



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Community Safety Committee

June 1st, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, Ca 94530

Staff Liaison
Sergeant Aaron Leone
(510) 215-4418
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This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

6:00 PM CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair James Dolgonas, Vice-Chair Cedrick Cobb, Members; George Gager, Rosa Esquivel, and Howard Hickman
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
CSC members will have a vote to approve the meeting minutes from the May meeting.
4. **COUNCIL AND STAFF LIASION REPORTS**
5. **PEREGRINE TECHNOLOGIES**
Police Chief Paul Keith will present to the committee his idea of using this investigative tool at the El Cerrito Police Department.
6. **CITY OF EL CERRITO JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION**
CSC members will discuss their involvement at the July Fourth event.
7. **FIRE SEVERITY ZONES**
Chair Jim Dolgonas will lead a discussion about fire severity zones in El Cerrito and show maps from the CalFire website.
8. **STATUS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**
Discuss the status of the recommendation that was made to City Council a few months ago regarding changing the time a resident must abide by a vegetation management notice issued by the El Cerrito Fire Department.
9. **DISCUSS CSC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**
The accomplishments document will be due to the City Clerk on July 1st. Review and approve the accomplishments document.

10. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEES

Members of the Ad Hoc committees will update their progress on their projects.

These may include;

Cobb and Dolgonas – Vegetation Management
Cobb and Dolgonas – Red Flag Day parking program
Esquivel – Crime Blotter

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Please limit comments to three minutes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, (510) 215-4418. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at El Cerrito Police Department – 10900 San Pablo Avenue El Cerrito, Ca 94530 during normal business hours.



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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Community Safety Committee

Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, Ca 94530

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Present: Chair Dolgonas; Members Rosa Esquivel, Howard Hickman, and George Gager. Vice Chair Cobb Absent (excused).
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
A member of the public discussed the ongoing crime mapping project and expressed appreciation for the formatting of the crime blotter information. Discussion included the possibility of projecting maps and crime data during meetings in the future.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Moved/Seconded: Member Hickman/Esquivel **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6th meeting. **Ayes:** Members; Dolgonas, Esquivel, Gager, and Hickman **Noes:** None
4. **COUNCIL AND STAFF LIASION REPORTS**
Council Member Ktsanes provided an update. Here is a summary;
 - Ongoing discussions regarding the library measure
 - Continued debate surrounding the Flock camera system contract
 - Upcoming City Council vote regarding Flock:
 - A proposed three-year contract
 - A one-year alternative contract
 - Possible non-renewal of the contract

Discussion included:

- Differences between the one-year and three-year agreements
- Public concerns about privacy and oversight
- Recognition that the police department has used the system successfully to assist in solving crimes

Additional city matters discussed:

- Budget planning and potential cuts
- Transition toward district-based City Council elections beginning around 2028
- Public outreach and community meetings regarding district maps

Sergeant Leone provided an update. Here is a summary;

There was a significant incident from April 7:

Officers were dispatched to the area of Hill Street and Elm Street for the report of someone knocking on the door of a house at about 2:00 am. Officers arrived and three vehicles fled the area. Another officer located the vehicles on San Pablo Avenue near Potrero Avenue. At least one of the vehicles was reported stolen.

- A pursuit involving the stolen vehicle
- A juvenile suspect crashing after driving on the off ramp of I-580
- Minor injuries to the suspect driver, who was a juvenile
- Release of the juvenile to a parent due to current juvenile detention restrictions
- Victims had reportedly been robbed prior to knocking on the doors of homes for help
- Officers suspect connections to prior vehicle Burglary incidents in the same neighborhood

5. CITY OF EL CERRITO JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION

The committee discussed participation in the city's Fourth of July celebration.

Topics included:

- Confirmation that the committee booth and canopy would be available
- Distribution of public safety materials including:
 - Fire prevention information
 - Identity theft prevention
 - Cybercrime awareness
 - Scam prevention resources

Discussion emphasized increasing education regarding:

- Financial scams targeting seniors
- ATM and gas pump card skimming
- Safe payment methods such as tap-to-pay technology

The committee also discussed:

- Potential outreach presentations at senior centers and churches
- Partnering with local groups to educate vulnerable populations

Committee members were asked to gather materials for distribution at the event.

6. FIRE SEVERITY ZONES

Due to the audio visual equipment not working this agenda item was skipped.

7. REVIEW THE CITY DOCUMENTS THAT DISCUSS THE CHARGE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed the formal charge of the Community Safety Committee, including:

- Crime prevention
- Neighborhood safety
- CERT and wildfire preparedness
- Emergency preparedness and evacuation

Discussion focused heavily on wildfire preparedness and vegetation management.

Key points included:

- Concern that fire-related topics have received less attention than crime issues
- Recommendation that fire department representatives attend meetings regularly
- Discussion regarding:
 - Fire severity zones
 - New state vegetation management requirements
 - Potential regulations similar to Berkeley’s defensible space standards
 - AB 38 inspection requirements at property sales

A request was made supporting formal outreach from the committee chair requesting regular fire department participation in meetings.

The request was supported unanimously.

CERT Training

Committee members announced an upcoming CERT training kickoff event scheduled for May 20 at the Arlington Community Center.

8. DISCUSS CSC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

The committee reviewed the draft accomplishments report for the fiscal year.

Items discussed included:

- Recommendation to extend weed abatement compliance timelines
- Flock camera recommendations to City Council
- Red Flag Day parking pilot program
- Ongoing wildfire preparedness efforts

The committee discussed the need for improved follow-up from City Council regarding committee recommendations.

The draft report will be finalized at the next meeting prior to submission to the City Clerk.

9. DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF EXISTING AD HOC COMMITTEES

The committee will discuss which Ad Hoc committees can be dissolved.

10. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEES

Members of the Ad Hoc committees will update their progress on their projects.

These may include;

Cobb and Dolgonas – Vegetation Management
Cobb and Dolgonas – Red Flag Day parking program

Esquivel - E-Bikes

- Growth of e-bike usage
- Safety concerns involving high-speed e-bikes
- Planning and infrastructure challenges
- Need for future policy discussions

The E-bike Ad Hoc committee was dissolved.

Esquivel – Crime Blotter

Crime statistics from January through April were reviewed:

- 420 total incidents
- No homicides reported during the current year
- 53 DUI arrests
- 44 warrant arrests
- 11 recovered stolen vehicles
- 10 robberies

Police staff noted that increased DUI enforcement was due in part to more experienced officers proactively focusing on impaired driving enforcement.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Chair:

This is to certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting on April 6, 2026, as approved by the Community Safety Committee

Staff liaison:
