

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

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Thursday, **April 23, 2015** @ 4:00  
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden St.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, and Torell

Staff Present: Deputy Police Chief Frank Mannix, Battalion Chief Jim Bryden, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Assistant City Attorney John Doimas, Councilmember Gregg Hart, and Secretary Barbara Sansone.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Laponis to approve minutes of **March 26, 2015**. Torell 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. OLD BUSINESS**

Torell inquired what the PD was doing about making bicycle riding safer and if there are any specialty programs. DC Mannix said not that he is aware of. He said occasionally there are safety inspections at the schools. DC Mannix stated that the department is publicizing enforcement of bicycle safety in the downtown area. Specifically people riding on sidewalks. Torell asked if bicycles suffer more from cars or if pedestrians suffer more injuries from bicycles. DC Mannix stated that a lot of agencies are showing an increase in pedestrian related traffic incidents with cars. People are looking at their cell phones instead of traffic. No specific data available. Torell was going to do research on his own.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Torell stated he would like to get input from Councilmember Hart about what the commissioners' relationship should be to Council and if they can be of any help to them or if the Council has any requests of the commissioners.

## **6. Annual Police Department Budget Presentation.**

- Commissioner Christensen stated that the commissioners did hear there was a status quo budget at the previous month's meeting.
- DC Mannix shared data that will be finalized and presented to Council in approximately 2 weeks. (May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in Council Chambers)
- Projecting 7.6% increase in salaries and benefits due to 1 additional position; Civilian Dispatch Manager to replace the Investigative Lieutenant position. This was recommended by consultants hired by the department. Budgeted position at \$165,000. There was also an increase in PERS rates.
- Special Events coordinator and Training & Recruitment positions have also been "civilianized." Previously these jobs were held by officers who are now back in the field.
- Investigative Lieutenant position will now supervise Investigations and the Records Bureau

Commissioner Laponis asked if there is a tracking system that monitors civilians killed by officers and officers killed by civilians. DC Mannix said that there is and it is tracked by the CDC.

- Decrease of a few hundred thousand dollars in supplies and services. Price of gasoline is one of the issues here, telephones, heating, electricity, also vehicle maintenance
- 27% decrease in equipment budget. 911 center upgrade. \$2,000,000
- Projected \$276,000 Capital budget down to \$53,000 Capital budget. New security fencing at a cost of \$250,000.

DC Mannix also gave handouts to commissioners listing Service/Equipment Enhancements at \$480,000 and Equipment Needs at \$80,000. New Tasers are needed for the department at the cost of \$1100 each; these will be phased in over time.

Councilmember Hart spoke about reserves being used during the recession to maintain services. Council is trying to get reserves up to where they should be as the first order of business. There were a large number of legal settlements costing over a million dollars. Also another \$700,000 judgement just paid to a property owner.

DC Mannix informed the commissioners that the budget presentation to Council will be presented on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.

Laponis stated that he felt there should be 6 Commissioners as opposed to 5 because there are 6 districts in Santa Barbara.

Christensen would like to see the budget documents. DC Mannix said he can email this to the Commissioners and Councilmember Hart also stated that it is on the Web.

## **7. Police Chief's Report**

DC Mannix handed out the Executive Summary of Compstat to the commissioners.

- Priority 1 response times 5.9 (target 7 minutes)
- Priority 2, 3 & 4 trending a minute or so above where we would like them to be. Most likely due to not having enough officers in the field.
- Part 1 crimes dropped
- Significant increase in residential burglaries
- Commercial burglaries way down
- "Other thefts" up due to shoplifting which has been decriminalized to a misdemeanor

- Increase in injury traffic accidents
- Increase in heroin arrests, meth trending up

### **8. Annual Fire Department Budget Presentation**

Chief McElroy distributed handouts to the commissioners.

- Spanish language “Community Disaster Education Program” to be developed; also a Spanish CERT training
- Hoping to get public education position back this year
- In the process of hiring a new firefighting academy. 700 applicants down to 38 people, looking to hire 10. List is so high quality Chief will keep this list for another class
- New live burn training facility
- New Type 6 engine/smaller, faster, lighter more mobile unit
- Grant for \$657,000 to purchase new air bottles for everyone in the department
- Money set aside to upgrade compressors
- Preparing neighborhood preparedness manuals in Spanish and English
- Fire inspections for Airport
- Wildland Fire Mitigation Program; completed 38 miles of road clearance
- Type 1 pumper ordered to replace engine on the Mesa
- Chose to not replace a full time Warehouse specialist/experimenting with hourly
- Response times under 4 minutes
- Electronic Patient Care Reporting implemented
- National Testing Network handled all testing
- Overtime hours up this year, tremendous amount of injuries
- Airport experiencing financial problems
- Forest Service put together a “staff ride.” (Gaviota Fire, Paint Fire, Tea Fire)

### **9. Fire Chief’s Report**

The Fire Chief stated that he included his report in the previous item.

### **10. Discuss Possible Procedure Changes to Fill Board Vacancies**

Jim Laponis stated that there is a semi-annual recruitment. He thought there should be an ongoing recruitment. He also thought that there should be 6 commissioners because there are now 6 districts in the City.

John Torell did not agree with this. He felt this would then affect all of the Commissions in the City.

A brief discussion followed.

The recorder stopped working the last few minutes of the meeting.

### **11. ADJOURN: 5:35**