

## **Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes for April 8th, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. Other officers present were Pat Kiely, Treasurer. As usual, self introductions of those in attendance were made.

Prior to the start of the first agenda item, representatives of the new restaurant located at the Craneway, The Boilerhouse, introduced themselves to the attendees and passed out menus. The restaurant may be reached at [www.theboilerhouserestaurant.com](http://www.theboilerhouserestaurant.com).

Additionally, the first quarterly newsletter received from Richmond City Manager, Bill Lindsay, was passed out.

- 1. Beat Officer's Report:** Sergeant Tod Opdyke of the Richmond Police Department reported that in the month of December only 28 calls for service had been made in the Marina Bay neighborhood. Of those, 7 were false "audible" alarms. There were 3 burglaries. One was a car burglary on Shoreline Court at the Shore subdivision and there was a home burglary that occurred on Bayside Court at the Marina Bay Community at Marina Bay.
  
- 2. Update on Gang Activities in Richmond:** Sergeant Opdyke introduced Police Sergeant Michael Wang, a gang and narcotic trafficking expert, who gave an overview of the organizational structure of the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations. Sergeant Wang presented a PowerPoint detailing the hierarchy of the Mexican Drug Cartels and their relationship to the multiple homicides in Richmond. Sergeant Wang outlined the ultra-lucrative billion dollar trade in cocaine and methamphetamines originating in Columbia, Central America and China that is then managed and run by competing Mexican drug cartels and brought into this country. Statistical information was presented and aspects of the pricing structure was explained.

The Sinaloa Cartel has a huge gang network in Richmond and San Pablo and much of Richmond's crime is directly related to this thriving drug distribution business. Unfortunately, poverty is one of the greatest recruitment tools that the cartels have. Therefore, it's the street pushers selling to local addicts....the end users....who steal to feed their habits that prey on the citizens of Richmond. It is imperative to remain alert to those individuals around us and report any suspicious behavior to the Richmond Police Department.

A representative of the proposed Landscape and Lighting Assessment District Action Committee (that is made up of local residents from the eleven subdivisions at Marina Bay) stated that the committee will be holding a meeting at The Craneway on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7 until 9 PM to discuss the proposal. This meeting will be in lieu of the regular Marina Bay Neighborhood Council meeting for May. All homeowners are

encouraged to attend this meeting to hear about the special assessment in order that they will be fully informed prior to voting on the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky

Acting Secretary for the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council