

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **August 28, 2014** @ 4:00
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, Melekian, and Torell (Torres-Santos absent)

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Councilmember Gregg Hart, Sgt. Warren Holtke, Sgt. Mike McGrew and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Christensen commented that the minutes could be less detailed to save time.

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of **July 24, 2014**. Laponis 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

Torell inquired if there was a City committee or group that is reviewing bicycle regulations. Hart answered that the City is redoing the bicycle master plan as part of the circulation element. Torell is interested in plans to enforce traffic regulations that pertain to bicycles.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. 2014 State St. Patrol Services

Sgt Holtke provided the following background and information: He took over the Tactical Patrol Force Detail (TPFD) in February. After receiving numerous complaints about the urban travelers and homeless in the 600 block of State St., they conducted directed patrols and community liaison officers made contact with the businesses. In conjunction with that operation, they had SWAP (Sheriff Work Alternative Program) workers cleanup 13 camps. Vera Cruz Park on Cota St. was the next area where directed patrols were focused. Skateboard and bike

complaints have also recently increased downtown. The TPFD educated the public first then conducted directed patrols. Ongoing investigations continue on Cacique St. and the labor line area in the 200-500 blocks of E. Yanonali.

Melekian asked about the number of homeless camps around town. Holtke estimated there are 30-40 camps, mostly around the railroad tracks.

Melekian asked when the benches will reopen. Holtke answered that the department is working with the artist to remove and relocate the brick bench in front of the Habit. Other benches will return incrementally.

Next month the police department will present a report on the supplemental patrol proposal that council has authorized a \$150,000 budget. Discussion continued on the current state of the homeless situation and the plans to alleviate the problem.

Comments from Sgt. Mike McGrew, President of Police Officer Association, provided a statement against using security guards over police officers. The \$150,000 budget is coming out of the General Fund and is one-time money. Another concern is that security will not have the authority to deal with situations they encounter, and police officers will still need to respond. McGrew would rather see an increase in officer strength. Everyone has the goal to make downtown safe but thinks security guards would not be effective.

The Commission asked how many members are in the TPFD. Holtke answered there are a total of 8 on the force and cover during the day. The Nightlife Enforcement Team covers the evenings

8. 2014 Fire Department Budget Report/Financial Status and Performance Measures

Fire Chief McElroy gave a presentation on the fire department's adopted budget and reviewed the performance goals for the year.

Training Division was separated into its own fund this fiscal year (previously included with the Operations Division). The FY 2015 total department budget is \$22.9 million.

9. Fire Chief's Report

Sept. 24, at 6 PM is the joint meeting with the Airport Commission to review ARFF study. Commissioners would like to review the report in advance.

Helicopter – Received a grant through the Craig McCaw Foundation to fund a helicopter in the front country that will be staffed during extreme weather conditions, and will provide an initial attack capability.

Santa Barbara County and Southern California Edison will be placing 40 flame sniffers on power lines to send an alarm if they detect smoke.

10. Police Chief's Report

Fiesta – Was quiet. Most felonies committed by non-residents.

Hiring – Two are currently in the academy, and will graduate 2nd week of October. The Class Sergeant is a female from the SBPD class. Last test involved 400 applicants from which 5 were hired. Another test will take place in September. Retirements are expected in the next 12-18 months. Staff strength is at 152 officers with 6 injured.

Gang injunction – Was not approved. Department operations will continue as usual.

Elementary schools – Have begun seeing gang related writings in the schools. The department has created the G.R.E.A.T. Program – Gang Resistance Education and Training. Program will not just focus on gang issues, but also violence, bullying and respectfulness. It is a Dept. of Justice funded course. The pilot program begins this fall in grades 3-5 at 7 Schools. Another 7 schools will begin the program in the spring.

Dispatch re-location – Occurring Sept. 8. The move looks good and no issues are anticipated. They will use the same equipment, but new furniture was purchased to fit the new space. A Ribbon-Cutting will take place about 1 week later. Their former location in the PD basement area will be used for storage.

The Commission asked how much of an impact SBCC has on the SBPD work load. Chief Sanchez answered that previously the department was pursuing funding to place 2 officers full time on the campus. After receiving a proposal, SBCC decided they didn't want a PD presence on campus, and the idea was withdrawn.

McElroy responded that it is just another district in the City. There are no recent significant fire /rescue issues. Mostly off-campus responses/issues.

11. ADJOURN: 5:50 PM