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Subject: Oral communication for the Tuesday October 19th Council meeting
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On Sunday October 17th there were two murders in the City of Lompoc; both were in close proximity to the other and both appeared to be gang related according to the police.

These were the 3rd and 4th homicides of the year in our City. The City Council needs to take a proactive approach to resolving this issue.

First, I think a public conversation is overdue on this subject. Not from the Council dais alone but in a series of interactive community workshops in all four Council Districts. In addition to the elected Councilmember in whose District the meetings are held, the Councilmembers appointee to the Public Safety Commission and an LPD representative should attend to answer questions and inform the public on actions they can take to protect themselves and how they can help the police identify problem situations.

Secondly the City Council should direct that a multi-jurisdictional task force consisting of the LPD, Santa Barbara County Sheriffs, probation department, state parole and the District Attorneys office be formed with the goal of identifying and rooting out all gangs in the City using a zero-tolerance approach.

Next the City Council should send a strongly worded letter to the District Attorney, regional and state level elected leaders informing them that the current catch-and-release polices for criminals simply isn't working. Why, because when you ignore any criminal activity, even shoplifting, it sends a message they the community doesn't take enforcement of the laws seriously.

“Supporting public safety” is more than a phrase politicians use to get elected. A wise man once told me “the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing”.

Ron Fink
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