

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

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

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Rodriguez, and Torell.

Staff Present: Police Lieutenant David Whitham, Police Technician Holly Perea, Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Rodriguez to approve minutes of **March 22, 2012**. Torell 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 Torell commented that he would like to establish an information conduit between the City Council and the Commission. Commissioner Lennon commented that the Police Chief is making monthly presentations directly to the Council. Torell responded that he doesn't see that interferes with their role as an advisory commission. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that Commissioner Torell create a Sub-committee, when those are created in June or July.

7. Selection of 7th Tow Company to the City's Tow Rotation List

Robert Nieves from Nieves Towing spoke as to his company meeting the tow rotation list requirements, their business recommendations, experience and longevity as a Santa Barbara business.

Commission Torell commented that he would agree with the Police Department's recommendation to approved 805 Roadside as the seventh tow operator, but would also ask why there is a limit to the number of tow companies on the rotation list, and whether it would impact the police department to have more companies.

Police Captain Whitham responded that more tow companies would not impact workload issues; it would simply add more companies to the rotation list.

Charles Love, Love's Towing, spoke. It is the cost of doing business in Santa Barbara. Adding additional tow companies impacts profits. Torell commented that the 2 companies applying to be on the list must currently be profitable without being on the list.

(AT THIS POINT THE RECORDER STOPPED)

Joel Butera, Smitty's towing, spoke.

Aaron Boucher, 805 Roadside, spoke.

Commissioner Torell mentioned the sub-committee is investigating the tow company Rules and Regulations.

(DIGITAL RECORDER STARTED AGAIN)

Matt Thomas, Thomas Towing provide a handout and reiterated the cover letter. He stated that anyone can obtain a towing certificate in a weekend, and that experience is needed to respond to some difficult situations.

Charles Love, Love's Towing, spoke. In 2007, the tow company rotation list was changed to a minimum of 3, maximum of 6 companies. Love's number of responses has lowered since that time.

Aaron Boucher, 805 Roadside, spoke. They meet all the current requirements.

Matt Thomas, Thomas Towing, spoke. The companies on the list now, work hard and respond well: If it's not broke, why fix it?

Aaron Boucher, 805 Roadside, spoke. The Commission made a decision to open 7th position on the tow rotation list.

Commission Torell stated we have to make a decision with the current rules. Matt Thomas responded that commission should look into the applicants further. Torell has no reason to discount the police department's recommendation.

Linda Evans, Friend of Nieves, spoke to Nieves' qualifications and experience.

Greg Voight, Smitty's Towing, spoke. Based on what's been presented, he believes neither tow company is technically qualified right now.

Holly Perea spoke. The police department did not look at any lease agreements for these companies, and have not in the past. She did confirm that she and a police investigator did visit and tour the tow lots to confirm the requirements.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a motion to add Nieves Towing and 805 Roadside as the alternate, and investigate the reason for a tow company limit number. Commissioner Torell suggested that the sub-committee could investigate this. Engage tow companies to get their opinion on the qualifications.

Holly Perea re-stated that Commission Rodriguez is making a motion opposite of the Police Department's recommendation.

MOTION: Rodriguez to deny the Police Department's recommendation, and approved Nieves Towing as the seventh company on the City's Tow Rotation list. Torell seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

Nieves Towing is the seventh tow company on the rotation list contingent on his permit approval.

The sub-committee will investigate the number of tow companies as well as the qualifications.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Fire Chief DiMizio:

- Provided incident call reports.
- 4 Significant structure fires:
 - 614 E. De La Guerra – Closet fire. Address known by the Police Dept as occupied by transients.
 - 3016 De La Vina – Commercial graphics design business. Cause is electrical in origin.
 - 130 Canyon Acres – April 15 accidental fire in a residence.
 - 628 W. Pedregosa – April 22, electrical fire in residence due to bath fan.
- Rattlesnake Canyon response – This is a multi -jurisdictional area (Montecito, USFS, SB County, and SB City) hence 4 different agencies responded on this medical call. Chief DiMizio has directed Operations staff to work on a preplan with the other agencies for this area.
- 2 Promotional exams forthcoming:
 - Captains will be interviewed on May 9, 10. Currently 4 candidates for 2 openings.
 - Engineers will be interviewed on May 23, 24.
- Hazardous Materials Unit will be typed by the State of California. We are trying for a Type II certification (below a Type I certification which is certified to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction). Once typed, we will be added to the State database as a Hazardous Materials resource.
- Training facility is also being typed for Urban Search & Rescue training.
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training going on currently.
- Pre-Fire Season BBQ/Media Day has been postponed to May 2.

9. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Police Lieutenant Whitham:

- Jack Mills was convicted on all counts for the March 1, 2010 attempted murder case at 1535 Gillespie St.
- Suspect has been arrested for the April 17 hit and run accident at State and Calle Palo Colorado following diligent investigative work.
- CompStat:
 - Priority 1 calls average 6.2 minutes; about 4.5 minutes without injury traffic accidents (as other resources respond as well).
- Hiring status; currently 139 on staff.
 - Testing currently.
 - Dispatchers – 6 in background now, and 1 year to train.

10. ADJORN: 5:18 PM