




Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

January 24, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services

Subject: Referral Response: Steamworks

INTRODUCTION

In response to a City Council referral on September 13, 2016, staff from the Health, Housing and Community Services Department's Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health units made a site visit at Steamworks facility on October 25, 2016 to provide education and disease prevention outreach.

Steamworks management was aware of the concerns expressed in the complaint to the City Council from a previous meeting with the Berkeley Police Department (BPD), Berkeley Fire Department (BFD), and Code Enforcement in July 2016. In response to these concerns the facility management implemented measures to address illicit drug use in the facility. These measures include: conditions of membership prohibiting drug use, posting rules prohibiting drug use at the entrance lobby, proactive membership assessment, enhanced staff training and improved monitoring. Emergency medical services calls are down from 21 calls in 2015 to 4 calls as of September 28, 2016.

During the visit, Communicable Disease staff provided sexually transmitted disease materials and informed Steamworks management of testing resources available at the Ann Chandler Public Health Clinic. The management was agreeable to having public health staff prepare a STD presentation for their staff. Future STD testing on site is also a consideration, and Communicable Disease staff will follow-up with Steamworks on each of these items. Environmental Health inspected the spa and found it and auxiliary facilities operating within health and sanitation standards.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This report responds to a referral that originally appeared on the September 13, 2016 City Council agenda as Communications Item #19.

BACKGROUND

On July 19, 2016, an email expressing concern with drug use at Steamworks was sent to the Berkeley Mayor, City Council, News Media, facility owners and others. The complainant called for the suspension of operations in all Steamworks locations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

BPD-EMS/PD should report any spike in 911 calls to Code Enforcement for follow up.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Staff cost for any future visits.

CONTACT PERSON

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