

State of the City Address - February 24, 2015

Mayor Luis Molina

Good evening and thank you for coming out tonight. It continues to be an honor and privilege to stand here as your Mayor of Patterson to present my fifth State of the City Address. My commitment to all of you is to continue the many opportunities to have a dialogue and to continue building relationships based upon respect and trust - as we have done so many time at the many interactions at events, meetings, activities, phone calls, emails, etc. which we have shared. I would like to thank my wife Graciela for her support and encouragement; since 2010 and recently elected to a third term we continue to serve our community of Patterson to the best of our ability.

Before I continue, let me acknowledge a few individuals in attendance. Members of the City Council: Mayor Pro Tempore Sheree Lustgarten, Dominic Farinha, Deborah Novelli and we welcome our newest member, Dennis McCord. City Manager Ken Irwin, and various members of our City Staff. My sincere thanks to Mr. Irwin, Department Heads, and City Staff for providing information that I will share with you tonight. I appreciate their continued commitment to serving and informing our residents of the good work being done at City Hall, as well as acknowledging challenges we face.

I will share with you some highlights and projects to look forward to for our community of Patterson. I will finally share with you some ideas to engage more residents.

The City of Patterson is in a better economic situation than most other cities: however we must not remain complacent about our current and future economic growth opportunities.

Make no mistake about it, we will continue to be faced with economic challenges as a municipality, local businesses, families and individuals. We need to continue to support local businesses by patronizing their establishment and Thanking them.

I will provide you with summaries from our departments and respective staff members, share with you additional thoughts about us as a community, and how we may create an even stronger City. In the interest of time, I will share the complete version with the community on our web site.

PLANNING

Over the last year, the City continued to see growth in job opportunities and shopping choices. The 1.5 million square foot Restoration Hardware distribution center was approved and will be operating in the near future, bringing hundreds of jobs to our City. The Walmart Center continued to welcome new businesses including Togo's, Little Caesar's, Verizon, Metro PCS, GNC, and Great Clips. The 60-unit Ivy Terrace condominium

project will bring a new type of housing to area residents and home construction continues to fill out the Patterson Gardens community. The City continues to be a place of interest for potential employers, retailers and home builders.

The City Council will be reviewing several comprehensive master plans, regarding everything from our street and water systems to our recreation programs and public safety that will make sure our City grows in a responsible way.

To ensure that the City's core continues to thrive during this growth, the City is embarking on a Downtown Visioning process. Over the coming months, the public will have an opportunity to discuss the look and feel of our downtown and the special events we enjoy each year and the potential for new opportunities.

PATTERSON POLICE SERVICES

Patterson Police Services reduced PART I crimes by three crimes. The City was terrorized by a parolee who was paroled in our community in 2013 and starting committing a rash of commercial robberies. We were successful in identifying him and he is now facing 11 counts of robbery. We were able to arrest 11 suspects who committed a total of 15 robberies in the city during 2014. Tremendous work by the men and women

protecting our community. We continued with traffic safety and DUI checkpoints keeping our city roadways safe. We established an Administrative Sergeant position and our new Community Resource Detective position. Our CRD has already cleaned up two homeless camps and the largest one being on Monday, February 16th at the docks on Sperry. Our National Night Out was the largest participation to date, along with our program "Patterson Police Presents", and provided clothes and necessities to 22 underprivileged children. We conducted a large search warrant on 4th street and recovered thousands of dollars of stolen property and connected the suspects to numerous burglaries in the city. The men and women of the Sheriff's Department remain committed to the City of Patterson and are doing a great job locating and arresting those responsible for criminal activity.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department protects the quality of life for the residents of Patterson by working to maintain and ensure that the community's infrastructure meets current and future needs and to provide professional services to our community. During 2014, Public Works' staff engaged in many activities to promote and facilitate public infrastructure, including the following highlights:

Public Works celebrated Arbor Week and National Public Works Week (NPWW) where they hosted an event at the Corporation Yard where over 150 5th Graders were educated on the services provided by Public Works and an event at the Sport Park where Boy Scouts and other groups learned about the importance of an Urban Forest and helped plant several trees. Public Works was able to expand its Public Outreach & Education Program to all Patterson Joint Unified School District Elementary Schools. During 2014 a total of 813 elementary age children were educated on Water Conservation and Recycling.

Despite three years of drought, the City of Patterson has not been severely impacted. All of our water comes from underground, so we have been fortunate to avoid severe cutbacks the way some other cities have. In response to the drought conditions, staff updated and implemented a revised drought contingency plan. As a result, new pilot rebate programs for low water use toilet retrofits, and “cash for grass” were successfully initiated. We have also stepped up our efforts to enforce water conservation programs and reduce water being wasted. I am very pleased that the community has taken to heart the message of reducing unnecessary water use. Patterson is among the lowest water use communities per capita in the Central Valley. The Sperry Avenue turf replacement project was also completed that significantly reduced landscape water usage. Moving forward we are also

expanding our purple pipe system by 25% this coming year.

During this year, Public Works was able to negotiate a beneficial 7-Year Solid Waste Agreement for Garbage Services. This was a long process that required many meetings with Bertolotti Disposal to negotiate and improve the Solid Waste Management Services for the community, and adopt new Garbage Rates for the next five years.

Improvements to the parking lot were made at Felipe Garza Park, including new parking lot lighting to improve safety. New playground structures were also installed at Noble Park and Rosette Park. In an effort to keep our community trees healthy, all mistletoe was once again removed from all trees in Patterson. Staff also obtained a CalFire grant to perform a tree inventory that ultimately revealed there are nearly 13,000 city owned park, street and landscape trees. Also to help the environment, a grant was obtained to purchase 2 electric vehicles.

To further improve services to the community, a traffic signal maintenance contract was completed, a new street sweeping contract was awarded, as well as a striping/pavement marking contract that will replace all painted crosswalks, stop bars, centerlines and bike lanes throughout the community. A street maintenance funding plan was also prepared to designate funding to preserve the community streets. Work was also

initiated on the South County Corridor Feasibility study to analyze the best route between I-5 and Hwy 99 to improve goods movement. Finally, staff applied to the National Flood Insurance Program to adopt the Community Rating System. Fortunately the City did receive a rating and as a result, many customers in the flood plain have received flood insurance discounts.

Although 2014 was a busy year for Public Works, each project gave the opportunity to provide the community with outstanding service – something Public Works does very well.

ENGINEERING, BUILDING AND CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

The City's recent growth has kept the Engineering and Building divisions very busy. We worked together with the project builders to streamline the permitting procedures to keep up with their very aggressive timeline. The building is being constructed at record pace and is on schedule. The owner has been extremely complimentary about our service.

The Engineering Division is growing at a slow pace but we are very excited with the recent addition of our Associate Engineer, Tiffany Rodriguez. With the addition of the Associate Engineer, the City has increased the amount of engineering completed in-house both for private development and for our Capital projects. The Engineering Division is currently in the recruiting

process for an Assistant Engineer.

We recently changed our Building Services consultants to CSG from the City of Newman. Having a Building consultant within 15 minutes driving distance has proven beneficial both in turn-around times and construction inspections. Our local contractors have been giving us good feedback on the new service. We have recently completed 3 new applications for single family homes and are in the process of reviewing 64 single family home applications. The multi-family Ivy Terrace permit application is almost complete, and the contractor should be breaking ground for the first building very soon.

The Capital Projects Division has spent fall and winter with the Engineering Division finishing the design and plan stages of several Capital Projects. These projects include improvements to various streets, sewer, and water projects. Many of these projects have already been awarded to contractors and will begin in the early spring.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accomplishments in Last 12 months

Productive Quarterly Budget Meetings with Department Heads/City Manager/Staff resulting in Budget streamlining, more accurate projections, and overall budget management and ownership.

Increased online payment accounts. Citizens accessing their own utility account information at their will.

Acquired additional staff to focus on customer service component of garbage contract and services. Provides improved customer services to citizens and maintains tighter controls of garbage contract. Will provide additional support and assistance on outreach to community regarding solid waste.

Worked with various organizations to disseminate information to the public regarding various community events through utility billing inserts.

Assistance given to other departments in regards to Chevron Project Completion. Allocation of funds, loans compliance, Lease compliance, energy savings, etc.

Assistance with all aspects of Refinancing of Bonds.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MISSION: Provide recreation experiences, promote health and wellness, foster human development, protect environmental resources, support economic development and strengthen community image and sense of place for the citizens of Patterson.

FOCUS: Enhance and expand Recreation programs & classes for youth, adults, and seniors.

With an emphasis on Health and Wellness in 2014, recreation staff developed programs that enhanced personal skills and interests, that would lead to a lifetime of health promotion through physically active lifestyles. In 2014, the City of Patterson's Recreation & Community Services Department has developed many additional programs for the community from children's programs – Senior's. General Recreation programs have expanded from 35 programs in 2013 to over 67 programs in 2014. Program attendance has seen a 20 % increase in attendance, with over 2,418 sign ups this year. 30 Community partnerships were developed with local and regional partners to enhance program opportunities and development. Recreation Services was awarded 3 regional grants to provide affordable programs for Patterson's youth:

1. Aquatic Adventure Camp – California Department of Water Resources
2. Teen Outdoor Education Program – Foundation of Youth Investments
3. Jr. Giant Baseball Program – Jr. Giants Organization

Recreation also took over the management of the sports complex and provided a successful Adult Softball program that will continue to develop in 2015. Reservations have increased

as well at the sports complex and the Hammon Senior Center had 42 facility reservations.

With the hiring of new Recreation Senior coordinators, the number of senior activities has grown in the last two months. Senior attendance has increased along with the addition of senior water aerobics, Zumba Classes, Bingo, and the wonderful lunches served five days per week at the center.

Recreation Services is actively planning summer programs and has developed many new youth and teen leadership programs, aquatics, sports and family events to provide a wide range of opportunities for the Patterson community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014 was another busy year for the Fire Department. Call volume increased again this year, up 4% from 2013 with 1,317 calls-for-service. Of these, approximately 904 (69%) were medical-related. In addition, vehicle crashes accounted for 64 responses (9%), up from 35 last year. The good news is a reduction in fires (representing all categories) from 107 in 2013 to 86 in 2014.

In addition to day-to-day fire operations, training hours soared this past year for the department primarily due to the introduction of Target Solutions, a web-based training software program which allows personnel (both career and volunteer) an

opportunity to complete required training on-line, as schedules allow. Training, mandated by OSHA, California State Fire Marshal (CSFM), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), both on-line and manipulative, accounted for 9,587 hours for career personnel and 10,794 hours for our reserve/volunteer personnel. Another task the engine companies are responsible for is maintaining and flowing the city's fire hydrants. This is accomplished twice per calendar year, with over 1,646 "maintenance visits" and actually flowing of the hydrants to ensure they work properly should they ever be needed.

Another division within the Fire Department is Fire Prevention/Community Risk Reduction. This division is responsible for Prevention and Code Enforcement activities. Working closely with the engine company personnel, our Prevention Specialist Carrie Silveira completed 453 building-related inspections; 88 re-inspections, and 123 plan reviews and consultations. On the Code Enforcement side, Code Enforcement Officer Hugo Rayo logged 3,383 cases requiring enforcement and/or abatements. Of these 128 cases were weed/debris related and 30 were vehicle related. In addition, our Graffiti Abatement Officer, Lee Scoles, removed (or covered up) approximately 1,950 "tags" totaling over 26,970 square feet. In addition to abating graffiti, Lee also painted over 200 fire hydrants throughout the City in an effort to maintain and

“beautify” the hydrants allowing for “aesthetically-pleasing” surroundings.

Accomplishments for 2014 included decreasing the City’s Public Protection Classification (PPC) issued by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) from a Class-4 to a Class-2/2Y. This project required a huge effort from Fire Department staff and engine company personnel. Moreover, the outcome of this project would not have come to fruition without a collaborative effort between the Fire Department and Public Works. This reduced rating should help business owners, and potentially homeowners receive reduced rates for insurance.

Other accomplishments include the initiation of the Patterson Fire Department’s 2014 Strategic Plan; graduating two (2) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes; identifying design elements for the City of Patterson Public Safety Center, and finalizing the Public Safety Master Plan.

Goals for 2015 include, but not limited to: identify fire department staffing needs; establishing a First-Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Paramedic program (fire engine based); continued implementation of initiatives recognized in the PFD Strategic Plan; conduct at least two (2) CERT courses, with emphasis on recruiting bilingual attendees; identify Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs, focusing on emergency preparedness; finalize design/build of Patterson’s

Public Safety Center, and complete design for Fire Station-1 remodel project.

VISION FOR PATTERSON - 2015

As in years past, many county services have been reduced or cut out all together. Although we have weathered economic storms of the past, please know that we must continue to keep focus on our future, and come together to make the most sound decisions moving forward. We must depend on one another for support in the decision-making process, which should always include a respectful and trusting dialogue. We can accomplish many things if we just listened to each other a bit more.

I am not one to advocate for raising taxes as a means to "pay" for something. However, let me be clear, if we want better streets/roads, transportation, public safety, better support for our youth and seniors, and other areas of priority, we must look deeply and ask ourselves, "What am I willing to say yes to?" Budgets and agendas are living documents that are set by the very priorities of which we can hold ourselves accountable. As your representative on the Stanislaus Council of Government Policy Board, and it's recent past chair, I welcome a renewed focus and advocating that we become a SELF HELP County. This means that we can draw down state and federal money to support our transportation needs across our county, which

includes our community. This is an investment in our future. We need to leave it better than we found it. We face challenges, but we face them together. Please keep in mind that we need to change our behavior and attitude to reflect the best Patterson has to offer! Be vigilant and become better neighbors and witnesses. As a community, we are here to support one another and our involvement to make our city safer.

You will hear in the near future about Prevention 2015. This is an initiative that is being introduced by the County CEO, Mr. Stan Risen. I am very familiar with this concept and practice and invite the council, staff and all of our residents to participate as they may see fit. You see, if we invest early in one another, our community, we can, more than not, avoid crises and bad outcomes. I will bring forward more opportunities to be involved.

It is time to take a pause to thank our City Staff for the service they provide to our residents, and honor the women and men of law enforcement and fire department for their daily commitment to protect and serve. I wish to thank all of you who are here today to show support for your council members, city staff and our great community of Patterson. The State of the City is strong, and the opportunities for a more vibrant future are there for us to act upon. I am very proud to be your Mayor. Thank You, Good Night and God Bless!