



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: National Night Out Against Crime 2009

Report in Brief

The annual celebration of the National Night Out Against Crime is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2009. Despite the fiscal challenges associated that caused the reduction of the Crime Prevention Program, the Police Department in collaboration with the existing Neighborhood Watch groups and previous National Night Out participants remain committed to this annual event.

Staff recommends that the City Council recognize and approve the observance of National Night Out for Tuesday, August 4, 2009, in the City of Woodland.

Background

On August 4, 2009, neighborhoods throughout the Woodland community will be encouraged to participate in the 26th Annual National Night Out Against Crime. National Night Out strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The annual event provides an opportunity for neighbors and the entire community to come together and send a message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. For the past several years, Neighborhood Watch groups across our City have joined forces with thousands of others from communities nationwide for this event. Woodland neighbors organized a variety of themed block parties and activities for all of their residents to enjoy and to engage in friendly competition with other neighborhoods.

Personnel and program cuts in the Police Department have necessitated a reduction in the Police Department's coordination of Woodland's National Night Out. However, it is because of these cuts, that it significantly increases the importance of community participation in this event and other crime prevention efforts. Police Department staff continues to correspond with prior National Night Out participants, neighborhood watch block groups and, through the media and our website, has encouraged neighbors to get together on August 4, 2009, in a show of solidarity to fight crime. Because of the elimination of the Crime Prevention program, the Department is unable to further promote the event or facilitate a theme competition for participants as in years past. Nonetheless, Police Department command staff and on-duty patrol staff will still be making the rounds and

stopping by at neighborhood events, as calls for service allow. Council members are invited to join Police staff while making these visits.

The Police Department staff is seeking to invigorate and encourage community members to join their neighbors to prevent crime and enhance the work of improving their neighborhoods.

Fiscal Impact

There is no impact to the General Fund.

Public Contact

In addition to publicity of the event in the local newspaper and through information pamphlets, the item was posted as part of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council recognize and approve the observance of National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, in the City of Woodland.

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