

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For meeting of: **February 7, 2023**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

VIA: Matthew Chidester, City Manager

TITLE: UPDATE ON THE JANUARY 23, 2023 MASS SHOOTING INCIDENT

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the January 23, 2023 Mass Shooting Incident, which took place at two farms in and around Half Moon Bay, and left seven souls deceased, one critically injured, and dozens more directly impacted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT:

This recommendation supports the Healthy Communities and Public Safety and Inclusive Governance Elements of the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On January 23, 2023, the Half Moon Bay community was traumatized by a mass shooting event that occurred in Half Moon Bay and the County of San Mateo. The shooter attacked individuals at a nursery along the 2100 block of Cabrillo Highway South (Highway 1) in Half Moon Bay, California and at a nursery along the 12700 block of San Mateo Road (Highway 92) in nearby San Mateo County, California.

The shooter killed seven people, critically injured one person, and caused psychological injuries and trauma to the dozens of other persons present and the San Mateo County Coastsides community as a whole. The victims were all farmworkers.

Since the incident, the Coastsides community has rallied together to grieve with the victims and their relatives, support the displaced families, and lift the community as a whole to help heal from the trauma of these tragic and senseless acts. Local non-profits, government agencies, and volunteers have worked nonstop since that day to bring services and support to the impacted families, and are collecting donations to provide for their short and long-term needs. Several events and vigils have been held which brought hundreds of locals and friends together to honor the victims and mourn the tragedy that has impacted the entire community.

The February 7, 2023, meeting of the Half Moon Bay City Council will be dedicated in the honor of the victims and impacted individuals, and to provide a forum to talk about the impacts of this incident and how we can move forward as a community.

DISCUSSION:

Along with the individuals physically injured by the attacks, close to twenty households were displaced when the two workplaces, where workers and their families also lived, became crime scenes. Over the past two weeks, these households have been provided support including housing, food, mental and physical health services, legal assistance, immigration services, and many other resources to help them stabilize, mourn, and learn to live with the trauma they've experienced, which will likely impact them the rest of their lives.

One of the unexpected outcomes of this tragedy was a better understanding of the poor conditions these households have lived in on the farms, which are common among many of the Coastsides' farmworkers and service workers. Through this knowledge, federal, state, and local leaders have committed to supporting affordable housing opportunities through financial and legislative actions, which will streamline the development of needed housing on the Coastsides and throughout the region. All agree that there is an opportunity to do more for residents of our community who struggle to make ends meet while helping to maintain the high quality of life that many who live and visit the Coastsides take for granted.

The City would like to acknowledge all those who have worked tirelessly in the past, as well as during this current crisis, to support the community and our most vulnerable residents, including: Abundant Grace Coastsides Worker, Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (ALAS), Coastsides Hope, El Centro de Libertad, the Half Moon Bay I.D.E.S. Society, Senior Coastsiders, Boys & Girls Club of the Coastsides, Chamber of Commerce, and other non-profit service providers; local faith groups and religious leaders; first responders and volunteers; federal and state elected officials; the County of San Mateo; and our City staff, who remain dedicated to serving the community each and every day. We'd also like to recognize the community at large who have given time, money, food, goods and services from to help their neighbors overcome traumatic event.