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# Mall To Get Increase In Police Patrol

By BILL NEUBAUER  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Two police officers will be assigned to fulltime duty seven days weekly on the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall to combat a growing crime rate that has led to 229 arrests and 807 incidents there from July 1 to Sept. 30.

Additionally, the Santa Cruz City Council ordered that letters be written to county law enforcement officials urging tougher action than in the past on offenders booked for various violations.

The council action came late Tuesday night in a crowded council chamber after

numerous speakers had detailed problems they said have frightened many persons into shopping elsewhere.

A visibly shocked Mayor Joseph Ghio said just before the actions were ordered:

"The consensus I hear is there is fear to go on the mall. Whatever environment brought that about is unfortunate. We heard one speaker tell us, 'The word is out, you can get food stamps here.' I'm concerned. This is my home town and this hurts."

The council actions were unanimous on numerous recommendations made by Santa Cruz Police Chief Geno Pini to

effect the type of mall cleanup requested in petitions signed by 4,202 area residents.

A big delegation from Citizens Worried About Downtown, which organized the petition drive, was on hand to speak for the actions the petitions urged.

Specific actions agreed to by the council, apart from the police patrols, call for:

1. A study of long range plans and goals of mall development and operation in relationship to the concerns of the various viewpoints.

2. A request to the county government to provide adequate detention facilities,

'locked door' detoxification facilities for civil law drunks, adequate detention, evaluation and treatment of offenders with mental problems, increased penalties for violators, more prosecution, court filings and penalties.

Pini warned that law enforcement does not rest alone on the detection and apprehension of a violator, and he criticized strongly policies of the county criminal justice and health departments that result in a situation where "we bring them in at the front door and they let them go out at the back door."

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# Additional Mall Police Patrol Passes Council

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Pini said: "All that the police can do is bring the violator into the criminal justice system. To assume that just enforcement of the law is a deterrent is a false assumption. That just does not happen. I think the city council can have an impact on the total criminal justice system if the letters are written to county officials. I am not sure they understand their role in solving police problems."

"All we can do is apply the law, make the arrest, put them into the justice system."

At the same time it accepted most of Pini's recommendations, the council balked at others, which included consideration of closing the mall block between Locust Street and the Plaza weekdays at certain times so that special mall activities can take place away from stores and buildings.

Pini also wants consideration of prohibition or regulation of

be directed toward offenders, not lifestyles.

Gil Nordquist, a resident, noted that in the past at the county level there was action aimed at persons whose appearance was considered to identify them with the "undesirable transient element" when they were actually property owners and taxpayers.

Speakers supporting the mall cleanup included Robert Bosso, Norm Shockley Jr., a Project SCOUT spokesman, Lowell Hunter, Joseph Fortier, Don Atkinson, Les Ley, Jimmy Carter, Don Fultz for the SC Chamber of Commerce Jean Epping, Michael McCall and Tom Leonard.

Robert Hall of the Downtown Chamber of Commerce and Max Walden of Cooperhouse noted the city has not lived up to its responsibilities for proper management of an ever more popular area. They urged that these responsibilities be met, along with law enforcement.

street musicians, and a review of projects and programs that encourage and support transients that add to the mall area problems.

Transients were identified in a lengthy police report as the major mall problem, accounting for more than 60 percent of the arrests. Of these, 24.4 percent listed no address.

After noting these statistics, Councilman Bert Muhly said, "We do have a general societal problem to deal with, with over a million of our young people hitchhiking in this country. This 61 percent figure is an extremely disturbing figure to me."

But Muhly noted also that of the 229 persons arrested, the average age was 29.1 years, and he said: "These are not kids, they are adults, they are problems."

In various ways the other councilmembers said they would support mall cleanup, but all stressed they want it to