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City Council nixes SSTOC study

By Sora O'Doherty

The Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) brought a proposal to the Orinda City Council on Feb. 6, seeking authorization to spend about \$21,000 of Measure R funds on a community survey designed to provide a benchmark of Orinda attitudes toward wild fire prevention, but the council determined that the study was unnecessary and denied the request.

The SSTOC was formed in accordance with Measure R, a voter-approved increase in the sales tax to one cent for a period of 20 years from its adoption in 2020. Although it is a general tax, and therefore not tied to any particular expenditures of the city, Orinda said that the funds would be used primarily to improve wild fire safety and to continue road and drain maintenance. Measure R generates approximately \$2.4 million per year.

Commissioners Rachelle Latimer and Paula Reinman presented the SSTOC's proposal to the council with a number of different options on how to conduct the survey with various prices. Latimer noted that the city is

spending over \$1 million annually on fire safety, and that the goal of the SSTOC is to develop a baseline understanding against which to measure future progress.

Commissioner Reinman reported that the SSTOC had talked to two firms in order to get a ballpark idea of costs before embarking on a request for proposals. In order to be statistically significant, about 400 responses would be required, and it was expected that that is achievable.

Council Member Janet Reilly wondered if a survey was really necessary. Council Member Brandyn Iverson asked if the SSTOC has considered focus groups as an alternative. Mayor Darlene Gee asked if the SSTOC had found any other community who had actually conducted this type of programmatic survey, as opposed to the types of surveys conducted by Orinda to judge the appetite of the community for a ballot measure.

Latimer told the council that while most of the state is trying to get programs up and running, they are not focused on asking why people are not making

behavioral changes. "We'll be cutting edge in the state," she concluded.

Iverson said that there seems to be a lot of low-hanging fruit, such as free gutter guards. But Reinman countered that just because people took the gutter guards doesn't mean that they have installed them. Iverson had perhaps set the tone of the meeting earlier, when she pulled an item from the consent calendar, to ask questions about why the city spent money on consultants and studies for ADA parking improvements and new crosswalks.

Council Member Inga Miller pointed out that Connect Orinda was wildly successful with a one-day event in the library garden room, which was packed with people. She wondered if the SSTOC might do something similar. Reinman responded that asking people to walk around Orinda to say how they would like Orinda to look is "very different from telling people that you have a 20 or 30 thousand dollar problem in your yard." She also stated that while the work of individuals is important,

"you need the whole neighborhood to do it before everyone is safe."

Reilly favored the idea of conducting a study only through city channels, and said that she didn't "buy the argument that that wouldn't capture unengaged citizens." Iverson did not support the survey. Miller emphasized that the city had no experience with programmatic surveys, only election surveys, where the motivation to respond is high because it affects what will go on the ballot.

The council proceeded with a motion to not approve the survey. On the first vote, Council Member Reilly abstained. City attorney Osa Wolff intervened to explain that Orinda has a unique rule, which is not general parliamentary procedure, that in the event of a tie vote, the motion fails. Since the motion under consideration was a negative one to not approve the survey, the effect of Reilly's abstention would be to approve the survey. Reilly then changed her vote to aye, meaning that the motion to not approve the survey succeeded.

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Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldrift
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Identity Theft
900 Block Carl Rd.
Petty Theft
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block School St.
800 Block Acalanes Rd.
Residential Burglary
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (8)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
Loud Music
3700 Block West Rd.
Loud Party
3300 Block Walnut Ln.
Public Nuisance
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
900 Block Dewing Ave.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism
900 Block Acalanes Rd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)
Other criminal activity
Grand Theft
100 Block Fernwood Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Not Available
Disturbing The Peace
Campolindo High School
Loud Party
Not Available
10 Block Corliss Dr.
Other
Battery Domestic Misd
700 Block Augusta Dr.
H&S Violation
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Loitering
60 Block Miramonte Dr.
Suicide Attempt
Barnes Ct./Larch Ave.
Terrorist Threats
Police Department
Violation Restraining Ord
Moraga Country Club

Lafayette Police Department

Incident Summary Report
Jan. 21- Feb. 3

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	114
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	21
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	24
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	9
Ordinance Violation	1



Auto Burglary
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.
1000 Block Glen Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
20 Block Lafayette Cir.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
900 Block Risa Rd.
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Mor Rd./Mor Blvd
Reckless Driving
St Marys Rd./Camino Colorados
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mt. Diablo Ct.
Laurel Dr./Garden Ln.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
St Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Jan. 21 - Jan. 27

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	45
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	36
Patrol Req./Security Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	7
Vacation House Check	9
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Jan. 23 - Feb. 5

Alarms	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	75
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	30
Patrol Req./Security Check	21
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Oak Rd./Stein Way, Ori
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
20 Block Hour Fitness
Excessive Speed
Canyon Rd./De La Cruz Way
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/School St. (3)
Arco
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
St Johns Church, Ori
Chalda Way/Rheem Blvd.
Bank Of America
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
Moraga Liquors
Miramonte High School, Ori

Valente Ct./Acalanes Rd.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd. (3)
4100 Block Coralee Ln.
St Marys Rd./Avalon Ave.
Vehicle Theft
3400 Block School St.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
10 Block Moss Ln.

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Measure R at Work