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Staff Report

ITEM NO. 6

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Erika Olivis, Code Enforcement Officer
Judy Holwell, Redevelopment Project Manager
Date: June 21, 2007
Subject: Shopping Cart Abatement Update

Discussion:

A new procedure for enforcement of the City of Lemoore Shopping Cart Ordinance began March 1, 2007. Lost, stolen or abandoned carts are currently retrieved throughout the city and stored at the City Municipal Complex located at 711 W. Cinnamon Drive, which is a manned location. Businesses are then notified that their cart(s) have been retrieved and are given a 72 hour written notice to pick up their cart(s). The storage yard is accessible for retrieval from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Since enforcement of the new procedure began, 75 abandoned carts have been retrieved and stored with only 14 currently awaiting pick up. A fifty dollar (\$50) fine for failure of the business to retrieve the cart(s) within the 72 hours is assessed beginning on the fourth (4th) occurrence. Save Mart, Dollar Tree, and Rite Aid have no occurrences for failing to pick up their carts within the 72 hours, while K-Mart has two (2) and Best Buy Market has one (1). Approximately eight (8) carts that had no identification, and were not claimed by any of the businesses, were discarded by the city after the required 30 day waiting period.

The program and enforcement of the ordinance has been successful and is estimated that 240 carts will be retrieved by the City at the end of this calendar year. Please keep in mind that with our limited code enforcement staff, we are not in every neighborhood everyday. Therefore, unless we are notified of abandoned carts, a cart(s) could be left for several days in one location. We would appreciate being notified whenever an abandoned cart is seen, so that we can retrieve it at our earliest opportunity.

Prior to implementing this new enforcement strategy, City staff would retrieve the carts and return them to the businesses' parking lot. The problem was getting out-of-control and the businesses were not being held accountable for containment of their carts. Even though this is somewhat time consuming for staff, we see this new process as a positive enforcement method.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Informational only.