

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

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Thursday **May 26, 2011** @ 4:00  
Santa Barbara Fire Department  
Emergency Operations Center  
121 W. Carrillo Street

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**REGULAR MEETING**

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

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Christensen, and Torres-Santos (Signor and Rodriguez absent)

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Police Lieutenant James Pflieger, Fire Marshal Joe Poiré, City Attorney Michelle Montez, Councilmember White, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Christensen provided a clarification amendment to item # 7 regarding the dance permit application. Her question was specific to approval of the dance permit from Community Development and how the restaurant got the dance permit from Community Development. Her question was not regarding permitting for a restaurant at that location.

**MOTION:** Christensen to approve minutes of **April 28, 2011**. Torres-Santo seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote: Motion passed.

**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**

None.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Christensen asked for a report from the Chiefs on the budget status at the next meeting.

**7. Santa Barbara Police Department's Policy of Impounding Vehicles of Unlicensed Drivers: Receive a Staff Report**

Lt. Pflieger provided background and current policy procedures for the impounding vehicle codes. The Police Department follows State law and does not engage in racial profiling. Complaints are actively investigated. Lt. Pflieger referred to the 30 day Impound Flow Chart provided in the packet and explained each violation scenario.

Public Response from Mr. Trenholme: He also provided a written version of his response. His opinion appears to be that the Police Department is applying the wrong vehicle code for authority to impound vehicles driven by unlicensed drivers, or that there are differences in how the codes are applied. He noted two California court decisions to support his position.

Commissioner Christensen believes the Police Department is following the vehicle code correctly and there is no officer's discretion in the impounding of a vehicle.

Discussion continued between Mr. Trenholme and Commissioner Christensen concerning the application of vehicle codes.

Commissioner Christensen stated that she did not find any exception to the application of the vehicle codes by the Police Department, and her final comment was that the commission could not substantiate Mr. Trenholme's argument stating the State Court decisions since the Commission does not have any background in those cases, or what jurisdiction it was held in, or if it is binding to our jurisdiction, or has since been overturned,

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

Fire Marshal Joe Poiré provided a brief overview of the department:

- The public hearing and vote for renewal of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District takes place on June 7 at City Council.
- Response times are in the 3 minute range. Due to computer difficulties, a print out of the report could not be provided.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau is working on a series of arsons that have been occurring on lower State St., and have made 3 arrests in the past couple of weeks.
- The Countywide Arson Task Force is going well. A good cooperative effort.

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

From Police Chief Cam Sanchez

- Recently gave their budget presentation to Council, and will give a presentation to the Commission at the next meeting.
- Restorative Policing Program will be enhanced with the addition of a second officer and hourly staff to conduct outreach with the homeless and mentally ill populations in the Milpas and State St. areas.
- Hiring – Recently graduated 3 officers from the academy who are now in field training. Next month another 5 officers will graduate, and 10 will be sent to the academy in July. Now at full staff with 2 long term injuries.
- Gang issues continue, but arrests have been made and will be publicized in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Christensen asked if the trend in property crimes is still increasing. Chief Sanchez stated it is up and down, mostly down right now. Chief Sanchez also stated that significant arrests of parolees have helped lower the trend. He also added that youth violence crime is down, but panhandling calls are on the rise, probably due to increases in that population, the time of year, and the weather.

#### **12. ADJORN: 4:40 PM**