

City says it won't revise report on Whiskey Gulch

By Michael Shapiro
Times Tribune staff

A day after neighboring cities asked East Palo Alto to revise a report on the impact of potential developments in the Whiskey Gulch area, city officials said no.

"We're not ramming it through," said Councilwoman Pat Johnson. "We've been at this for two years — it's not like we just started."

East Palo Alto Redevelopment Director Virgus Streets said the city would review all public comments on a draft environmental impact report but would not con-

sider major revisions at this time.

During the past week, officials and residents in Palo Alto and Menlo Park have asked the city for wholesale revision of the report and a 15-day extension to analyze the 285-page document.

However, Streets said East Palo Alto must stick to its schedule to approve a redevelopment plan by the end of the calendar year.

"It's a two-way street," he said. "We're seeking others' cooperation in sticking to our schedule."

The primary plan for the area is

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Ex-East Palo Alto mayor is charged

By Michael McGuire
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The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office has charged James Blakey, a former East Palo Alto mayor and City Council member, with sexually molesting a teenage girl.

The six-count criminal complaint accuses Blakey, 61, of molesting the daughter of his live-in girl-

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James Blakey
... accused of molesting teen.

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friend in 1986 when the girl was 13 years old.

The complaint was filed Tuesday in San Mateo County Municipal Court, said Kathryn Yolken, a San Mateo County deputy district attorney.

"It was continuous sexual activity with the daughter of his girlfriend," Yolken said.

When reached at his East Palo Alto business Tuesday, Blakey declined to comment on the case until he spoke with his attorney.

The alleged sexual activity stopped when the girl ran away from home in November 1986 and was placed in a group home for runaways, according to Yolken.

She later was placed in a foster home, Yolken said.

The teen-ager, now 15, ran away because of the alleged sexual activity, Yolken said.

"(The assaults) occurred at the family home while (the mother) was away," Yolken said.

It was after she had lived in the foster home for a period of time that she disclosed the alleged assaults to a social worker who, in turn, notified East Palo Alto police in March, Yolken said.

The case has been under investigation since it was reported to police, Yolken said.

"(Blakey) has been cooperative in the investigation," Yolken said, adding that he has given East Palo Alto police detectives a statement regarding the alleged incidents.

An arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for Blakey. However, Yolken said she understood that East Palo Alto police were going to arrange for Blakey to surrender. He would then be given a date to appear in Municipal Court for arraignment.

If convicted, Blakey could face a state prison term.

An active member of the East Palo Alto community, Blakey was elected in 1983 to the city's first City Council after incorporation.

He served on the council from 1983 until he was defeated during an at-large election in April of this year. At the time of his defeat, Blakey had just finished serving his first term as mayor.

Blakey is the owner-operator of East Bayshore Barber & Style Shop in East Palo Alto.