

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

Thursday **October 27, 2011 @ 3:30**

City Hall

Room 15

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio, City Attorney Steve Wiley, Secretary Barbara Sansone

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Christensen to approve minutes with corrected date of **September 22, 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.

Greg Voigt of Smitty's Towing asked for Smitty's to be placed on the Agenda for November to be considered for reappointment to the Tow Rotation List and the Commission agreed.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

An email was presented to the Commissioners from Smitty's asking that they be reevaluated in November for reinstatement onto the Tow Rotation List.

Commissioner Christensen said that at a previous meeting it was decided that the department should open the tow rotation list to any interested tow companies. Christensen asked what the process would be.

Holly Perea stated that applications would be sent to all tow companies who are not on the current tow rotation list, including Smitty's. Holly Perea thought that the process would take some time and that a decision would probably be made at the January meeting after all applications have been reviewed. The police department would make a staff recommendation as to the company it preferred.

Christensen stated that the evaluation process be continued to a proposed January meeting. Christensen stated that in their email, Smitty's addressed the situation that had

occurred, causing their removal from the list and that they had made significant improvements so that this would not happen again.

Commissioner Rodriguez brought up the fact that the police department had used Smitty's several times during their suspension. Chief Sanchez stated that he did not know this had happened and that he would find out the reasons why the department had used Smitty's services.

Matt from Thomas Towing spoke on Smitty's behalf, stating that Thomas Towing should be allowed back on the rotation list like Thomas Towing was, without having to compete with other tow companies.

At this point the City Attorney interrupted the meeting and said this item was not agendaized and should not be discussed under Old Business.

Chair Pat Lennon then asked for Public Comment, at which time Greg Voight asked that the reevaluation of Smitty's Towing be placed on the November Agenda. (See above)

6. NEW BUSINESS:

None

7. Eric Bjorkland – Appeal of Escort & Escort Bureau Permit Denial

Present: Eric Bjorkland

Mr. Bjorkland read a statement that he had prepared regarding his being accused of deliberately not being truthful on his application. Mr. Bjorkland felt that he had met all of the requirements needed to obtain his escort permit and escort bureau permit.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked what kind of services the Escort Bureau would be providing. Mr. Bjorkland said they were going to be a "glorified tour agent." Commissioner Rodriguez asked why an escort permit was needed for this. Mr. Bjorkland said that they wanted to gear the business towards individuals that might want company while touring Santa Barbara and the escort bureau would be providing both men and women escorts.

Commissioner Christensen asked the City Attorney to clarify the term "due process". City Attorney Steve Wiley clarified the term "due process" stating that Mr. Bjorkland was given sufficient notice (procedural due process) and an opportunity to be heard at this meeting. City Attorney Steve Wiley also clarified to Commissioner Christensen the term "knowingly," claiming that Mr. Bjorkland "knowingly" putting a false statement on his application and defining this term as "showing specific intent."

Wiley stated that Mr. Bjorkland blamed his secretary for not revising his application as he had requested, however, Mr. Bjorkland signed the application and this made him responsible for its content.

Mr. Bjorkland said that he filled out his application as completely as he could recall. He said as his arrest history became known to him he updated his applications. Bjorkland stated that listing the arrests still should not have prohibited him from getting his permit/license.

MOTION: Rodriguez to uphold the police department's decision to deny the Escort and Escort Bureau Appeal; Torres-Santos second

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote: Motion passed

Mr. Bjorkland was informed that he could appeal to the City Council.

8. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT (Agendized as item 10)

- Chief met with Council and they approved raising officer strength by 2 officers; Currently have 9 injured officers but several should be returning to full duty soon
- Five cadets in the San Bernardino Academy who will graduate in about "10 weeks" and Chief will let Commissioners know when the graduation will be; Swearing in will be the day before graduation
- Four cadets started the Ventura Academy two weeks ago
- No anticipated retirements; three people are currently eligible
- Currently down only 1 dispatcher; 2 injured officers currently working in dispatch
- Moving two police officer positions back to patrol; these officers are being replaced by civilian employees (Onalisa Hoodes/Special Events Coordinator and Sadie Lewman/Training
- Restorative Policing program has been enhanced by hiring 3 civilians; will also be hiring 6 hourly's to increase presence on Milpas and State St.
- Comm. Lennon inquired about Maria Borden. Maria is back to work after being hit in her Checker by a mobile home; Maria has been at the department for over 30 years
- Comm. Christensen inquired about status on funding for the new police facility; Chief Sanchez stated that cost will be between 50 and 70 million dollars; possible sales tax or bond measure to provide funds; 8 or 9 million already assigned to project; ideally the building will be erected on this site with subterranean parking
- Dispatch Center will be moved to another location whether the building project is approved or not because of their location in the basement of the building and the danger of it going down during an earthquake

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ron Liechti, Administrative Services Manager at the Fire Department, gave a Power Point presentation on the Fire Department's budget for the next fiscal year

10. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Santa Maria Air tanker Base; successful in reopening to full service status; retardant available; staffed with a manager; City FD is training staff who live in the area to respond
- Moving ahead to get approved as a "tsunami ready" designation; we are currently a "storm ready" designation; will be placing signs for evacuation routes
- Conejo Road was heavily impacted by the Tea Fire; 50 homes lost; 30 rebuilds in the process of getting final occupancy clearance; this neighborhood has seen lots of geological movement during storms; slides causing difficulty for fire trucks to get access; issues with sanitation, gas lines, water lines; City putting a plan together to deal with this area and its problems
- Administrative Office transition to 927 Chapala St. is going smoothly; 4 to 6 weeks out
- Staffing is good; 10 probationary firefighters doing well; 4 injured firefighters at the moment; 3 other firefighters on modified duty
- Water Rescue Program test taken by 20 firefighters; must be able to swim 50 meters in 10 minutes or less; all were successful in passing
- Wearing pink t-shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month; \$5700 raised in the "Fill the Boot" fundraiser
- On Duty TV show starting in 2 weeks; November 12th on KEYT

11. ADJORN: 5:31