

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

Thursday, **September 26, 2013 @ 4:00**
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Santos-Torres and Torell

Staff Present: Deputy Chief Frank Mannix, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, City Attorney John Doimas, Secretary Barbara Sansone

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of **August 22, 2013**. Lennon seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

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 requested a document stating the general functions/responsibilities of the Fire & Police Commission.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Fire Chief Pat McElroy:

- Chief McElroy handed out copies of stats to the Commissioners for the last month.
- Fire loss/dollar wise, very low this month: \$3700. Last month \$900,000
- Looking today regarding the new analytics program, medical emergencies coming in at 62%. Trying to figure out which category to capture data in. Pleased with this program so far.
- Depend on City Information Systems and Police Information Technology for data.
- Captain Pitney is very involved in this program.

- Representatives from City IS, Police IT and Fire were sent to Firehouse Convention in Phoenix. Spent 4-5 days there together. Constructive dialog started.
- Meeting set up next week with County MSA Agency, Lt. Molina from the PD and Fire personnel will all get together in the same room and discuss the type of information that should be provided to the County.
- Adjustments made to response times by stations.
- Busiest stations are downtown: Lower eastside and the North end. Stations 4 & 5.

Commissioner Torell asked if bicycle safety has been an issue in Santa Barbara. Torell asked because he read in the stats there were 56 auto accidents and 15 bicycle accidents. He thought 15 was a high number. He said he was in San Francisco and bikes there follow none of the rules of the road.

Chief McElroy deferred to Chief Mannix but said from his experience there is a laissez faire attitude about bicycles.

Torell thought there should be a public service announcement regarding bicycles following the rules of the road.

Chief McElroy said alcohol is a factor in a lot of the bike accidents. Often this is the only mode of transportation for some folks.

- Response times listed by hours. Activity is quiet in the pre-dawn hours and stays heavy until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.
- Fire activity has been slow locally and out of town. This is partially due to weather changes.
- In terms of Public Service Announcements, a Red Flag Alert Video can be found on City TV. Very informative as to how agencies decide to call a Red Flag Warning.
- Chief attended an Aware & Prepare Summit on disaster preparedness. This year's focus was on disaster recovery. Michael Burn was the keynote speaker. He is now the Pacific Regional Director for Emergency Response for the Red Cross.
- RFP being done for the Airport. Airport is concerned about cost. A study is being held to analyze what the department is currently providing, what they could be providing and if it can be done for a different cost. Bids are due in on Friday.
- Type 1 Engine arriving next month.
- 2 Retirements just occurred. Sarah McCarter and Captain Gary Pitney. Captain Pitney will continue working on a part-time basis as an hourly for special projects. He is a valuable asset to the department.

Commissioner Lennon asked what "FPB" stood for. It stands for Fire Prevention Bureau.

Councilmember White would like an overview of the mutual aid that is going on with the City's "edges," Montecito on one side and the County on the other; number of incidents, etc.

Chief McElroy said we have contracts with them; automatic aid and mutual aid. Councilmember White said he was thinking more about automatic aid. Chief said he would pull numbers out for him next month.

Councilmember White said he took a tour with the Wildland team. He asked the team to show him the 5 worst fire hazards in the City. He said it was a couple of hours of time very well spent.

10. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Deputy Chief Mannix:

- Response times for different Priority Codes 1 through 4. Last month's response time was 6.2 minutes for Priority 1 (below 7 minute goal). Priority 2 calls at 13.5 minutes (below goal of 14.5 minutes). Priority 3 at 25.4 (below goal of 30 minutes or less). Priority 4 calls at 36 minutes (below target of 50 minutes or less). Priority 1 calls are most urgent. Priority 1's and 2's tend to be crimes in progress. Priority 1 calls tend to be violent in nature. Department is satisfied with response times. These are tracked every month. Good indication of staffing in the field. On really urgent calls for service, the department always diverts to get assistance as quickly as possible.
- Crime trends looking very good. Total violent crime is down 9%. This time last year there were 307 violent crimes reported and now we are at 278. Primary reduction is in robbery with a 21% decrease.
- 14% reduction in burglary
- 15% reduction in Part 1 crimes, which consist of rape, robbery, homicide, aggravated assault, burglaries of all types and grand theft auto.
- Patrol staffing at full strength is represented as 99 officers, currently have 99 officers assigned to Patrol. However, we have a 15% vacancy rate because 8 officers are on IOD and 7 more in active training. Next month 7 people will be "cut loose" from training and released into operations.
- One officer has been on the IOD list for several years.
- Graduating 5 from the academy in Ventura. New academy starting on October 28th. Sending 5 officers to this academy.
- Last month an arrest was made in the murder investigation of Kelly Hunt, who was killed on February 19th. Very few leads in the beginning. One of the suspects moved to Washington. Investigative Division did an outstanding job. Used high level techniques and search warrants. They did get a confession.

11. ADJORN: 4:36 PM

There was a discussion among the Commissioners before the meeting was called to order about not meeting when there are no action items on the Agenda. Commissioner Torell thought it might not always be necessary to meet if there are no Agenda items. It was explained that this has been done in the past. Commissioner Torell said to email the Commissioners on a month to month basis when there are no Agenda items and they will decide then.