THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO

JOHN HARTLEY
Councilmember, Third District

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Downtown Court and Jail Committee November Newsletter

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The November Committee Meeting is:

Thursday, November 21, 1991
5:15 - 7:00 p.m.
202 C St.
12th Floor Conference Room

Hartley Speaks to CCA.

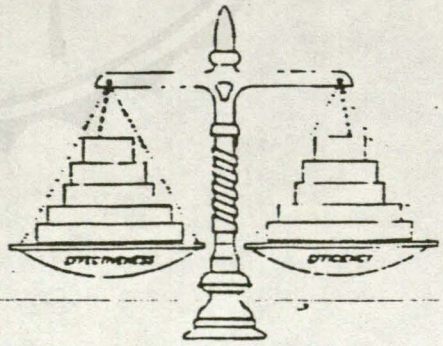
Councilmember Hartley spoke at the Central City Association monthly luncheon this month about the Committee, our proposal, and their participation in the Committee. They were very receptive and will hopefully be sending someone to our next meeting.

Important Items for our next meeting.

At our November meeting we will be redefining and focussing our mission. We have taken on a huge project and it is now time for us to develop our goals and strategies for accomplishing that goal. In addition we will be discussing a cost-value study of our proposal. Please try to attend, we need everyones input.

City going ahead with MOU only after approval by Court/Jail Committee.

At the request of Councilmember Hartley the signing of an MOU between the City Redevelopment Agency and the County was delayed so this committee would have the opportunity to review it. The MOU calls for $800,000 a year for 25 years from the Agency and would keep the existing courts downtown. The Court/Jail committee reviewed this at its last meeting and unanimously approved it.



Our judicial system hangs in the balance.

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SAN DIEGANS, INC.
UPDATE

)OWNTOWN COURTS ND JAIL COMMITTEE

The provision of a system of justice is a fundamental responsibility of government. San Diego County is ıced with a crisis in providing adequate cilities for carrying out this responsibility.

he Downtown Courts and Jail Committee as formed last year under the leadership of ouncilmember John Hartley. The specific urposes of the Committee were to focus tention on the need for adequate court and il facilities, to provide recommendations r addressing those critical needs, and to eate an atmosphere of support for those commendations.

ıe group has considered various studies at have been made to date. They have scussed the monetary aspects of several ourt proposals, including construction sts; the location and design of a court mplex; the needs of constituents involved; d the location of jail facilities.

ıe Committee has recently announced the lection of three co-chairs: Wayne affesberger, Executive Director of San iegans, Inc.; Peter Shenas, Senior Partner Shenas, Shaw & Spivak, a San Diego law m; and Howard Wayne, Deputy Attorney eneral for the State of California.

okesperson Wayne Raffesberger indicated n Diego County is faced with the crisis of oviding adequate facilities, particularly e-arraignment facilities used for holding dividuals waiting to be booked.

"If the general public knew how many erious criminals were being released back on the streets because there is no place to hold them, they would be outraged," said Raffesberger. "I'm sure this is extremely frustrating to both the police and sheriff's departments. Through more study and education, the Committee hopes to inform downtown businesses and the general public about the need for adequate criminal justice facilities and the importance of such a joint complex being located downtown."

The Committee has been actively meeting since the end of 1990 to evaluate the crisis and develop recommendations. The group is comprised of individuals who feel strongly that the downtown location of a court and jail complex is critical to downtown and its economy. Key positions of the Committee include the following:

1) A new court complex is needed downtown which would include facilities for the Superior and Municipal Courts adequate through the year 2020, space for supporting facilities, and provisions for the district attorney, public defender, and the county lawlibrary;

2) A downtown jail should be constructed in conjunction with the court complex adequate to provide holding facilities for felony and misdemeanor prisoners actively involved in court proceedings.

The Committee recognized not only the need for these facilities, but the tremendous impact that jail and court related businesses have on the downtown economy. Almost 40% of downtown office space is related to the criminal justice and court system in one way or another.

"Stop and think," said Raffesberger, "of the hundreds of businesses downtown that rely on being situated close to the courts. Paralegals, messenger services and court reporting firms are examples of companies directly reliant on court-related business. But let's not forget all the businesses which, while not totally dependent, benefit greatly from court-related businesses downtown — restaurants, accounting firms, printing firms, property managers, leasing agents, retail stores, parking facilities, carwashes — the list is endless."

The Downtown Court & Jail Committee meets monthly to review the city's and county's actions with respect to future judicial and detention facilities. Additionally, the Committee has several sub-committees reviewing specific aspects of the issue. Following are the sub-committees and a description of their proposed activities:

Public Relations

Will include a speaker's bureau. This committee will be the communication arm for the Downtown Court/Jail Committee, generating the material that will be used to educate the public and to coordinate outreach to all concerned interests.

Public Finance

Will focus on all potential financing for construction and operation of the courts and jails, including Proposition A, Proposition 86, and various alternative methods.

Liaison

Will interact with all concerned parties and agencies, such as the Centre City Development Corporation, the sheriff and police departments, the Bar Association, the judiciary, the Central City Association, San Diegans, Inc., etc.

Fundraising

Will focus on raising money for the functions of the full Committee, and for any educational brochures, flyers, outreach programs, etc.

Fiscal Analysis

Will review proposed development and operation costs, research what other cities and counties have developed for justice facilities, and review architectural designs.

The Committee was formed to include a variety of downtown leaders and organizations, not just the legal community. "The Committee is tracking the issue closely," said Raffesberger, "and we will be bringing forward other recommendations and positions as the issue begins to be debated more frequently in public forums and hearings."

Downtown Court and Jail Committee
October 17, 1991 Meeting
Minutes

I. Co-chair Howard Wayne called the meeting to order and every one introduced themselves. Mr. Wayne informed the committee that arguments on Prop. A were heard on October 9, 1991. The preliminary indications were that the court is leaning against the County and we expect an opinion before the end of January.

II. Committee Reports

A. The Public Relations Committee has put out 2 press releases focussing on the naming of co-chairs and the actions by the County. The Public Relations Committee will be returning to the full committee with questions to help them refine our goals.

B. The Public Finance Committee met with Rich Robinson prior to the Prop. A. arguments. The committee is looking at other options including a sales tax increase or utility user tax.

C. The Fund Raising Committee was not meet yet. The committee has a new member, Greg Kane.

D. The Liaison Committee was not present.

E. The Research and Development Committee has met regarding the Master Plan but is still trying to get together with County Special Projects.

III. Condensing of Committee Mission was continued until the next meeting.

IV. Presentation by Paul Desrochers of CCDC regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the Redevelopment Agency and the County. The MOU provides for $800,000 a year for 25 years from redevelopment tax increment for the courts. These funds are in place of the previously committed $3 million. These funds would be deducted from any tax increment payments which the Agency would be required to pay the County when the downtown redevelopment area is expanded. Also, the County would commit to keeping all of the 78 existing courts in the downtown area and agree that the distribution of courts provided for in the Omni report is maintained. In addition, the MOU specifies that the facility will be within the Center City Community Plan.

Nick Marinovich, County Special Projects, gave a brief description of why the RFP has been delayed one month. He felt the delay was necessary because of the scope of the project and the need for direction on "critical policy issues" from the Board of Supervisors. These "critical issues" include accepting CCDC's contributions, financing options including a joint power authority, and a greater commitment from the County general fund. There were concerns that putting out the RFP would have only created more

questions than it solved.

Perry Dealy moved that the Committee accept the draft of the MOU as written. This was seconded by Pat McGovern and unanimously approved.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

SUMMARY OF
DOWNTOWN COURT/JAIL COMPLEX COMMITTEE
FINAL DRAFT PROPOSAL

I. INTRODUCTION: San Diego County is faced with a crisis in providing sufficient facilities for implementing the criminal justice system. This committee has focused its attention on the need for adequate court and jail facilities, to provide recommendations for addressing these critical needs, and to create an atmosphere of support for those recommendations.

II. COURTHOUSE: The committee feels that a new court complex must be built downtown. The court complex should include facilities for the Superior and Municipal Courts and supporting facilities through the year 2020. This will include provisions for the District Attorney, Public Defender, and the County Law Library.

III. JAIL: We believe a jail should be built downtown in conjunction with the new court complex. The facility should provide holding facilities for felony prisoners actively involved in court proceedings and for booking and detaining misdemeanants.

IV. FINANCING OF CONSTRUCTION: The committee would like to ensure the necessary funding is in place to construct the new complex. We are considering Prop. A, possibly a new ballot initiative, and alternative sources of funding.

V. FINANCING OF OPERATIONS: We would like to ensure both short and long term funding necessary for effective and efficient operation of all justice facilities.

VI. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN: It is necessary to develop an educational campaign to increase public support and raise funds for operation of the courts and jails.

Please find attached a list of questions submitted by Donna Nenow in response to the Public Relations subcommittee request. Please review these questions and bring any you may have to the next meeting on November 21, 1991. Thank you.

Stoorza Ziegaus & Metzger

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November 6, 1991

TO: Pat McGovern, Downtown Courts/Jail Committee

FROM: Donna Nenow

SUBJECT: Questions for Q & A

Upon my recommendation of developing a Q&A at our last jails/courts meeting, you requested committee members to submit questions to you. Following are a set of questions likely to arise for which answers should be developed.

Once the appropriate responses have been developed, it is recommended that we prepare a sheet that could be utilized as a handout for the speakers' bureau in soliciting support.

You're probably aware that the Board of Supervisors did not accept the recommendation of the three block radius and expanded it to five blocks. Enclosed is the backup material for that matter. Items listed as "issues" in this report should also be added to the Q&A for potential responses.

Q. Exactly what has occurred that could result in either jails, courts or both being eliminated from downtown?

A.

Q. How much money has been collected as a result of Prop A?

A.

Q. If Prop A fails in the courts, what will happen to all that money?

A.

San Diego
Sacramento
Los Angeles
Inland Empire

Q. If Prop A fails and the money is not available for use for court and jail expansion, just how do you propose to fund a downtown complex?

A.

Q. Just what is the makeup of the Downtown Court/Jail Committee?

A.

Q. It appears that most of the committee is directly related to the legal profession -- why is a downtown jail and court location important to the average citizen?

A.

Q. How many businesses located downtown rely on the legal justice system for business, directly and indirectly?

A.

Q. Who is funding your Committee?

A.

Q. Is Councilmember Hartley guiding this committee's activities?

A.

Q. What is the County's response to your committee's position?

A.

Q. If there is no Prop A money, would you support a smaller scale proposal, such as renovating, rather that rebuilding the jail?

A.

Q. If Prop A fails, what will your committee do?

A.

Q. Who besides committee members supports your position?

A.

Q. Now that the County has voted to expand the radius from 3 to 5 blocks, how will that change the process or timing?

A.

I'm sure there are a multitude of other questions that could arise, but this should get you started. Please let me know if I can be of further help.

DN

Enclosure

cc: John Hartley