

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

Thursday **August 25, 2011 @ 3:30**
City Hall
Room 15

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Christensen, Rodriguez and Torres-Santos

Staff Present: Deputy Police Chief Frank Mannix, Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio, Ron Liechti and Secretary Barbara Sansone

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Christensen to approve minutes of **July 28, 2011**. Torres-Santo second

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 an update on the department's budgets including year-end and an overview of the adopted budgets at the next meeting in September.

7. Lyons Security Service, Inc. – Private Patrol Application

MOTION: Christensen to approve Lyons Security Service application; Torres-Santo second.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote: Motion passed.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief DeMizio handed out stats to the Commissioners;
- Request from Councilmembers regarding obstructions in response routes. Fire Department works closely with Community Development. Whenever there are proposed changes in the roadways it goes through both Fire Dept. and Police Dept.

Resolution would prohibit any kind of obstructions being placed in primary response routes; i.e. bulb-outs and any traffic calming type items; Resolution passed and will be worked into the Plan Santa Barbara package; Public safety is Chief DiMizio's primary concern.

- Response time slightly up to 3 min/5 sec; 683 calls
- USFS downgraded the Santa Maria air tanker base in 2009 to a "call when needed." It takes more than the stated "4 hours" to get this base operational; Chief DiMizio wrote a letter of support to reopen the base. He has been speaking to the Forest Service to get them to understand the department's position, which is that they have lost a critical component in their initial attack response; the nearest air tanker base is in Paso Robles. If cost is the issue then the Fire Department can find ways to deal with this; City and County Chiefs have been working on this issue for 3 years and are now approaching Congressmen and women who represent us to get aid at the Federal level. Commissioners volunteered to write letters of support.
- Chief gave a brief report on today's fire caused by a propane powered street sweeper

11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Deputy Police Chief Mannix:

- Department is still at full staffing; we will send at least 4 to the next academy in September; percentage of authorized strength is higher now than it has been in years;
- Allegations in the News Press about Officer Beutel; Officer Beutel is an officer in good standing; Deputy Chief has given a statement to the media explaining the pre-filling out of the DUI form; there is no policy or procedure preventing an officer from pre-filling certain common responses that they would get during a typical criminal investigation. Officer may think it more efficient to pre-fill out a form. There is no policy against this. The only requirement is that the Officer turn in a report which is accurate, complete and truthful.
- Commissioner Rodriguez asked if the Chief was leaving the department to go to San Bernardino. Deputy Chief said that no one knows the answer to this question yet, including the Chief.
- Commissioner Christensen inquired as to our response times in Compstat. Deputy Chief did not have the Compstat printout with him. He did state that generally, in the last few months, there has been a slight increase in our response times in our lower priority calls. The most influential factor in response time is officer availability. Even though we have hired so many officers recently, there is a training curve to get them into the field. It takes approximately 13 months from their hire date to the time they can answer calls for service on their own. Deputy Chief gave a brief explanation of Priority 1 calls and response times.
- Commissioner Rodriguez inquired about the Property Room but couldn't remember what he had read about it. Deputy Chief did explain to the Commissioners about purging old evidence from the Property Room and how it is handled.

12. ADJORN: 3:58 PM: Commissioners adjourned to Council Chambers for the 4:00 Planning Commission meeting to receive a briefing on the Police Building Project and a budget overview from the Fire Department.