

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



COUNTY OF SANTACRUZ

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

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AGENDA: 8/25/98

August 19, 1998

 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 County of Santa Cruz
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: GOLDEN TORCH TRAILER PARK

Dear Members of the Board:

The Board will recall our recent discussion regarding the living conditions and code violations at **Marmo's** Trailer Park in Watsonville. I wish to bring to the Board's attention a similar, if not more intense, situation at the Golden Torch Trailer Park on Freedom Boulevard.

I recently visited the site, as has our Director of Planning and other department personnel, and found the conditions unsafe and unhealthy for the residents of the park. I am aware that the Planning Department, Environmental Health, Human Resources **Agency**, the District Attorney and the Sheriff's Office have formed a "Technical Planning Committee" to supply the Board with a recommendation for solving the problem of travel-trailer parks turned low-income housing. However, before their task is complete, I hope we can effect some immediate change at the Golden Torch to improve the living conditions for residents and neighbors.

Specifically, when I visited the park I saw broken sewer lines running to trailers, public restrooms in disrepair, trailers perched on inadequate supports and leaking propane tanks. I was also shown photos of a recent septic failure that washed sewage down the street where children play.

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I firmly support efforts to require the park owner to take immediate action to address the following:

- * Repair broken trailer sewer hookups and/or sewer lines
- * Increase the capacity of the park's sewer system and voluntarily reduce the park's occupancy through attrition
- * Stabilize trailers with adequate supports and level trailer lots if necessary
- * Remove abandoned trailers, vehicles and structures which may become a safety hazard to park residents
- * Increase the capacity or the frequency of pickup of the park's refuse containers to meet the needs of current residents
- * Bring electrical connections to trailers up to Code

To assist the property owner and County staff in achieving these goals, I suggest the formation of a task force which, among others, would include myself, representatives from the County's "Technical Planning Committee," a resident from the Golden Torch Trailer Park, a representative of the County Board of Education, a member of the Freedom Unitarian Church,, and the Santa Cruz Legal Aid Society.

I understand that the District Attorney's Office has sought the authority to prosecute compliance failures with the State Attorney General's Office. I ask that the County Administrator write a letter to the Attorney General expressing the urgency of this matter. I would also ask that County staff take the utmost care to recognize the fears of Golden Torch residents and to assure them that this action is not an attempt to displace them, but to help them improve their park.

It is therefore recommended that the County Administrative Office be directed to convene a task force within 30 days and report back to the Board on or before November 3, 1998, on its progress and that the County Administrative Office send a letter to the Attorney General regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



WALTER J. SYMONS, Supervisor
Second District

WJS:lg

cc: County Administrative Officer
Planning Director

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