

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **September 25, 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: Deputy Chief Frank Mannix, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Councilmember Gregg Hart, Councilmember Randy Rowse, Parking Superintendent Victor Garza, Lieutenant Brent Mandrell and Secretary Barbara Sansone.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Melekian to approve minutes of **August 28, 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

Laponis stated that the joint meeting with Airport Commission was valuable, however, he thought there could have been a 25 minute report by the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief McElroy said there would be updates over the next several months regarding AARF and he felt that the report was very valuable.

Christensen stated that it is good to be out in front of this issue and she appreciated the fact that she received the report in advance.

Melekian thought the meeting was worthwhile.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Melekian would like to have a briefing on bicycle safety.

Laponis asked about military equipment for local police. DC Mannix stated that we do not have any military surplus and that we don't have the resources for this program.

Christensen stated that the election for Chair and Vice Chair should be placed on the January Agenda. Christensen also stated her concern for the continued absence of Commissioner Torres-Santos and asked that the policy for Commissioner absences be looked into to see if there is a policy.

Commissioners asked for confirmation of the November and December dates of the meetings. Secretary Sansone stated that they are held on the third Thursday in November and the second Thursday in December, if there is a December meeting and that she would resend the 2014 calendar/meeting dates to the Commissioners. Sansone stated that the dates are also posted on the City's website.

7. Briefing on the Status of Private Security for State St.

- Parking Superintendent Victor Garza presented a Power Point on the proposed State St. Safety Guide Pilot Program to the Commissioners. This proposal was presented by Councilmember Randy Rowse, to set aside \$150,000 to hire an outside firm to provide an additional presence on State St. This would include 2 people walking up and down State St. from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, seven days a week. Decision was made to follow a RFP process. This program would be managed by the Downtown Parking Program. This \$150,000 was surplus funds from the General Fund.
- Melekian asked why the hours would be from 11-7 and Garza stated that the department thought that this program would be most effective during the daytime hours since there are officers available in the evening in the downtown area.
- These employees would not have citation authority and would not carry weapons. They would carry a cell phone to observe and report. They would not carry police radios.
- Council has asked for an update in approximately 30 days. This update would most likely be ready towards the end of October.
- Melekian asked what the mission was of these employees. Garza stated they would observe, have an authoritative presence on State St., and report back to the police department. They would be dressed in a uniform. Unsure of the salaries.
- Lt. Mandrell stated that most of the "Nuisance activity" takes place during the daytime hours; 11-7.
- Christensen stated that the problem that's trying to be solved is aggressive panhandling.
- Councilmember Rowse stated that we have an "image problem." Wants to bring confidence back to the people with this 1 year program.
- Melekian was concerned with having this program active during the daytime hours. DC Mannix said this program can be flexible and the employees will be deployed at hours where we will get the "biggest bang for our buck."

- Torell stated that this doesn't seem to be a public safety issue but instead is a tourist friendly issue.
- Councilmember Hart says this is where Council is struggling. Business people have come to Councilmembers saying that things are out of control on State St.
- DC Mannix said a menu of options will be presented to Council, all under the assumption of the \$150,000 funding source. i.e.: An additional police officer would take approximately \$135,000, or it could be used for overtime costs @ \$70 an hour, contract out to a private security firm, employ community service officers (with some citation ability and limited arrest ability) or increase the funding for our "yellow shirts."
- Christensen addressed Lt. Mandrell and asked if he had a recommendation. Lt. Mandrell stated that the public would always be better off with another police officer.
- Melekian stated that there is not one solution to this problem.

Public Comment:

Sergeant Mike McGrew spoke as a member of the public and president of the POA. He stated that there are fewer officers over the last several years, and that in 2001 the department had approximately 151 officers. Sergeant McGrew stated they can no longer provide the level of service they once did and he would like to see the department it grow. The POA wants to provide that service. He stated that the General Fund money, which is typically used to fund police officer's, is now going over to the Parking Department. He feels that public safety is the important issue and if the public feels safe then image will follow.

Sergeant McGrew said if this is "one-time" money, then it should be used for overtime. This would provide 257 8 hour shifts. However, if an officer is hired the attrition rate is about 6 per year so the "one-time" money is a non-issue.

There was another public comment made by a member of the Citizen's Academy (name unknown). She also felt that the downtown area was unsafe.

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

Deputy Chief Mannix presented a budget recap of the FY14 budget and the FY15 budget to the Commissioners. DC Mannix handed a summary to the Commissioners.

- 1 Records Specialist added and 1 Sworn Officer to be assigned to the downtown corridor
- 15-20 hourly employees
- \$37.8 million dollar budget (\$25,000 under budget) FY14
- \$38.1 million dollar budget for FY15
- 87% of budget consumed by salaries and benefits
- Dispatch move was not funded from our budget but from the General Fund
- Department generates \$7 million in revenue
- \$4 – \$4.5 million in gross parking citation revenue; a percentage of which goes to State of California (almost 50%)

9. Police Chief's Report DC Mannix

DC Mannix reviewed the Executive CompStat summary with the Commissioners

- Reviewed Performance Measures (P3), explained Priority calls and response times
- 0 homicides this year
- 22 rapes this year, slightly down
- Robberies down
- Aggravated assault/average
- Burglaries lowest in the last 5 years
- Commercial burglaries 37% below the 5 year average
- Other thefts 22% below the 5 year average
 - Formation of the Criminal Impact Team is having an impact on burglaries
- Car thefts 26% below 5 year average
- Burglary theft from vehicle 47% below 5 year average
- Street Crime (Part 2 crime) is up
- Gang Related Crime down

Technology has been a benefit to crime fighting.

10. Fire Chief's Report (The recorder stopped working at this time)

- 6 firefighters at the King Fire
- Helicopter at Santa Barbara Airport used 20 to 30 times a year
- New "Self Contained Breathing Apparatus" ordered for 90 firefighters at a cost of \$700,000
- Introducing a "Wellness Program" so that firefighters can stay healthy, have an annual physical and be diagnosed with any problems early on

11. ADJOURN: 5:50 PM