

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **June 25, 2015** @ 4:00
EOC, Fire Station 1
121 W. Carrillo St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Laponis, and Torell

Staff Present: Police Chief Cam Sanchez, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Item continued.

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. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Board vacancy procedures to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

6. Police Chief's Report

Staff levels down due to 12 injuries. Two of these employees will end up retiring. Specialist positions have been moved around to cover the vacancies. Five people are currently in the academy. Recruits for the October academy are going thru background checks now. Five Community Service Officers have been hired; one more is in background check.

Recently, a cold case murder was solved from 1978. Information will be detailed to the public soon.

Memorial statue to Department's 5 fallen officers has passed final design review approval. Construction is being started. Unveiling will take place this year. A fundraising golf tournament will take place on August 21.

7. Fire Chief's Report

Chief McElroy introduced the new Operations Division Chief, Lee Waldron, who succeeded following Jim Bryden's retirement.

Medical and psychological examinations have been completed for 10 new firefighter recruits. Their recruit academy begins on July 13 and runs until end of September.

Staffing – Have been experiencing some significant lengthy injuries, but now some have returned to work.

A promotional ceremony will be held on July 8, 3:00 PM at Fire Station 1 for the most recent rank promotions.

Construction to install burn props at the training tower will begin soon. These are shipping containers that are configured to facilitate live fire training. The cement tower can no longer safely accommodate live fire. This was funded through City appropriations and donations.

Proposed Airport staffing reduction will not take place this fiscal year per Council's decision.

Budget – FY16 has been adopted. Enhancements included \$60,000 for design plans to remodel or rebuild Station 7. Chief McElroy will be speaking with US Forest Service to discuss potential to develop a combined USFS/SBFD Station. Currently, USFS occupies a temporary building on site. Department did not receive funding for a full time Public Education Coordinator position.

8. Annual Fire Season Report

Chief McElroy presented a PowerPoint on the background and current state of fire danger in our area. Key points:

- Santa Barbara County and much of the state is experiencing a period of Exceptional Drought
- The potential for significant wildland fire is above normal for the south coast at least thru September
- The County agencies log in staffing information daily into a central website, allowing for current information and immediate assignments
- The department is operationally prepared, and also promoting public education concerning evacuation and defensible space
- Santa Barbara County now has 5 separate geographical Red Flag Warning zones. A warning can now be called for a specific area, and not the entire county.

Torell inquired whether the lack of water is a concern in fighting a large fire. Chief McElroy explained that water is just one tool used to put out fires, but other tools such as retardant, bull dozing, brush clearing also help end a fire's spread.

It was mentioned that "flame sniffers," that detect the presence of smoke, are now in place in Mission Canyon (Santa Barbara County).

9. ADJORN: 5:21 PM