



# COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

September 01, 2023

## 2023 SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (SWANA) CALIFORNIA ROAD-E-O CONGRATULATIONS ERIC BERLINER, DAVID SOTO, AND RENEE AGUIRRE

Eric Berlier, David Soto, and Renee Aguirre from the Public Works Refuse Department competed in the 2023 Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) California Road-E-O on August 26th. David Soto took first place in the Side Loader Competition, and Eric Berlier took first place in the Front Loader Competition.

Eric also received the Top Gun Award, scoring the highest total points in all three categories. Eric and David are invited to compete in the SWANA International Road-E-O on October 14th. This is not Eric's first Road-E-O victory; in 2018, Eric won First Place in the Front Loader Competition and overall "Grand Champion" at the International SWANA competition.





## GANG VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION UNIT



# G.V.S.U. SPOTLIGHT

### MERCED GANG & NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIONS

THE MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED THE GANG VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION UNIT IN 1990. THIS UNIT WAS CREATED TO HELP TARGET AN INCREASE IN GANG RELATED CRIME WITHIN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF MERCED.

THE GVSU IS CURRENTLY COMPRISED OF 4 OFFICERS AND 1 SERGEANT. THEY ARE TASKED WITH SEVERAL DUTIES INCLUDING FOLLOWING UP ON A VARIETY OF CRIMES REPORTED BY CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY PROACTIVELY PATROL KNOWN GANG AREAS, THEY GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON LOCAL GANGS, AND THEY TESTIFY AS GANG EXPERTS IN COURT. THE GVSU WORKS WITH MANY OTHER AGENCIES WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY TO SOLVE AND STOP MANY OF THESE CRIMES.

THE GVSU HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO FOLLOW UP ON APPROXIMATELY 180 CASES IN 2023. MANY OF THESE CASES ARE VIOLENT CRIMES SUCH AS ROBBERIES, CAR JACKINGS, SHOOTINGS AND ASSAULTS. IN 2023 THE GVSU HAS SERVED NEARLY 80 SEARCH WARRANTS RESULTING IN THE ARREST OF 130 SUSPECTS. THESE SEARCHES HAVE ALLOWED OFFICERS TO RECOVER 78 FIREARMS, APPROXIMATELY 3,000 FENTANYL PILLS AND NEARLY 12 POUNDS OF VARIOUS NARCOTICS.

GREAT JOB G.V.S.U. WE APPRECIATED ALL THE HARD WORK YOU DO!!





## New LED Lights Light Up McNamara Park Soccer Fields

Earlier this week, the City of Merced Parks & Community Services Team and almost 200 youth soccer players participated in a lighting ceremony at McNamara Park soccer fields to reveal a new and very efficient LED lighting system.

Currently, the facility supports two soccer clubs with eight teams of young athletes practicing nightly, Monday through Friday, with weekend games.

The City's investment in this fully automated system provides better visibility for players and spectators while reducing maintenance and operating costs.



Before



After


## Merced Fire Department to Host Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training

Merced Fire Department will host a free Community Emergency Response Team training program starting September 5<sup>th</sup>. Participation in the CERT training program will prepare community members to support first responders during disasters.

Training schedule consists of eight sessions over four weeks. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofmerced.org/.../cert-community-emergency...>


The City of Merced Fire Department has a long history of dedicated service to the Merced Community and this dedication continues today.





**Merced Fire Department**  
Proudly Serving Since 1873

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**  
Basic Training




Now is your opportunity to become a trained member of "CERT", the Merced Fire Department's Community Preparedness Program. Participants in this 20-hour series of classes will learn how to be a part of neighborhood response teams and cross-trained in basic emergency skills. Each class emphasizes skills that will be practiced during a hands-on skills and exercise session.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, September 5, 2023</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Disaster Awareness,</b> <b>CERT Organization and Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster types, history, and probability</li> <li>• How to prepare before it happens</li> <li>• What to do when a disaster strikes</li> <li>• CERT Incident Command System; where CERT Fits in</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, September 7, 2023</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Fire Safety &amp; Utility Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural gas, water, and electrical controls</li> <li>• Types of fire &amp; use of extinguishers to put fire out</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, September 12, 2023</b> at Golden Valley High School <b>Medical Part I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat Life – Threatening Conditions</li> <li>• Triage – Public Health Considerations</li> <li>• Disaster Medical Operations</li> <li>• Establishing Treatment Areas</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, September 14, 2023</b> at Golden Valley High School <b>Medical Part II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head-to-toe assessments</li> <li>• Opening the airway</li> <li>• Stopping bleeding and controlling shock</li> <li>• Triage, burns, fractures, and other injuries</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, September 19, 2023</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Light Search and Rescue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different types of construction and where to look for damage; building marking system</li> <li>• Interior search patterns</li> <li>• Lifting heavy objects and mechanical advantage</li> <li>• Victim safe lifts and carries</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, September 21, 2023</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Disaster Psychology,</b> <b>CERT Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Psychology</li> <li>• Communications 101</li> <li>• Composing emergency messages</li> <li>• Hands on practice with FRS Radios</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, September 28, 2023</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Terrorism &amp; Refresh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Terrorism?</li> <li>• Terrorist targets</li> <li>• Preparing at home and work</li> <li>• Refresh for "Skills Day"</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>**Saturday, September 30, 2023**</b> at Fire Station No. 51 <b>Skills Development and Application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extinguish fires</li> <li>• Triaging and treating victims</li> <li>• Extricating victims trapped by heavy timbers</li> <li>• Interior search for reported missing persons</li> <li>• Course Review – Graduation Ceremony</li> </ul>

Classes will be held at the City of Merced's Fire Station #51 (99 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St.) and at Merced's Golden Valley High School (2121 E. Childs Ave.) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The last class, **\*\*Skills Development & Application\*\***, will be held at Fire Station #51 on Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**FREE!** To register please visit: <https://bit.ly/3L1U3QC> **FREE!**





## NFL Flag Football Season is in Full Swing.



Each night of the week, through the end of November, young athletes will take to the fields at Joe Herb Park for practice.

Players will learn the fundamentals of the game and good sportsmanship as they prepare for league play.

Over 160 youth signed up to play this season, and the department was able to fully scholarship over 20 families.

The first games will take place on Saturday, September 9th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join the Parks & Community Services team at Joe Herb Sports Complex, watch a few football games, cheer on the teams, and enjoy the concessions.

## Mermaids and Pirates Sail and Swim Away Until Next Year

Mermaids and Pirates is an annual summer event held every Saturday in August at Applegate Zoo. This year, over 1100 guests visited the Mermaids and Pirates at the zoo.

The Parks & Community Services team did a fantastic job, providing the children with incredible wonder through activities and crafts.





# COFFEE WITH A COP

**Sensory  
the Lab**  
BY ASIP

If you don't like coffee, don't worry there are other drink options and some delicious pastries!

Tuesday, September 12th  
10:30AM-12PM

Collaborating with:  
Sensory Lab by asip  
847 W Main St.  
Merced Ca



**Fun Fact:**

**As of 2019, ASIP has two locations in Suzhou and is expanding in Merced!.**

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**



Registration opens this Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information and to register, visit

[www.facebook.com/CityOfMercedParksAndRecreation](http://www.facebook.com/CityOfMercedParksAndRecreation)



**GATEWAY TO YOSEMITE**  
MERCED  
5K 10K  
**RUN/WALK**

**RUN FOR THE RAIL**  
A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT  
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAIN AT  
**Kiddieland**



**SAVE THE DATE** **SUNDAY NOV. 19**  
7:30 AM

**10K route includes out-and-back along Bear Creek Bike Path**  
Start and Finish near Bob Hart Square

**5K ROUTE**



**MERCED COUNTY Office of Education**  
Steve M. Turjan, Ed.S.  
County Superintendent of Schools

**MERCED**

**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Kiwanis**  
Club of Greater Merced

**CULTIVA SALUD**



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
3RD ANNUAL COPS FOR CRITTERS

# TRUNK or TREAT CAR SHOW

Eventbrite

SPACE IS LIMITED,  
REGISTER NOW!



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT APPLIGATE PARK AND ZOO  
Saturday, Oct 28th • 10AM-2PM  
611 W. 22ND St. Merced CA 95340

vehicle registration  
\$25 until 10/16  
after deadline \$30

Adult & Child Costumes welcome  
CANDY-GAMES-MUSIC-FOOD VENDORS  
&MORE!

Vendor Registration \$25





MERCED NONPROFIT ARTS COMMUNITY

# MEET & GREET THE ARTS

Wednesday, September 13, 2023  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
with a special presentation at 6:00 pm  
@ the MAC: 645 W. Main Street, Merced, CA  
Drinks and Appetizers will be served

*Hosted by: Merced County Arts Council, UC Merced, Playhouse Merced, Merced Symphony, Merced Shakespearefest, Merced College Arts Department, Merced Historical Society and Merced Theatre Foundation*

**NCS CENTRAL  
VALLEY FALL BALL  
TOURNAMENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**  
**ADULT**  
**COED E AND D**  
**WHERE: JOE HERB FIELDS**  
**274 PARSONS AVE,**  
**MERCED**  
**PRICE: \$275**  
**3 GAME GUARANTEE**  
*NCS FORMAT*  
*5 MEN / 5 WOMEN*  
*NO ASA OR SENIOR BATS*  
*FOR ANY INFO CALL OR TEXT ANTHONY*  
*@209-509-5412*  
*OR PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES*  
*@209-385-6235*  
**BROUGHT TO YOU**  
**BY:**

**53 Sports**      **NCS SLOWPITCH**  
**PLAYNCS.COM**      **MERCED**



## City of Merced First Responder Fee Community Outreach Project

A first responder is someone whose job is to be one of the first to arrive at an emergency. This person can be a paramedic, firefighter, or police officer. These individuals have specialized training to provide assistance or incident resolution, such as stabilizing a patient, controlling a fire, or securing a crime scene.

When you call 911, different levels of first responders come to your aid. Firefighters and police officers can give basic first-aid care and CPR for adults, children, and infants. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) can do more than first responders. They may help patients who have trouble breathing with oxygen and equipment. Paramedics have high-level training to give certain life-saving medications and can place breathing tubes to help people having difficulty breathing and can use defibrillators.

You will NOT receive a bill for fires, public assist requests, life assists, etc. You will receive a bill if the City of Merced Fire Department responds to a request for medical first response and care is rendered.

The City needs your input to update its First Responder Fees. Visit

[www.engage.cityofmerced.org](http://www.engage.cityofmerced.org) to learn more about these First Responder Fees, take our survey, share your input, and ask questions.

In October, the City will hold three Community Town Hall meetings. Attend a meeting, share your input, and learn about these fees.

- Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6 PM
  - Merced College, 3600 M Street, Merced
- Thursday, October 12, 2023, 12 PM
  - Sam's Café, 235 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced
- Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 6 PM
  - Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced







# CITY OF MERCED

City Council Chamber  
Merced Civic Center  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

## Meeting Agenda

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, September 6, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic  
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

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#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

##### WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org) or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission.

##### **PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK**

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium at the back of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 5 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 3, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 3 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 5 minutes each and for over 3 speakers, 3 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

Material may be emailed to [planningweb@cityofmerced.org](mailto:planningweb@cityofmerced.org) and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (209) 388-7390 by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of one (1) minute. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item #, Consent item #, or Oral Communications. Your comments will be played during the Planning Commission meeting at the appropriate time.



## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the Planning Division at (209) 385-6858. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

### A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

### B. ROLL CALL

### C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 5 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 3 minutes if there are more than 3 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

### D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

D.1 [23-755](#)      **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of August 9, 2023

**ACTION:**

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of August 9, 2023

### E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

**E.1**     [23-730](#)

**SUBJECT:** Sign/Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-04, initiated by the City of Merced. This application involves repealing Chapter 17.36 - Signs from the Merced Municipal Code and replacing Chapter 20.62 - Signs in its entirety with a comprehensive update to the ordinance that would place all sign regulations in one chapter, bring the Sign Ordinance into compliance with recent court rulings, and make the sign requirements consistent throughout the City. The new ordinance would include new definitions, new regulations for sign area, temporary signs, digital/LED signs, signs in the public right-of-way, billboards, regional signs, freeway signs, and various other sign regulations. The proposed sign ordinance would categorize signs into four main types: permanent building signs, permanent freestanding signs, temporary building signs, and temporary freestanding signs. Each type of sign would be regulated by quantity, size, shape, type of illumination and location. \*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*]

- ACTION:**
- PLANNING COMMISSION:
    - Recommendation to City Council
    - 1) Environmental Review #23-27 (Categorical Exemption)
    - 2) Sign/Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-04
  - CITY COUNCIL:
    - Approve/Disapprove/Modify
    - 1) Environmental Review #23-27 (Categorical Exemption)
    - 2) Sign/Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-04

**SUMMARY**

The proposed ordinance amendment is a comprehensive update of the Sign Ordinance which includes repealing the existing Sign Ordinance in Chapter 17.36-Signs of the Merced Municipal Code (MMC) and adding new sections to Chapter 20.62-Signs. This update is intended to make the Sign Ordinance less confusing and easier to interpret as well as bringing the ordinance into compliance with recent Supreme Court rulings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #23-27 (Categorical



Exemption) and Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-04 subject to the findings/considerations in Exhibit A and as described in the Draft Ordinance at Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A of Planning Commission Staff Report #23-730.

**E.2** [23-737](#)

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution of Denial for Conditional Use Permit #1272, initiated by Paramjeet Singh, on behalf of Encina Investment Group Mainplace Merced, LLC, property owner. This application involves a request for alcohol sales (beer, wine, and distilled spirits) for off-site consumption for a new convenience market at 429 W. Main Street, generally located on the north side of Main Street, approximately 75 feet east of Canal Street, with a General Plan designation of Regional/Community Commercial (RC), and a Zoning classification of Central Commercial (C-C)

**ACTION:** Adopt a Resolution of Denial for:

- 1) Environmental Review #23-18 (Categorical Exemption)
- 2) Conditional Use Permit #1272

**SUMMARY**

On August 9, 2023, the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding Conditional Use Permit #1272. After hearing additional information provided by staff, the Planning Commission directed staff to prepare a resolution of denial for Conditional Use Permit #1272 and associated environmental review based on the reasons provided by the Planning Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve the Resolution of Denial for Conditional Use Permit #1272.

**E.3** [23-747](#)

**SUBJECT:** Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

**ACTION**

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

**E.4** [23-759](#)

**SUBJECT:** Cancellation of September 20, 2023, Planning Commission Meeting due to lack of items

**ACTION:**

Cancel the Planning Commission Meeting of September 20, 2023

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

F.1 [23-756](#)      **SUBJECT:** Report by Director of Development Services of Upcoming Agenda Items

**ACTION**  
Information only.

F.2 [23-757](#)      **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

Sept	5	City Council, 6:00 p.m. <b>(Tuesday)</b>
	6	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
	18	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	20	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m. <b>(To be cancelled)</b>
Oct	2	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	4	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	16	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	18	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	24	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**