**, 302 Heritage Oak, supported the increased tax base. He said that the City still had the opportunity to change the direction of the community. He said that the investment was worth it to protect the community from crime.

**Lola Curorke**, 3539 Oxbow Way, supported expanding community policing and urged the council to put the tax base increase on the November ballot. She said she wanted to support Chief Cooke and quoted Nike by saying, "Just Do It."

**Cynthia Ruth Grimes**, 522 East 13th Avenue, stated she was the resident manager of the Morning Guest House, a place for people to stay when they have loved ones in Sacred Heart Hospital. She said that every guest in the last 2 1/2 years had mentioned the state of the neighborhood, and 4 people had refused to stay because they feared for their safety. She said that male guests had been propositioned by prostitutes and many guests had been offered drugs. She urged the council to support the increased tax base and put it to the vote of the people.

**Ken Tollenaar**, 1522 Russet Drive, said that he had been following the PSCC's work with a great deal of interest and hope. He said that the project was a system-wide, multi-jurisdictional effort to address the entire criminal-justice system, which included an extremely complicated set of relationships involving many agencies. He said that it was his opinion that it would make more sense to go for a one-to two-year levy in March 1997, rather than locking up \$4.7 million of resources. He said that the funding would come through at the same time for either the levy or the tax base increase. He added that by the time March 1997 came around the council would be better able to evaluate the prospects of success of the PSCC's efforts. He noted that there were advantages and disadvantages for both the levy and the tax base increase.

**Jacque Bonner**, 1061 West 10th Avenue, testified that community policing was very valuable to the West Side Neighborhood and said that she would vote for a tax base increase.

**Edwin L. Coleman**, 1895 Fillmore Street, spoke on behalf of the African American Community Coalition (AACC) and stated that this proposal was not new and was not asking for a "pie in the sky," but rather it was basic funding for basic services. He said that community policing was a necessity in all of the neighborhoods. He noted that he taught at UO and was on 13th Avenue five days during the week and said that if another skateboard hit him in the ankles "Chief Cooke could come and carry him to jail." He pointed out that the schools needed policing and the addition of the domestic abuse unit was an excellent idea. He said that the DPS needed to reflect the diversity of its community and urged the council to support the tax base increase.

**Mona Rummel**, 412 East 13th Avenue, presented a block of asphalt from her street noting that the city was being taken over brick by brick. She said that Eugene was once one of the ten most liveable cities in the United States, but now some of the areas in the city were ghettos and havens for crime. She said that 13th Avenue had the dubious distinction of being declared the new Haight-Ashbury on the Internet. She said that she was not enamored of new taxes, but it was inexpensive insurance to pay considering the rate of crime and violence in the neighborhoods.

**Kieran Walsh**, 2977 McKendrick Street, stated that he and his wife owned 14 rental units in Eugene and he would be happy to pay the increased taxes in order to insure himself against crime and violence. He reminded people of the line from a Simon and Garfunkle song, "silence like a cancer

grows," and said that there was a cancer in Eugene and it needed to be stopped. He said that people were begging the council to put this on the ballot. He urged the council to let the people decide.

David Hinkley, 1308 Jefferson Street, stated his support of public safety and questioned whether nine patrol officers would be enough. He said that in requesting the tax base increase the City was sending the wrong message to the public. He said that the message was that there was not enough money in the general fund to support the police force and that policing was not a high priority. He urged the council to fund the program from the general fund and to prioritize all community needs and come back to the people with the lower priority needs for funding.

Misha Seymour, 1313 Lincoln #306, said that perhaps everyone was hypnotized except for him. He said that 300 petitioners did not want the RDU and the SWAT team because of selective enforcement. He said that in a recent sweep, 30 percent of people were cited for sitting in the public right-of-way. He said that the people with the skateboards and the people who were living on the streets needed to be involved in creating a solution to the problem. He suggested having benches for people to sit on. He added that people have a right to panhandle. He called attention to the fact that 7-11 sold alcohol and that coffee was a drug as well. He said that everyone needed to be taken into account when solving problems. He suggested limiting the amount of guns in society rather than increasing the number of police.

John Flanery, 878 Almaden, said that it was a noble idea to move to a more preventative type of policing, but he noted that the reality of crime was that it moved. He said the only way to prevent crime completely was to have an officer on every corner. He said that he did not want to move to that level of policing. He said if that was going to be the case then the community would need to police the police.

Susan Beals, 1249 16th Avenue, offered both a professional and a personal perspective as a parole officer and a contract employee for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). She said that over the last 2-3 years, there had been 200 percent increases in hard core drug activity. She said that she had been a victim of an attempted burglary in her home. She said that she witnessed a crime in the West University Neighborhood and her name and address was placed in the police report and she had to deal with having the perpetrator of the crime harass her at her home. She said that she and her neighbors had paid for a patrol car to come through their neighborhood every evening. She said she would be happy to pay an additional \$5 per month for more community policing. She urged the council to support the tax base because short-term funding would not solve the problem.

William O'Brien, 1827 Harris Street, said the concept of community policing was honorable, but he did not see it happening because there was no community review board of police conduct. He said there were numerous lawsuits going on that involved the criminal-justice system. He expressed concern about selective enforcement of laws. He added that if someone were to break into his room the police were not going to do anything. He added that selective harassment of the jaywalking law was ridiculous.

Jim Lynch, 2350 North Terry Street #26, he said that he had been through the Citizen's Police Academy and had been involved in a ride-along. He said that he understood the tremendous pressure the officers were under attempting to deal with all the calls for service. He said that he would be



voting in favor of the increased tax base if it were on the ballot. He urged the council to let the people vote on the issue.

Jim Hale, 1995 Terrace Avenue, said he would vote yes on the increased tax base if given the opportunity, but he would rather vote in favor of the short-term measure. He said that there were many good reasons for not using up the \$10 tax cap.

John Walsh, 751 East 16th Avenue #320, stated that the problem could be solved if all children were required to be in school until they were 18 years old. He said that teens were the problem on 13th Avenue.

Chris Allen, homeless, stated his opposition for increased funding for the DPS. He said that he believed police helped to increase crime rather than decrease crime.

The following testimony was entered in written form (each councilor received copies):

Russ Brisk wrote in support of the increased tax base for three reasons: 1) there is an urgent need for more police officers and community policing programs; 2) the approach is consistent with the long range public safety plan; and 3) the proposal, as opposed to the serial levy, is a long-term solution to the problem.

Ben Chase wrote in opposition to the proposal for three reasons: 1) the impact on the rest of the "system" would increase the burden on an already overburdened system; 2) it is premature given the PSCC's charge to create a system from the existing collection of overlapping jurisdictions and functions; and 3) there is much greater long-term value to be added through prevention and intervention programs than through further expansion of law enforcement.

There being no other requests to speak, Mayor Bascom closed the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda H. Norris*

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City Manager pro tem

(Recorded by Jennifer Self  
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