

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CITIZEN'S FORUM
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
October 15, 2019
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council Citizen's Forum to order at 5:32 p.m.

Councilmembers Present:	Shelton, Watts, Thomas, Knight, Miller, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent:	McClendon
Staffmembers Present:	Interim City Administrator, John D. Simonton Chief of Police, Susan Smith Police Lieutenant, Anthony Legros Various department heads or their representatives City Attorney, Richard W. Files City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Mary Ann Morell, City resident, spoke regarding criminal activity taking place on Lowell Drive that has affected her and several other residents in her neighborhood, all involving a particular family. Belongings have been stolen out of residents' homes and yards, and drug paraphernalia has been found on residents' properties. Family members have been observed using drugs, and people are continuously coming and going from the family's home. **Morell** concluded by stating that she has written and sent several letters to the family's landlord but she has not received any response.

Discussion

- City Council is not a law enforcement body and does not have the ability to make arrests or press charges (**Mayor Nicholls**)
- The Yuma Police Department (YPD) are called to handle situations as they arise, but as soon as they are released from jail the same criminal activity continues (**Morell**)
- YPD has offered to meet with the residents and help them set up a Neighborhood Watch, but up to this point the residents have declined (**Smith**)
- Members of the Special Operations Group have been out to the neighborhood several nights each week since receiving Morell's letter, and no illegal activity has been observed (**Legros**)
- Law enforcement officers do not have the power to remove residents from their homes; this would be up to the landlord (**Legros**)
- While the residents are already vigilant, adding a Neighborhood Watch program may be more effective and would provide a stronger presence in the neighborhood (**Mayor Nicholls/Morell**)
- The residents may want to consider jointly contacting an attorney; a letter from an attorney may encourage a response from the landlord (**Shelton**)

II. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Knight/Thomas): To adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. Voice vote: **approved** 6-0.
The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

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