

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday, **October 24** @ 4:00  
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden St.

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Santos-Torres and Torell

Staff Present: Police Captain David Whitham, Fire Division Chief Jim Bryden, Councilmember Bendy White, City Attorney John Doimas, Police Technician Holly Perea and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Torell to approve minutes of **September 26, 2013**. Santos-Torres 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**

Due to new commissioner department liaison assignments, a subcommittee report is tentatively agendaized for next month's meeting or will be continued until the new commissioner is appointed.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

Torell commented that he will be reviewing the Commission's charter and primary responsibilities and will report back on the commission's role. Christensen also asked about reviewing historical file with the City Clerk's office of the duties and responsibilities of the commission.

**7. REVIEW OF PROCESSES RELATING TO MODIFIED TOW RULES & REGULATIONS**

Commissioners were unclear why this item was on the agenda. Holly Perea commented that Secretary Sansone added the item on the agenda following approval by City Council, so that commissioners and tow operators could discuss the specifics of the new rule changes.

Torell and Christensen stated they need a list of what the issues are, and set of procedures from Officer Hunter.

Chuck Love, Love's Towing, stated it will be hard to go forward, and need to go thru the rules and establish what is "grandfathered" in.

Christensen suggested this item be continued at a later date. Holly Perea clarified with the commission that they would like to see a set of procedures, and also asked if they wanted to see the forms that would be used. Christensen stated they should provide what will be used by the PD to make decisions and ensure compliance.

Robert Nieves, Nieves Towing, had some specific questions regarding certifications. He was directed to speak to Officer Hunter.

**MOTION:** Torell to continue item until next meeting. Torres-Santos seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

## **8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

From Division Chief Jim Bryden:

- A packet of Stats was handed out:
  - Response time - < 3 minutes; goal is < 4minutes
  - Type of calls
  - Responses by Station. Discussed County Fire/City Fire mutual district coverage between Stations 15 (Mission Canyon) and Station 7 (Stanwood Dr.) when away at classes, etc.
  - EMS vs. non- EMS calls
  - Calls by hour

Torell inquired about less calls occurring at night. Chief Bryden explained that while there may be less calls, the relevance of the calls is greater. Torell commented that it would be interesting to see a 'Type of call by hour' report.

- Plymovent exhaust ventilation systems installations are in progress at all stations. Project is grant funded.
- Cal Trans will be installing a communication antenna at Station 7.
- The 8 probationary firefighters have all passed their mid-year exam.
- Engineer promotional exams will now occur on an annual basis in November rather than several times a year. Captain's exams will also occur annually in February.
- Chief Bryden has been analyzing fleet management with Motorpool. Over \$600,000 of the yearly budget goes toward vehicle replacement. In addition over \$450,000 is set aside for maintenance. White inquired about how we are doing "catching up" on financing previously purchased vehicles with the replacement program. Bryden responded that the program started less than 16 years ago, which is the lifespan of our Fire trucks, and the department is almost caught up on "payment" for the older vehicles. They just received a Type III Engine, and a Type I Engine will be delivered soon. Christensen asked that Bryden provide the Fleet worksheet and information on vehicle retirements and new additions for the

Commissioners. She also asked that it include a comment from Gary Horwald on the reserve policy.

- Mobile radios (placed on the apparatus) are getting replaced. Much better capabilities. A grant covered the cost of over \$450,000.
- EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) procedures are being updated. Currently dispatchers use a card system to provide medical instruction to the callers over the phone while fire is responding. The new process is by computer and the instructions come up on the dispatchers screen. This modernizes the process, and will allow for statistical analysis.
- Chief Bryden will be giving a presentation to SB County Fire next week on the City's success running our engine company inspection program, where businesses are inspected for safety hazards.
- September can be a demanding month. The City is slated to provide a Strike Team Leader in September to fires south of the city. It is a big responsibility that we have to prepare and schedule for, and leaves us with fewer Battalion Chiefs to cover the city. Fortunately, September was slow wildland fire wise and no strike teams were sent out.

## **9. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

From Police Captain Whitham:

- Comp Stat #'s: Response times
  - Priority 1 calls - 5.6 min., target is 7 min.
  - Priority 2 calls – 14.00 min.
  - Priority 3 calls – 31.80 min. – Above target
  - Priority 4 calls – 44.60 min.

In September, POST (Police Officers Standards and Training) training occurs every 2 years and often times staffing issues occur, which may account for the priority 3 call response increase.

- Crime trends - Part 1 crimes are down 15% from last year.
- Year to date calls for service - 1946 calls last year; 1819 calls this year.
- Casa Esperanza – Became a sober only facility in July. Impact to community has seen less loitering nearby the facility, which brought up the question, where did they go? Increases are being seen in the Isla Vista and Carpinteria communities, where there are available food programs.
- Trikke (3 wheeled) deployment downtown. Tactical Patrol Officers provide enforcement and public relations.
- New tactical patrol officer hired. Now staffed with 5 officers.

- Hiring
  - 7 new officers will all be on their own in next 2 weeks.
  - 5 officers just graduated academy
  - 3 cadets are in academy
  
- Scheduling system is 15 years old. Going to City Council on Nov. 12 for appropriation of funding source to purchase a new system.

White inquired about the status of the new dispatch center. Whitham replied that the designs are in, and they are ironing out the details. Expecting to be in new building by June 2014.

**10. ADJORN: 5:02 PM**