



**CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PUBLIC SAFETY)  
SANGER COUNCIL CHAMBER  
MINUTES  
March 7, 2017  
Regular Meeting – 6:00 P.M.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at [6:00:45 PM](#).

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Secretary Gonzales led the flag salute.

**C. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Gonzales, Simpson, Adams, Mares, Miser  
Members Absent: None

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**E. AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

[6:02:26 PM](#)

Committee Member Miser motioned to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Simpson seconded; the motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Simpson, Adams, Mares, Miser

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**F. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Update from Boys & Girls Club/Project Purple.

[6:02:54 PM](#)

Arlene Mendoza spoke about the purpose of the program. They are a nonprofit organization dedicated to redirecting the activities of at risk youth by offering alternative avenues. The goals; funding from Measure S was to fund 44 youth to take part in the Phoenix curriculum. They have served 35 youth so far. They will be starting a new program in Spring and should reach their goal by June. They also host community block parties, participate in other community events and put on clinics for sports. They work with Kings River High School; have dinner and services with

families. They also work with Jefferson Elementary; give backpacks and school supplies. The youth have participated in 5,013 hours of volunteer work in classes and activities. They give away things to the community and set up gang prevention conferences. 75-80 people came out to the conference; they had a panel with police officers, ex-gang member and victim. The students take part in making sandwiches for Hope Sanger to give to the homeless.

Rudy, runs the curriculum for Phoenix, talked about his experience working in the program. One of the highlights is teaching the kids to do outreach. The students really enjoy doing activities such as making the sandwiches for Hope Sanger. They, the students, help set up the activities and bring in the kids.

A student participant talked about how her experience and involvement have helped her appreciate the things in her life.

Vice Chair Simpson asked the kids what's been most important to them participating in the program.

Student replied that her participation helps show them to appreciate what they have. They've learned that you have to care about the people around you.

Committee Member Mares asked if their participation has made any changes in the direction they were going to take in college and if their involvement made them more talkative or give them some positive things to add to their resume.

The students replied yes.

Chairperson Adams asked what the ratio between girls and boys is from the 35 that have participated in the Phoenix program.

Rudy replied that the majority of participants are girls. It's not too far off, but there are more girls.

Arlene Mendoza stated she had a list of the participants and could find out the exact number.

Chairperson Adams asked what the schedule was like in a given week.

The students replied they get together every other Friday. On some Saturdays they will pass out sandwiches.

Rudy added that it depends on the activities and the month.

Committee Member Miser asked how would they defend Measure S fund allocation to community member that do not like nonprofits?

Rudy stated their organization helps students go further and helps kids think twice before getting involved in gangs. Being involved you reach a lot of kids; you'll lose some but you'll gain a lot.

After 20 years of experience you meet people who participated in the program and it helped them walk away from their gang activity. People have recognized him and thanked him because Project Purple has helped change their life. If you take away their funding they're still going to exist, but they won't be able to do much. In order to do something big, you have to have the funding to go out there and get their attention.

2. Update from Boys & Girls Club/StreetSmart.

Arlene Mendoza spoke about the Boys and Girls Club/ StreetSmart. They have a mission to enable all young people, especially those that need them the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The Sanger Boys and Girls Club is part of an organization that has 20 units throughout the county and serve twelve thousand kids. They are located in targeted areas where there are not many services for kids. They currently cover two club sites; one in the Community Center and the other in public housing on K street. One of their goals is to graduate 77 youth from the StreetSmart program; they have served 57 so far. They will be starting another program in Spring and should reach their goal by June. They have a variety of activities to participate in. They are open Monday-Friday 2:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and once a month on Saturday. They help with homework and help students develop healthy life styles.

Kim spoke about the PG&E program. They offer a six week training program. They currently have about 75 applications; they have orientation this week and will start next week. They get paid for six weeks, 25 hours a week. Last year, 23 Sanger students got placed out of a total of 100 for all of Fresno County.

Student participant Gabby spoke about her experience working in the PG&E program. This program offered her the experience of having her first job; getting a pay check and the responsibility of getting up and going to work. Along with that, the program offered her many other things. She also did a Bank of America grant where she worked with the Boys and Girls Club for a few weeks. If you have projects to do you can go to the center and they have all the supplies you'll need. It's a positive and good resource which helps keep her from otherwise doing other things.

Student participant Diana stated that in the past four months the Boy and Girls club has given her several opportunities to get involved in with the community. They've helped the elderly, recorded a pregnancy prevention video and distributed food. It's all been an awesome experience.

Committee Member Mares asked how many youth are present in the afternoon.

Gabby replied that more students have been showing up since the other places have shut down. Today there was at least 20; some were doing homework others playing sports.

Committee Member Mares asked how this is going to help them in the future.

Gabby stated she does well in school. She first joined to get involved and have experience to add to her resume. Her involvement helps with time management skills and she's already began to prepare for applying to colleges. Her dream college is George Town.

Chairperson Adams stated that young women are well represented and asked where the boys are.

Kim stated girls are more talkative and she prefers the committee hear from the youth not her. Committee Member Miser asked how they would defend Measure S funds being spent on their program.

Kim stated that when you see our youth like this, you see it working. The outcome is amazing. Bottom line, you need to come and see it for yourself.

Secretary Gonzales and Committee Member Miser spoke about the military being an alternative to help pay for college.

Arlene Mendoza thanked the committee for their support.

3. Update from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California was not present.

Vice Chair Simpson stated they had a wonderful project about smoke free city parks. She hopes the governing party in Sanger will support these student with their project. They would like to make a difference in their communities and that's what we're looking for.

4. Update from SAM Academy.

Dr. Jerry Valadez spoke about SAM Academy. They have 16 different types of programs. Five days a week, sometimes six in the summer Monday-Saturday. During the academic school year they run Tuesday-Saturday; they offer a drop-in after school program. Funding from Measure S helps support the drop-in after school program, the Wilson choir and Make Your Space. They also have an Art and Maker Mentors program at the High School. They have many interns at SAM Academy and hired half to work during vacation and on Saturdays. Another program has the parent education component; the Cub Scout Program. They've also collected student surveys, 493 of them, showing data that they want to tie back to youth development. Disconnected youth, vulnerable youth and at risk youth is a large percentage of the kids they have. They came to Sanger because of those needs. The funds they requested is 14% of their budget. They also have other funds such as a coastal grant to get their kids to the coast for the first time.

Bobby, parent to 9 year old Kylie who is in the program talked about her experience. She has five kids and this program has allowed her and her kids to get involved. She hasn't found anything like SAM Academy before. They started with two boys in their program and they now have 14; kids come from areas that have no opportunities for them. This program teaches kids how to recycle, how to give back to their community and about internships. She recently started working with two interns who are amazing people. Parents recognize her and ask her how they can get involved as

well. There are things for all different age groups so that everyone can participate. Regular participants never do something twice.

Dr. Valadez stated he's excited to see boys in a place where they can see themselves grow. They're just one needed program; we need many more. It takes an entire community to address gang violence and disconnected youth. At no cost to Measure S they worked with Community Crime Prevention Association to develop instruments to use with children and teens. Dr. Valadez presented data from a survey collected from the youth. Of 493 surveys children responded to: 78.4% stated the program makes them feel good about themselves. 80% get along better with other kids. 78% do better in school work. In productivity: 82% stated the program helps them like science, 87.9% learn new things, 87.6% feel proud of what they create. Student stated this program helps protect them from negative influences. 95.2% were satisfied with the program and 100% had increase in asset development; which helps them become productive adults. They are a 501C3 nonprofit; the board is a group of volunteers. Any money that goes to a nonprofit goes to the youth; for profit will go to someone's pocket. 90% of their funds goes to direct services to the kids.

Committee Member Miser asked why their program is a good use of Measure S money.

Dr. Valadez stated they hold themselves accountable to make sure funds are used appropriately.

Committee Member Mares asked that since they are downtown, how do the kids get there.

Dr. Valadez answered that kids walk or get dropped off by a parent. There is also a shuttle that stops in front of their location that students use. They also contract with schools to provide programs in schools. They're currently working with John Wash.

Vice Chair Simpson asked about the opportunities students here in Sanger have to interact with college students, college graduates and where are those kids in the program planning to attend.

Dr. Valadez stated that is one of their measured outcomes; the interaction and relationship they get to form with role models. In some cases work with high school or college aged career oriented students. Four girls that were in high school will now be attending Fresno State and are coming back to volunteer. Other students that came from Fresno State have just been hired. It's important for kids to see others that look like them that want to become doctors or lawyers.

Chairperson Adams asked Dr. Valadez to conclude his presentation by telling them how can the Measure S application process improve.

Dr. Valadez stated he comes to the COC meetings to stay updated on Measure S ordinances. He's happy to see the citizens are very supportive of Fire, Police, and youth development programs because they understand there's not too much here to support the youth. It's on us to be accountable to them to respond with effective programs. He would like to see more people from the community in the grant process and review process. The more participants the more people involved and the better the community can respond about what their needs are. Right now there's been very rich conversation about how we can support our youth with 2-3 people, where's everyone else? It can also be more transparent to be accountable to our stakeholders. We need to

also increase the funds spent in gang intervention and prevention and encourage others to bring more programs. Money left over in gang intervention should stay there; that hasn't been transparent.

Vice Chair Simpson asked Dr. Valadez to post the presentation on his website for everyone to access.

### **G. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. SUBJECT: Minutes for the February 7, 2017 meeting.  
RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes.

[7:05:05 PM](#)

Vice Chair Simpson had a correction on page 7, purchase of new vehicles, in the eight line down; the word should be shift. Also, on page 11 she made some statements about 4 paragraphs from the bottom, down in the 3rd sentence; "kept getting raises" including nonunion workers. There was another, second from the bottom line. "They also have a major bill" add from CalPERS and take out "through Measure S" and at the bottom of that page, "another paid adjustment at 4% increase in July 1 of 2017" and at the end of sentence, 4% increase in 2018.

Committee Member Miser had some correction regarding wording. Page 3, 4th paragraph down use not appropriate rather than wrong doing. Page 4 second paragraph add, voted 4-1 against the motion, committee was not told content about item, they voted blindly.

Vice Chair Simpson motioned to approve the minutes with the above corrections. Committee Member Mares seconded; the vote was approved by the following vote.

AYES: Gonzales, Simpson, Adams, Mares, Miser

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSEBT: None

### **H. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

1. SUBJECT: Measure S Budget, Revenue and Expenditure Reports.  
RECOMMENDATION: This is not an action item. It is for informational and review purposes only.

[7:10:38 PM](#)

Administrative Services Director Rudy Hernandez presented the Measure S budget report. They have received \$84,077 in revenues. He added that he enjoyed the presentations. It shows a good use of money and he was pleased. Police has spent 46.89% and Fire has spent 45.99%. Total Measure S expenditures are 32.14%.

Committee Member Miser asked if we should be concerned about the revenue.

Rudy stated he had a similar concern. He asked the sales consultant and his response was that they're on target. Some months we drag others it picks up. At this point there is no reason to be concerned.

Committee Member Miser asked if they are going to stay within the budget or go over due to budget amendments.

Rudy responded that will not happen. He meets with the City Manager and department heads every month to go over everything.

Vice Chair Simpson asked about the new truck and if a down payment had been put down.

Chief Tarascou stated it will hit after this period so March will show the full amount of the truck.

Vice Chair Simpson asked how much was paid upfront.

Chief Tarascou stated half; \$200,000.

Chairperson Adams asked when they will receive an updated copy of the expenditure plan.

Rudy stated he will get that to the committee next month.

No public comment.

2. SUBJECT: Expansion of Police Video Surveillance System Infrastructure.  
RECOMMENDATION: That the Citizens Oversight Committee determine or affirm the purchase of additional hardware to increase internal video storage and infrastructure at a cost of \$23,865.57 is an appropriate use of Measure S funds.

[7:19:55 PM](#)

Chief Rodriguez stated the police is expanding their policing project and will have Captain Kent Matsuzaki present.

Captain Matsuzaki stated they are asking for a \$23,000 budget allocation to increase and improve their surveillance system. They feel it is an appropriate use of Measure S funds. Since the inception of the program, they have seen a drop in crime where cameras have been placed. Phase two was officer safety and placed cameras around the police department. They received an award last year and that is where \$32,000 is coming from. They are going to expand and place cameras around the city. They took a look at what they have and anticipated the other camera sites they will include and they want to make sure they can accommodate for growth. They want to address their infrastructure before they grow. Their primary points are to increase storage capacity, maintain speed and image quality, hire additional video monitor.

Committee Member Miser asked how many more budget amendments were going to take place.

Captain Matsuzaki replied he did not know.

Chairperson Adams called point of order; they were getting off topic.

Vice Chair Simpson stated this was going to the police department to expand their system; we need to give them what they are asking for.

No public comment

Vice Chair Simpson motioned to affirm the purchase of additional hardware to increase internal video storage and infrastructure. Secretary Gonzales seconded; the vote was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Gonzales, Simpson, Adams, Mares, Miser

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. SUBJECT: Police Department Update.  
RECOMMENDATION: Information item.

[7:29:55 PM](#)

Chief Rodriguez provided a police update. They are on the verge of filling all positions. There are two individuals who are in the final stages. They will have appointments and in a month should be fully staffed. Their crime stats show a reduction of crime where other locations have had an increase. He owes that to the work of the men and women of the Police department.

4. SUBJECT: Fire Department Update.  
RECOMMENDATION: Information item.

[7:31:18 PM](#)

Chief Tarascou proved a Fire update. They recently received the results from a survey; the department has achieved better score, they are now at a class three. Hopefully they will see better insurance rates. The fire truck will be 60 days late; the company provided some offers which the Chief is entertaining. They will also look into having a contract so that if companies are late they will pay them back an amount. They will also bring a budget amendment next month for a new ambulance. Chief Tarascou will be out of town the last week of March, Captain Todd Wilson will be in charge.

Chairperson Adams asked Chief Tarascou to speak about a personal award he received.

Chief Tarascou stated he attained accreditation and received CFO designation. He is one of 1,200 in the world. He gave credit to the City of Sanger for this achievement.

Chief Tarascou spoke about the ambulances. They have 2 on rotation and a third on reserve.

Member of the Public asked if we could use the yellow emergency ambulance.

Chief Tarascou stated they have put their name in the hat and haven't heard anything yet. There is a staffing element that they can possibly entertain now.

## ***I. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS***

[7:38:04 PM](#)

City Clerk Becky Hernandez stated grant applications have been posted on the website. The deadline will be Monday, April 3. All previous grant requesters have been notified.

Chairperson Adams asked about other forms of advertisement.

Becky responded that there will also be a press release.

## ***J. MATTERS INITIATED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

[7:39:20 PM](#)

Chairperson Adams stated she has a statement she feels she has to make in regards to what happened at the City Council meeting last week: "I don't feel I can make responsible advisory decisions to the City Council when the criteria for those decisions keeps changing. Is the next recommendation to be decided on a qualitative bases, as we have done, or on a quantitative bases as was provided to the City Council last week. Or perhaps I can choose whichever one fits the decision I want to make. My point being, to the city management and the City Council, pick one. Pick one criteria so we're all working together, we all understand the same rules. If I am to base my decisions now on the quantitative criteria, as was done last week, I need the following: One, a written copy of the city's attorneys March 2, 2007 decision regarding Measure S and public safety raises and benefits. I want to study it. Two, I need an itemized copy of the Public Safety General fund operating budget as it was March 1, 2008. That has never been provide by the city management since I joined the COC. The only person I've received it from is Mr. Miser and I want to receive it from our city government. Three, I need a formula to determine how to apply those numbers in a quantitative criteria to my decisions in 2017. For instance, how are the expenditures to be itemized and do I calculate for inflation. I try to be an upbeat person so I apologize for this statement, but this past year my public service as a COC member has become incredibly frustrating. We've been given fewer and fewer opportunities to have a real voice, a real ability to advise the city council. The city management choose not to inform us of the quantitative criteria to be used with last week's vital recommendation. We could have been an asset, we could have been some help if someone would have come to us with the city attorneys decision with a quantitative criteria and we could have compared them. We could have been part of that very difficult decision. Instead, we based it on what we have based our decisions for a very long time- the qualitative criteria. Recently someone suggested, because of our lack of ability now to make decisions because so much has been taken away from us over this past year, that we are the bobble-head committee. Now that is insulting, let me tell you, the bobble-head committee. And I want to know, is that what the city management wants? Is that what the City Council wants? Give us back our jobs! That's not what I signed up for and I suspect, I know, these people do not want to be a

bobble-head committee either. Give us the opportunity to do our jobs. We think we are a valuable asset of public service to this community. Let's get it right, let's work together as a team. There is a lot we have to offer. Thank you."

***K. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING***

1. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6 p.m.
2. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month. The next regularly scheduled City Council meetings will be held March 16, 2017 and April 6, 2017.

***L. ADJOURNMENT***

Secretary Gonzales motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Simpson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at [7:44:27 PM](#)