

Neighborhood Livability Program Update



Office of the City Attorney Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Budget Engagement Commission November 29, 2018

Riverside City Attorney Gary Geuss instituted an innovative, problem-solving focus that involves tough and effective initiatives to improve public safety and the quality of life throughout the City.

The City Attorney formed a Public Safety Division that plays a vital role in shaping the future of Riverside by fighting to improve neighborhood livability, preventing gun violence, and promoting public safety.



The Public Safety Division of the City Attorney's Office – in partnership with Police, Fire, Code Enforcement and the community - works to combat actions that impact the quality of life in Riverside's neighborhoods and support our City public safety partners.











- The Mission is to provide a proactive response to public concerns and increase accountability to the neighborhoods.
- The Focus is on nuisance activities and code enforcement issues to ensure public safety and uphold neighborhood quality of life.
- The Key is to develop partnerships.





- Received 344 neighborhood problems to address; 72% of the assignments were fully solved and closed out.
- Attended 50 community meetings.
- Participated in Ward Action Team initiatives.





- Shut down
 - 12 marijuana dispensaries;
 - 8 substandard properties through court-ordered receiverships or alternative means;
 - 2 unpermitted nightclubs; and
 - 7 illicit massage parlors.

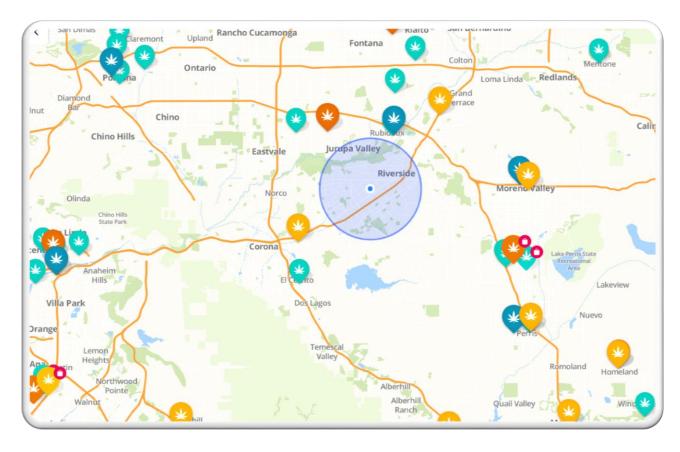




- Eliminate Blight:
 - Increased efforts to bring vacant properties to productive use.
 - Be more productive to identify vacant properties in critical locations.
 - Pursue substandard housing violations.





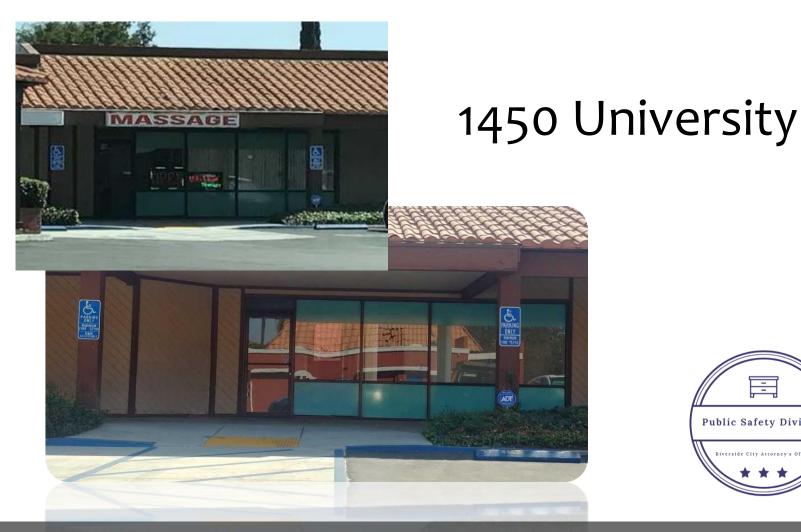




























7825 Railroad











WARD 5



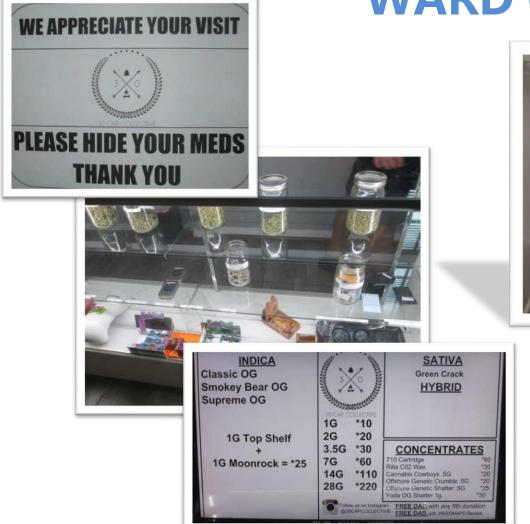
3815 Melody







WARD 6





11004 Hole







5515 Bushnell







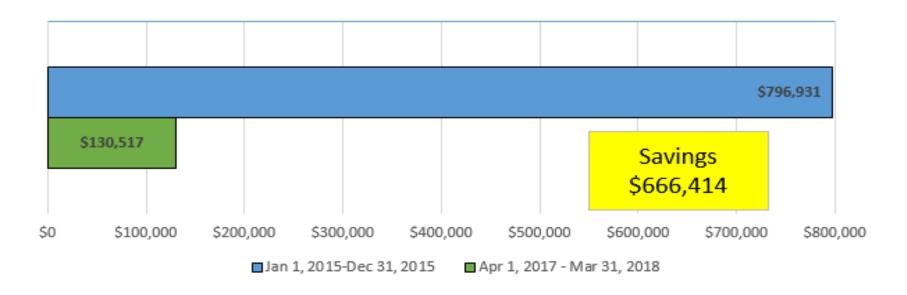
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS REVENUE FOR GENERAL FUND

- The Division collected \$479,158.92 from actions involving rehabilitation agreements, receiverships, and marijuana dispensary enforcement.
- Revenue is returned to the programs they support.
- Attorney fee recovery goes back to the General Fund for basic City services.



Public Safety Division

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS SAVINGS FOR SELF-INSURANCE FUNDS



The Division takes great pride in defending lawsuits filed against the City and individual RPD officers alleging civil rights violations. In addition, attorneys are consulted and trained on the state of the law to reduce the risk of litigation, while ensuring that the men and women of the RPD are well-equipped to protect themselves and the City's neighborhoods.





- No new police civil rights cases sent to outside counsel in past 2 fiscal years.
- Time-intensive litigation and high exposure largely due to injuries and provision for recovery of plaintiffs' attorneys fees.

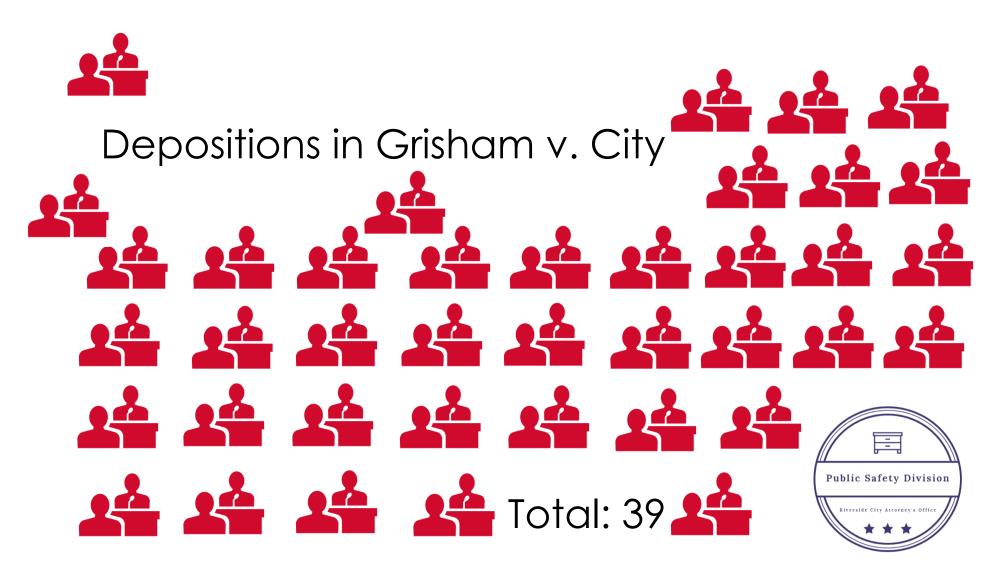




Depositions in Calhoun v. City









PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS ADVISORY WORK

- Legal advice and training to RPD.
- "Around the clock" availability for real time" advice.
- Advisory work for RFD operations, prevention, USAI, USAR, and OEM.
- Critical incident call-outs
- Public safety ordinances





PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS OUR TEAM

- Gary Geuss
- Neil Okazaki
- Rebecca McKee
- Aaron Chandler
- Tom Chisum









PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS DISCUSSION

- In order to forward the mission of addressing community livability matters in the City, the City Council voted 7-0 on October 9, 2018 to hire an additional Deputy City Attorney to better manage key liability problems and address workload issues.
- This new position will be required to comprehensively and efficiently perform the responsible activities of the Division.





PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS PROPOSED INITIATIVES 2018/2019

- Solve problems quicker and more proactively.
- Work with authority of DA's Office to prosecute criminal cases involving livability.
- Greater involvement with RPD neighborhood policing teams.
- Innovating and creating new solution to problems.
- Head a cannabis enforcement team.
- Gun violence restraining orders.
- Street racing eradication efforts.





PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS PROPOSED INITIATIVES 2018/2019

- Develop Downtown Riverside safety and restorative justice initiatives.
- Maintain responsiveness to RPD despite growth.
- Prepare for and limit potential increase in litigation given RPD personnel growth.
- Participation in Homeless Court cases.
- Address problems of improper management at certain independent living facilities.
- School outreach to educate on anti-graffiti enforcement to deter illegal conduct.

Public Safety Division











Making Riverside a Better Place to Live, Work, and Play

