

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2016 OF THE DISTRICT 8 COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by President Jerry Burge.

Our first speaker was Siddharth Venkatraman, the new District 8 Youth Commissioner. He talked to us about the main focus of the YAC is to train their members to be better leaders for the future. He also spoke about the upcoming Health and Safety Awareness Forum where they will presenting information on medical marijuana, and how marijuana usage affects young people.

Our second speaker was Vanitha Samala from International Association of Human Values who spoke about the art of living. Their group is working with local high schools by presenting YES – Youth Empowerment Seminars. They teach breathing techniques to improve their minds and bodies by relieving stress. She did several breathing exercises with the group to show how this works. She then did a word exercise with us, asking the audience to name the two most important qualities to look for in a friend or life partner, such as compassion, good listener, understanding, sense of humor, spontaneity, honesty and loyalty. The International Association of Human Values teaches children how to acquire these qualities for themselves, and also show them how stress in their lives can be relieved through the various breathing techniques.

Our third speaker was Lisa Jenkins of the Santa Clara County Animal Services. She spoke with us about the animal shelter in San Martin, and how it operates. They have a 94% save rate there, and deal with over 3000 animals a year. They have programs for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to teach them about animals and how to have compassion towards them, bite prevention, animal care, and educates them about animal body language and how to recognize when an animal is becoming agitated. These programs are held at the Humana Society, the students are bussed in, fed lunch, and shown how the shelters work to take care of animals. Over 700 students have participated in the last year. The County is looking for a new location to move the shelter to so they can expand.

Councilperson Herrera's office – The State of the City meeting will be held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Overfelt High School. The City Budget Priority Setting Project will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

County Supervisor Cortese's office – The annual school trip to Sacramento will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Details to come. They are currently working on the youth health assessments for children in Santa Clara County.

Evergreen Elementary School District – The possible closure of Dove Hill Elementary is currently being discussed. No decision has been made yet. There is also discussion currently concerning a possible new school in Meadowfair. The revamping of Cedar

Grove Elementary has been completed. Discussions regarding the union contract negotiations will begin next week.

Evergreen Valley College – Republic and the school board are moving forward on planning regarding the commercial development of the 27 acre EVC parcel. The community needs to stay involved and give input.

The next meeting of the D8CRT will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7 pm at the Evergreen Library Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.