

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

Thursday, **September 27, 2012 @ 4:00**
David Gebhard Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Torell, and Torres-Santos. (Christensen & Rodriguez absent)

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio, City Administrator Jim Armstrong, Asst. City Administrator Marcelo Lopez, Councilmember Bendy White, Police Technician Holly Perea and Secretary Barbara Sansone (Barbara Barker in the audience)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of **August 23, 2012**, Torres 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

Torell said that the Towing Subcommittee had a meeting with representatives from each of the 7 tow companies as well as Captain Whitham from the Police Department. The Committee is putting together a draft to bring to the Commission in October or November. The draft has approval from all of the tow operators and the Police Department. Several of the Police Department's concerns were incorporated into the draft. Torell thinks the new rules will enhance efficiency. This draft also needs approval by the City Attorney. Committee would like to have the new rules effective the first of January.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- Possible review of new tow rules and regulations at October meeting.
- Appoint 2 Commissioners to sit on Fire Chief Recruitment panel at October F&P meeting (This item has been placed on the Special Meeting Agenda for 10/22/12)

7. CITY ADMINISTRATOR JIM ARMSTRONG TO ADDRESS FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT.

Mr. Armstrong addressed the Commissioners regarding Chief DiMizio's retirement and the recruitment process. This is the fourth Fire Chief recruitment in the 11 years that Mr. Armstrong has been with the City.

Mr. Armstrong introduced Assistant City Administrator Marcelo Lopez and Human Resources Manager Barbara Barker. They will assist Mr. Armstrong in the recruitment process. Part of the process is receiving input from the Fire & Police Commissioners. Mr. Armstrong will solicit this input from the Commissioners in October about what attributes they are looking for in the next Fire Chief. Mr. Armstrong passed out a flyer to the Commissioners that will be updated and used for recruitment. Recruitment will be closed in November and interviews held in December. Mr. Armstrong's goal is to finish the backgrounds in January and make an appointment of a new Fire Chief to start in February or March.

Mr. Armstrong asked the Commissioners to appoint two members of the Commission to sit on a panel for the recruitment. This will be done at the October Commission meeting. Mr. Armstrong also asked that a special closed session meeting be held with the Commissioners and himself. (This closed session meeting has been scheduled for October 22nd at 4:00, location TBD)

Mr. Armstrong said that this is not an easy recruitment. Even though the department is very well regarded in the State, the price of housing in Santa Barbara, the retirement system we are under, etc. does not encourage folks to move.

Commissioner Torres asked who appoints the Interim Fire Chief. Mr. Armstrong said that he will select someone around the first of December. Mr. Armstrong stated that he doesn't like to announce this choice too soon so that people continue to look to Chief DiMizio.

8. NATIONAL GROUP SECURITY, INC. PRIVATE PATROL REGISTRATION

MOTION: Torell to approve recommendation to approve registration for National Group Security; Torres seconded

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote, motion passed.

9. VICTOR ARAGON RAMOS – APPEAL OF DENIAL OF TAXI DRIVER PERMIT

MOTION: Torell to approve the application of Victor Aragon Ramos

A discussion followed regarding the new application for Taxi Driver's Permits which became effective at the beginning of October. Torell felt that since Mr. Ramos had the old application, his case would fall under the same circumstances as last month's appeal, in which the applicant was given his permit. Commissioner Torell felt that because of this, Mr. Ramos should be given his permit as well.

Chief Sanchez asked Holly what the differences were between Mr. Ramos' application and the applicant from last month. Holly said that the gentleman from last month didn't understand that the application process was underway and that is why he didn't provide

his full arrest record. He said the information was forthcoming and he felt rushed when he submitted his application and that's why his application was incomplete.

Holly stated that Mr. Ramos served jail time for 6 separate arrests.

Commissioner Torell still felt that since we said "yes" last month it was unfair to say "no" this month since the applicants had such similar circumstances and the new application was not in effect at the time of Mr. Ramos' application.

MOTION continued: Torres seconded

Mr. Ramos introduced himself and apologized for not completing the form properly. He said that Spanish is his first language and he did not understand the form. He agreed that he had a record.

VOTE: Torres "aye" and original motion dropped.

MOTION: Torres moved to go forward with the department's recommendation to deny Mr. Ramos appeal. Lennon seconded.

VOTE: Torres and Lennon "Aye" and Torell "No" appeal denied

Chief Sanchez suggested making an effort to translate all documents into Spanish. Holly Perea said this has been discussed but the problem in the taxi industry is that so many of the applicants speak languages from all over the world. Holly mentioned that even people who speak English say "They didn't understand it" and it is difficult to get around that. The Chief still thought that translation of documents into all necessary languages was worth the effort. No decision was made.

10. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT.

From Fire Chief DiMizio:

- Chief DiMizio spoke about his decision to retire and said it was the "hardest decision of his life." The Chief said that after 38 years of firefighting, he felt in his heart that it was time for a change and that serving as Chief with the Santa Barbara Fire Department has been the greatest honor of his life. He also stated that Jim Armstrong is the best boss he has ever had.
- Fire department is in great shape even in these tough economic times
- Mutual Aid revenues very strong, at 110% of their budget
- California fire season is just beginning
- Strike Team sent to Murrieta Fire
- Fire stats: responded to 770 calls for service; 5,958 calls YTD, this is on par with previous years
- Recruitments, promotions taking place
- 920 hits on NeoGov, 22 applicants
- There are 4 qualified engineers for 4 spots that are open
- Firefighter recruitment taking place; takes 6 months to put an academy and recruitment together; thousands of applications expected; hopefully academy to start in February
- There have been challenges with the Airport since their revenues are down; City Fire provides crash/fire rescue there; airport trying to save costs; outsourcing to a private company would negatively impact their service levels

- Medal Day being held at the courthouse on October 27th; Fire Chief's retirement party on January 19th at the Natural History Museum
- Councilmember White asked how many recruits Fire is hoping to hire and Chief DiMizio said 6

12. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Police Chief Cam Sanchez:

- One recruit graduating from the Academy at noon on October 5th; swearing in done the day before.
- In the process of hiring 10 police officers; 7 have already gone through the process.
- Chief Sanchez wants to agendaize for the November Agenda, the "Role of the Fire & Police Commissioners in the Budget Process;" coming up on another 2 year cycle.
- Department averages 3300 calls a month; this is a lot for a department this size; we are working with 11 less officers but still providing excellent service.

At this point the Chief introduced Beat Coordinator Officer Kasi Beutel to give a presentation to the Commissioners:

From Officer Beutel:

- Officer Beutel is the coordinator for Beats 3 & 4; these beats go from Mission to Gutierrez Streets and from Hwy 101 to Salsipuedes St.
- As a BC, Officer Beutel is responsible for quality of life issues, not 911 type calls; neighbor disputes, homeless issues, etc.
- Spends time working with the Downtown Organization and the Safety Committee
- Officer Beutel is the advisor for the Explorer Program and also runs the program
- Officer Beutel spends a good amount of time dealing with transient issues, illegal vending, etc.; she works in close conjunction with TPF (bike patrol)
- Officer Beutel meets with Neighborhood Watch groups to talk to them about safety in their neighborhoods
- Has previously spent a lot of time working in the schools and dealing with issues there, parents concerns, etc. The department now has a School Resource Officer who deals with this (Officer Christina Marshall)
- Even though the BC's are responsible for their specific beats, they are always helping each other out.
- Held a successful Health Fair at Bohnett Park

Commissioner Torell commended the Chief for having the Beat Coordinator Program. Commissioner Torell thought that having a Beat Coordinator present at a Housing and Community Redevelopment meeting would be beneficial. They have spent several years trying to end chronic homelessness and it would be helpful to see it from the perspective of the Beat Coordinators.

Chief Sanchez said what a great job Officer Beutel does every day.

13. ADJORN: 5:07 PM