

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **January 23, 2014** @ 4:00
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, and Torell

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of **November 21, 2013**. Christensen 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

Agenda order changed – The Fire Chief's and Police Chief's reports were moved up on the agenda.

5. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Division Chief Jim Bryden:

An update was provided on the last 2 months:

- The 2013 firefighter recruits are in the 3rd quarter of their probationary year, and all 8 passed the latest quarterly exam.
- A new Type I engine will be delivered next week.
- Major Incidents:
 - 11/8/13 Structure Fire at the downtown hostel. 15 people were evacuated as a result of the fire in the clothes dryer.

- 11/13/13 Medical emergency involved a bicyclist that tried to cross the train tracks as the train was approaching the station. Victim was transported to Cottage Hospital with major injuries.
- 11/13/13 was the 5 year anniversary of the Tea Fire in which over 200 homes were destroyed or damaged. Relevant to the current weather we have been experiencing.
- 12/11/13 A Fire truck which was retired from service was donated to Allan Hancock College. The College is opening a new public safety campus in Lompoc.

Statistics – Chief Bryden provided a handout of stats on emergency responses from November and December 2013. He highlighted the one graph that showed the measure of the current live fuel (vegetation) moisture level that is now below 70% and at a critical level, when normally this time of year it is around 100%. The report is the closest measure for the potential wildland fire occurring.

Christensen commented that she heard a Red Flag Warning would be in effect over the next few days. Chief Bryden explained the announcement she heard was from the National Weather Service, which is only based on a couple of weather variables. Local Fire agencies declare a different Red Flag Warning when benchmarks for wind, humidity and temperatures are all met or exceeded.

Laponis commented on the large percentage of EMS calls the department responds to, and the lack of any fire calls indicated by one of the reports. Chief Bryden explained that the overwhelming majority of our emergency responses are EMS related, and that there were fire responses during the month, but the particular report he was looking at only included the top 10 types of responses by call volume. Fire responses were not in the list of the top 10.

Torell commented about the report indicating that fewer responses occur in the early morning hours, and that it would be interesting to see the response times during those particular hours.

Laponis also asked about statistics of fires being contained to the room of origin. Chief Bryden answered that is a measure that is tracked for our City “P3” performance measures.

6. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

From Police Chief Cam Sanchez:

- 2 officer involved shootings. One has been determined by the District Attorney’s office to be within department policy. However lawsuits have been filed regarding this shooting. The other shooting is still being reviewed.
- First female SWAT officer has been appointed.
- Police Academy – 3 cadets will be sworn in on April 3, and a graduation ceremony will take place on April 4. Currently interviewing candidates for 4-5 positions for the next academy.

- Calls for service – Response times:

	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	
Priority 1	6:05	5:07	(Goal is 6 minutes)
Priority 2	8:80	8:00	

Laponis inquired whether the response time goals are set by the department, and also about other stats that could be provided. Chief Sanchez answered that the goals are set by the department, and other agencies would have their own goals. He also explained that the commissioner will begin receiving the department Compstat report which includes a variety of information on calls for service.

Laponis also inquired whether the Police Chief would like the commission to get involved in issues, such as the gang injunction, for example. Chief Sanchez answered that the gang injunction is not an issue that commission should be involved in, but that the commission will be presented with information during the budget process, where they can provide ideas and advice. Chief Sanchez explained that the next budget process in March-April this year will be the second year of a two year cycle, where the budget is basically already set. The following budget cycle will involve a comprehensive review and program updates in which a review by the Commission would be more appropriate.

Christensen inquired about the status of the dispatch center location move. Chief Sanchez explained that they are on track to complete the move to the Granada Garage building by July.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Christensen reminded staff that the commission is still expecting a report on the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Program.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

Christensen would like the commission to review both department’s targets and performance measure goals for service calls. It was suggested that this review be scheduled during the May meeting.

9. TAXI PERMIT APPEAL OF DENIAL – RAMON E. PRECIADO DUENAS

Technician Perea read staff’s recommendation.

Mr. Duenas was present and spoke to the commission, explaining that a denial of the permit will cause hardship for his family, and make it necessary to move out of town.

The commission then clarified with the Attorney Doimas about whether if the applicant attended traffic school this would remove one the violations, qualifying the applicant for a permit. Attorney Doimas explained that traffic school removes the points from the DMV record, but does not remove the violation. Further discussion occurred regarding the timeframe that the applicant can reapply for the permit. The discussion concluded that the Section A. 6. of municipal code 5.29.250, states that the applicant must wait 1 year from the commission’s final action to reapply.

MOTION: Christensen to uphold the Police Department’s recommendation to deny the permit. Laponis seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

10. TAXI PERMIT APPEAL OF DENIAL - CRISTINO SANCHEZ

Technician Perea read staff's recommendation.

The applicant was not present.

The commission discussed the applicable municipal code section with Attorney Doimas. The discussion concluded that Section G of Municipal Code 5.29.220 directed the commission to suspend the permit.

MOTION: Torell to uphold the Police Department's recommendation to suspend permit.
Christensen seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

11. ANNUAL MEETING FOR TOW OPERATORS TO DISCUSS ISSUES CONCERNING THE TOW ROTAION

The Annual Meeting was begun, but not concluded due to the need to vacate the meeting room. This item to be continued to the next meeting.

Roll Call of Tow Operators present:

Smitty's Towing
Bob Holzer Towing
Santa Barbara Tow Company
805 Roadside Towing
Nieves Towing
Love's Towing

(Thomas Towing was not present)

Captain Whitham stated that the department had completed the Tow Operator review and provided a brief summary of the entire process for new Commissioner Laponis. The review report had not been distributed to the commission or the tow operators, but would be following the meeting.

Captain Whitham stated that 2 operators were found to be in defect of the regulations, Nieves Towing and 805 Roadside Towing, and recommended that the two companies be removed from the tow operator list until their issues are fixed. Whitham explained that both company's defects concerned time elements that were not met. Nieves towing stated that in 1999 they were approved as an operator and assumed they had a current permit.

MOTION: Torell moved to continue the item to the next meeting with the recommendation that the report be discussed with all operators, who can respond to Jaycee Hunter on the report findings within 3 weeks. Laponis seconded

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

12. ADJORN: 5:33 PM