

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

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Thursday, **November 21, 2013 @ 4:00**  
Santa Barbara Police Department Murphy Room  
215 E. Figueroa St.  
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**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: 4:08 PM**

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Torres-Santos and Torell (Commissioner Lennon excused absence)

Staff Present: Police Captain David Whitham, Police Technician Holly Perea and Secretary Barbara Sansone

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Torell to approve minutes of **October 24, 2013**. Torres-Santos seconded.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Any member of the public may address the Fire & Police Commission for up to one minute on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not scheduled for a public hearing before the Commission. The total time for this item is 10 minutes. If you wish to address the Commission under this item, please complete and deliver to the Commission Secretary before the meeting is convened, a "Request to Speak" form, including a description of the subject you wish to address.

None.

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Tow Committee has been decommissioned due to the completion of the Modified Tow Rules & Regulations.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

Torell commented that he will be reviewing the Commission's charter and primary responsibilities and will report back on the Commission's role. Christensen also asked about reviewing historical file with the City Clerk's office of the duties and responsibilities of the Commission.

Commissioner Torell asked that a Draft Agenda be sent to the Commissioners the Monday before each meeting.

**7. APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES FOR FIRE AND POLICE – This has been continued to the January meeting when there will be 5 Commissioners**

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PENDING LIMITED DANCE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR BLUE AGAVE – 20 E. COTA ST.**

Present: Matt Olufs and Owner of Blue Agave

No Public Comment

## **9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

No representative present from the Fire Department. Captain Whitham called the Fire Chief who was home with the flu.

## **10. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

From Police Captain Whitham:

- Crime trends: Response times down; average response time down to 5.2 minutes for Priority 1; Priority 2 up a bit at 13.5 minutes; Priority 3 up a bit at 31.6 minutes (a minute and a half over target); Priority 4 calls (cold investigations) down at 46 minutes.
- 15% decrease in Part 1 crimes in September and 17% decrease in November – YTD.
- Calls for Service down 4% overall YTD. From 32,590 in 2012 to 31,244 total calls
- On 11/20, City Attorney's Office gave a training to Specialty Units on liability issues in terms of K9, Criminal Impact Team, Gang Suppression Team. Like to keep a good working relationship with the City Attorney's Office so that they keep us informed of the most recent Case Laws. In January, more training in the area of 5150, which deals with the mentally ill.

Commissioner Torell asked if the changes at Casa Esperanza have impacted the downtown area. Captain Whitham said that things have actually gotten better, especially in the Milpas area. Captain Whitham said that in speaking to his counterpart at the jail, he found out that many of the transients have gone to Isla Vista and Carpinteria because they have feeding programs. The winter shelter will be opening soon and it will still be a sober only facility. This means there will be more beds available.

- There is a total of 11 new officers in the past month who have either just recently released as patrol officers or with their Field Training Officers; 3 in the Academy scheduled to graduate in April.
- Dispatch Center has 18 authorized positions/14 filled.
- One vacancy in Information Technology
- Will be providing extra patrol in the downtown area during the holidays. This is the "Safe Shopper Program." Uptick in burglaries during this season
- Increase in "travelers" at this time of the year. Younger kids that appear to be homeless, who cause a lot of trouble in the downtown corridor. Extra resources – TPF and Narcotics. Oftentimes they are not breaking the law but they can be a nuisance. This population should be moving on in the next month or so.
- Noteworthy case – Press Conference held on Operation Falling Dawn; 68 arrests made. Started with Hunt homicide. Worked with Lompoc PD, SBSO, Federal and State agencies.

Commissioner Christensen inquired about Lunch with the Cops and Coffee with the Cops. Captain Whitham stated that Coffee with the Cops is extremely successful. Other agencies have come to participate to see how it's done.

Commissioner Christensen stated that the Safe Shopper Program sounds great. She related a story about shopping in LA and being escorted to her vehicle by 2 LAPD officers. She appreciated this very much.

Commissioner Torell commented on appreciating the presence of officers on State St. when he is there in the evening.

Captain Whitham said the benefits of officers on "Trikes" are that they are highly visible and they are very mobile.

Commissioner Christensen commented on the Compstat numbers.

**11. ADJORN: 4:35 PM**