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Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:33 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Gun Range Proposed in New Public Safety Upgrade

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The \$16 million allocated for a shooting range appears exceedingly high. I'm sensitive to the chief's concern about the time police officers spend traveling to the ranges, especially since almost no officers reside in Mountain View but they largely commute from places like Marin or San Jose, where numerous gun ranges exist enroute.

Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Other City Examples:** Palo Alto and Sunnyvale both explored the idea of building a shooting range but ultimately made different decisions. Palo Alto, for instance, considered, but ultimately didn't include it in their new Public Safety Building plans. Sunnyvale, on the other hand, incorporated a gun range into a fire station rebuild, which cost a total of \$14 million (including the gun range). Even with construction cost increases since it was built, it's likely that a similar range today would have cost Sunnyvale around \$10 million. Exploring partnerships with neighboring cities like Sunnyvale could be beneficial. I'm sure they'd be happy to rent out their facility 1 day a week.

The proposed Mountain View gun range is 16 bays. Even Sunnyvale, a city with double our population and arguably double the police force, only needed 12 shooting bays to carry them well into the future. (picture attached)

2. **Ongoing Costs:** Building the range will probably cost around \$20 million, considering typical Bay Area cost overruns. Additionally, there will be ongoing maintenance costs, which I'd estimate to be approximately \$250,000 per year. This includes expenses for cleaning, heating/cooling, and staffing. It sits atop a garage, so it will get colder/hotter faster than a typical room! The walls are going to have to be extra thick if you want to have a soundproof gun range in the middle of downtown perched on a garage! These ongoing expenses could negate any potential savings.
3. **Location Consideration:** Evaluating alternative, potentially more cost-effective locations within Mountain View for the shooting range is advisable. Ironically, every single officer has a car, negating the need to place the facility on our most expensive land...in the heart of downtown. It's worth exploring creative solutions, such as involving developers to fund the project, similar to how Sunnyvale approached it in a different location.

While a shooting range is a valuable asset, the proposed budget and location need careful reconsideration to ensure a more cost-effective and practical solution for Mountain View's law enforcement needs.



The large shooting range in the Public Safety Training Center allows officers to use their vehicles during training.

Sunnyvale City Council Gun Range approval

BACKGROUND

On December 2013, the City Council approved a Development Agreement (DA) with Moffett Place LLC (Landowner) as part of the development at 1152 Bordeaux Avenue. In the DA, dated January 22, 2014, the Landowner committed to construct an approximately 18,600-square foot public safety facility that included a three bay fire station (new Fire Station No.5) and adjoining indoor shooting range. The Landowner also agreed to fund a new fire ladder truck capable of servicing high-rise buildings. The Landowner and Department of Public Safety staff worked together to develop the project program and conceptual plans for the facility. As part of the DA, it was established that the Landowner would pay a not-to-exceed amount of \$13.7 million for all the improvements, including the fire truck.