



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 20, 2018
DEPARTMENT: SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
FROM: KENDALL GRAY, POLICE SERGEANT
TITLE: ABANDONED VEHICLE UPDATE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Receive administrative report on abandoned vehicle program update. No action required.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council receive and accept the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The number of abandoned vehicle complaints and cases investigated by the Police Department has increased significantly in recent years. In fact, abandoned vehicles are one of the most frequent type of non-emergency calls for service that the Salinas Police Department responds to. The demand for vehicle abatement in Salinas is expected to continue to grow in the future. Abandoned vehicles cause visual blight in the neighborhoods, are a nuisance for residents and create a health and safety hazard.

The Salinas Police Department has shifted additional resources into the Abandoned Vehicle Unit to reflect the growing problem and increased demand by the community for their streets to be free from abandoned vehicles. To be more effective, the Abandoned Vehicle Unit is also collaborating with the community, patrol officers, Code Enforcement and parking enforcement. The purpose of this City Council Report is to update the Council on the abandoned vehicle problem and how the Salinas Police Department is working to address it.

BACKGROUND:

Due to numerous factors, abandoned vehicles are negatively affecting Salinas' residents and businesses more frequently. The abandoned vehicle complaints investigated by the Salinas Police Department has increased from 2,797 in 2015 to 5,112 in 2017. Historically, abandoned vehicle complaints were addressed by two Community Service Officers (CSO's). In 2017, the number of CSO's assigned to vehicle abatement was increased to four.

In addition to increasing personnel in abandoned vehicles, the manner in which CSO's are deployed has changed. Each CSO is assigned to work in the same neighborhood for a long-term basis. This allows them to become familiar with problem areas, identify repeated complaints and most importantly develop a partnership with community members. Previously, Salinas Police Department vehicle abatement was almost exclusively complaint based, however, CSO's are now proactively patrolling for abandoned vehicles.

We are preparing to use a new system called QAlert which is a resident service request system. Although the results have yet to be seen, it is anticipated that QAlert will increase the number of vehicles being reported by the public. QAlert should also decrease the time spent in data entry and record keeping and promote an efficient response.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The abandoned vehicle program supports the *Safe and Livable Community* goal of the Salinas City Council Strategic Plan. Through a combination of proactive vehicle abatement and collaboration with the community, the Salinas Police Department strives to reduce crime, improve safety and make neighborhoods livable by removing hazards and abandoned vehicles.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The City of Salinas received \$151,097 from the County of Monterey for vehicle abatement in Fiscal Year 2016-17. Base salaries for four Community Service Officers assigned to the Abandoned Vehicle Unit for one year is expected to be \$207,337.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) 2018 Salinas Police Department Vehicle Abatement PowerPoint
- 2) Salinas Police Department Abandoned Vehicle brochure in English & Spanish