

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, July 23, 2015 @ 4:00
David Gebhard Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Daniels, Laponis, and McSweeney-Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Police Captain Bill Marazita, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the April and June minutes continued until the next meeting.

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

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Laponis suggested a future agenda item to discuss the role, authority, responsibilities and pending issues for the Commission to review, including the Charter and Ordinances. The commissioners agreed to place this on the next meeting's agenda.

A second inquiry from Laponis was whether the Police Department has any untested rape kits, in which DNA has not been analyzed. Capt. Marazita responded that all current cases are tested and DNA information is uploaded to a national database. He was unaware if older cases, before DNA analysis was possible, were being tested. Marazita said he would check into this and return to the commission with the information.

McSweeney-Zeitsoff also inquired about what the Police Department is doing about human trafficking. Marazita said he would check into this and return to the commission with the information.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Chief McElroy provided incident reports for the month of June: Incidents by Station, Incidents by Time of Day, Incident by Type of Call, and Average Response Time. McElroy noted a response time anomaly of over an hour. Data checked subsequently revealed the time was due to mutual aid response to Lompoc. Even with that information, the average response time is 3:30 minutes.

McElroy is currently investigating the routing of cell phone calls. A percentage of emergency calls are routed to Ventura CHP before being sent to Santa Barbara 911 dispatchers, a period of time that is not accounted for or tracked. He is trying to work at the state level to get better answers of how the system is organized.

Santa Barbara has provided mutual aid response this month to the Lake Fire (Big Bear), Mesa Fire (Lompoc), and the Pine Fire (San Bernardino/Interstate 15). An issue becoming a problem is the use of drones by the public in fire areas. In at least 2 incidents, the flying of drones has grounded firefighting aircraft from performing their operations. The problem will need to be examined at a state or even national level.

10 new firefighters are in the 2nd week of their recruit academy. Training topics so far have included breathing apparatus, medical, and hose.

McElroy is speaking with UCSB and County Fire to put together some type of career recruitment conference aimed at UCSB female athletes. During the recent recruitment, female applicants were low in number.

7. Police Chief's Report

Captain Marazita provided an overview of the department staffing for the new commissioners.

212 authorized full time positions, 144 sworn, 68 civilian. Of the sworn positions, currently 22 are vacant or off with injuries, etc. There are 8 vacancies in the civilian rank. The patrol team has a staff of 47 currently.

Hiring – Five are in the academy who will graduate in October. Four officers are in field training until October. Another recruitment will begin in September.

A recruitment is taking place for a civilian Communication Center Manager, currently staffed by a sworn Lieutenant.

81 background investigations have occurred since January.

Five civilian Community Service Officers (CSO's) have been hired, working a combined 120 hours per week to handle nuisance related issues on State St. Their presence will potentially be expanded to the Milpas and beachfront areas in the future.

Facility Improvements – Security gates have been installed to secure the parking lot. A new HVAC system will be completed in 2 weeks.

Currently testing body cameras from different vendors, and develop methods for managing and categorizing the data.

New Ford Explorer patrol vehicles will be purchased within the next year or so.

Calls for service – A 10% increase has been seen each month since November. Priority 1 call response time is at 5.60 minutes, within the 5 year average.

8. ADJORN: 5:03 PM