

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **July 24, 2014 @ 4:00**
Police Department Murphy Room
215 E. Figueroa St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Melekian, Torell, and Laponis

Staff Present: Police Captain Dave Whitham, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Deputy City Attorney John Doimas, and Secretary Barbara Sansone

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Laponis to approve minutes of **June 26, 2014** with correction of typo, Melekian 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

Laponis stated that he and Christensen met with Chief McElroy and discussed issues that might come up regarding a policy calendar. Christensen stated this relates to Item #8 on the Agenda and will be discussed at that time.

Melekian stated he was going to tour the current and future location of the Communication Center, however, due to Lt. Pflieger's illness this was postponed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Laponis asked if regarding the CompStat numbers he could see a comparison between the crime stat numbers of 10 years instead of just last year's and this year's numbers. Captain Whitham stated that the Executive Summary, which was handed out to the Commissioners, reviews the past 4 years and he was planning to go over it in the Chief's report. Laponis stated that he understood.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Melekian asked about the court's ruling on the gang injunction and would like to know the department's plan. Captain Whitham stated that he would update the Commissioners as part of his report.

7. Proposed Increase of Tow Rates for those tow operators on the Santa Barbara Police Department Tow Rotation List.

Present: Representatives from all of the companies on the City's Tow Rotation List.

Captain Whitham stated that rate increases for the tow companies were discussed in the past but there was no direction as to how the Fire & Police Commission was to raise rates. He referred to the memo the Commissioners had received with his recommendations. Captain Whitham read the memo out loud, making the recommendation that the tow companies receive the CHP's high dollar amount submitted rate as the standard rate for the companies on the City's Tow Rotation List. Captain Whitham then read out loud the Proposed Rates from his memo for the tow operators.

Chuck Love of Love's Towing wanted to know when the new rates would go into effect. Christensen stated that they would go into effect 30 days from the approval, subject to an appeal period.

Captain Whitham stated this was correct. The new rates would go into effect 30 days from today's date unless someone wanted to appeal the new rates to City Council.

Laponis asked how people would know what the new rates are. Chuck Love said the rates have to be posted on their door when a client walks in. Laponis wanted to know how the new rates would be publicized.

Christensen and Captain Whitham suggested this information be shared on the City's Fire & Police Commission's website.

MOTION: Torell to accept the police department's recommendation to use the CHP's high dollar rate and to review the rates at the tow operators annual meeting, which is typically held in January – Laponis seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote; motion passed

Captain Whitham informed the tow operators that Barbara Sansone would notice them when the 30 days have passed so they could change their rates, barring any appeals.

8. 12 Month Calendar

Christensen stated that City Administrator Jim Armstrong suggested the Commission put together a policy calendar. Christensen stated that she and Commissioner Laponis met with Chief McElroy. Christensen stated that she would like to get together with Chief Sanchez to see if he would like any revisions to the calendar. Christensen reviewed the calendar and the items to be placed on the agenda for each month.

Captain Whitham suggested inviting Councilmember Rowse to the August meeting because he is active in the State Street Issues. There is a current proposal to hire a private security company to provide 2 "ambassadors" to patrol State St. and be the eyes and ears of the department. Long Beach and Santa Monica use this method.

*(After discussing the calendar with Chief Sanchez, he suggested inviting Sergeant Holtke to the August meeting to discuss State Street issues)

In October, there is an item on the calendar regarding the Franklin Center Substation.

*(After discussing the calendar with Chief Sanchez, he suggested inviting Sergeant Harwood to the October meeting to discuss the Franklin Center Substation).

In November, Capital Investment/Improvement Plan (Fire & Police) is listed as the calendar topic.

*(After discussing the calendar with Chief Sanchez, he suggested inviting Captain Torres to the November meeting to discuss this topic.)

Laponis suggested adding "Retention" to the March item of "Annual Staffing, Hiring and Training Plan for the Dispatch Center." The Commissioners agreed.

Christensen wants the calendar items to be "focused items" as opposed to just a sentence or two as part of the Chief's report.

Melekian said he wanted to "strike a balance." The mission of the department is to deliver public safety services and not to report to the Commission. He stated that he wanted the Commission to be careful about their requests. Regarding the Capital Investment/Improvement Plan in November, it is an opportunity for the Commission to advocate to Council each department's needs. Melekian also requested that if there are documents to go along with the calendar topics the Commissioners receive them ahead of time.

Melekian suggested when there is an in depth presentation, the Chiefs can give an abbreviated report.

Laponis stated that he did not want the department's to have to do a considerable amount of work in preparation.

MOTION: Laponis to receive and adopt the calendar with revisions and place it on the City's website. Torell seconded

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote, motion passed.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Fire Chief Pat McElroy

- Response times consistent – 3 minutes for 80% of calls
- Wildland Benefit Assessment District – High fire area residents – additional tax on themselves so City can provide services in the high fire area. 3000 tons of brush cleared, 48 miles of road and chipped several tons. Canyons around the County Bowl are the priority this year. Very successful program.
- Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) study being completed. Being done by Citygate in Sacramento. After reviewing the draft, comments from City Admin, Airport and Fire are being sent back to them. Has to do with staffing costs of Station 8 and Airport wants to see if there is a more efficient way to do this. Station 8 is a low frequency/high risk station.
- Successful in getting a \$650,000 Grant for breathing apparatus
- Also received a matching grant to rebuild the training tower
- 3 firefighters in Washington assisting with the Forest Service

Christensen mentioned the DC Bryden will be retiring in the Spring. Chief McElroy said this is subject to change.

10. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

From Captain Dave Whitham

- Gang Injunction was denied. Department will be doing exactly what they have been doing and working with the tools they do have. Gang violence has been low. Department has a Criminal Impact Team (CIT) and Gang Suppression Team (GST), each with 4 officers and a supervisor to deal with these issues. These teams also deal with "urban travelers" in the downtown area. These teams are very proactive.

Jim Laponis thanked Chief McElroy and Captain Whitham for being so articulate and keeping them informed.

- Fiesta early this year. This is Captain Whitham's 25th Fiesta. Everything is well planned out and the department knows what to expect. Well-staffed this year. Other agencies help out every year.
- Usually an issue with the Sunday morning "Critical Mass" bicycle event. They usually violate every law and create a nuisance and a traffic problem. Last year the department took a very positive posture to deal with this event. Made it very clear all laws would be enforced, all motor officers, Sheriff's Department and CHP work this event. Lots of citations written.

Torell asked if bicycle riders were licensed in this area, they are not, this would be very difficult to mandate.

- Two cadets in the Academy right now. The Department is authorized to have 143 officers, now 142 due to Officer Kattai's retirement.
- It takes a year to a year and half to get an officer out on the street. City Admin allows the department to over-hire by 3. Currently 6 backgrounds, 6 conditional offers and there is a goal to put 7 in the next Academy.
- Dispatch move still planned for mid to late September to the Granada Garage.
- Noticed during Deltopia that the gas masks the department has do not work. Requested Homeland Securities money and this week got new gas masks for all of the officers in time for Fiesta.
- Executive Summary handed out to Commissioners. The new format provides accurate and easy to read documentation. Response times goal of 7 minutes, last month 5.6 minutes. 5 year average is 6 minutes. P 1 response times are always low. Burglaries are down and this is due to our Criminal Impact Team.
- Governor was here and had a meeting at the DA's office. The department expressed their views at this meeting regarding AB 109.

Melekian asked about rape stats. Captain Whitham stated that because of the highly active downtown entertainment district there are alcohol induced sexual assaults. The reduction in rapes is due to Captain Whitham assigning 2 Nightlife Enforcement officers to the entertainment district. There was only 1 for a while.

- Traffic collisions are on the rise. Traffic Sergeant Mike McGrew attended a traffic summit in Kentucky and said there is a reason for this nationwide. The reason is texting and distracted driving. This is the number one reason, even among pedestrians. The department is planning some distracted driving stings, we are aggressively enforcing DUI laws. Because of the downtown entertainment district the department has a designated Drinking Drive Team officer Wednesday through Saturday to look for and/or

when an officer stops someone the DDT officer will come and take over that investigation. There are three components when looking at traffic safety: Enforcement, Engineering (traffic engineering, stop lights, etc.) and Education.

Torell asked about pedestrian stings in crosswalks and Captain Whitham discussed this. These stings are highly publicized beforehand.

Commissioner Melekian commented how pleased he was with receiving the Beat Coordinator report. We will continue to send these to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Christensen asked about the spike in aggravated assaults in Beat 5. Captain Whitham stated that in the CompStat meetings these stats are gone over in great detail, however Captain Whitham was not at this latest meeting so he could not address her inquiry. He said that typically, these assaults are transient related.

Commissioner Christensen asked about bikes on sidewalks and stated what a hazard they are. She stated that there were numerous postings on Edhat and almost unanimously people are irate about the bicycle behavior in town. Captain Whitham said that bicycles on sidewalks are Municipally regulated and not regulated by the State. We do have a Municipal Code stating that bicycles are not allowed on the sidewalk.

A discussion followed about the frustration with bicycles not paying attention to any rules of the road.

11. ADJORN: 5:50 PM