

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday **November 19, 2015 @ 4:00**
Santa Barbara Police Department
Murphy Room
215 E. Figueroa St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

Commissioners Present: Christensen, Daniel, Laponis, Zeitsoff

Staff Present: City Administrator Paul Casey; Deputy City Attorney John Doimas; Deputy Police Chief Frank Mannix; Fire Battalion Chief Chris Mailes; Officer Jaycee Hunter; Police Technician Holly Perea; Human Resources Manager Susie Gonzalez

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Item continued.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. CITY ADMINISTRATOR BRIEFING:

Police Chief Recruitment: The City will use an executive recruitment firm that specializes in Police Chief recruitment to vet potential candidates nationwide. City Administrator Casey has already spoken with City Council, the Police Officers Association, and key people within the Police Department for input. Public input will be sought as well. Mr. Casey invited the Commission Chair or designee to sit on the oral board. Near the end of the process, prior to making a recommendation to City Council, Mr. Casey will meet with the Fire & Police Commission in a closed session to inform them of his selection. The Commission's input and recommendation will then be presented to City Council along with Mr. Casey's selection. The entire process is expected to take a few months, so an interim Chief may be necessary. Commissioners requested that the following criteria be considered when vetting candidates: Hispanic outreach; restorative policing experience; and land use familiarity.

Private Use of Public Resources: When Chief Sanchez was in an accident in a City-issued vehicle, a compassionate decision was made by a Watch Commander to have the Chief's daughter picked up from the airport by non-uniformed officer in an unmarked car. Similar spontaneous calls of compassion have been made for others who do not work for the City. Commissioner Daniel recommended that policy 219 of the Police Department Manual, which refers to the department's Code of Ethics, and policy 1000.3, regarding recruitment and selection, be updated to include a compassion component. Chief Mannix offered to return at the next meeting to explain how the sections regulate department actions. Commissioners agreed to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting, which will also allow for public comment.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Zeitsoff suggested that City Administrator Paul Casey be invited back to give input on building issue.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Zeitsoff requested a general presentation by the Fire and Police Departments regarding the City's counter-terrorism preparation. John Doimas noted that for security purposes details must be vague in any such presentation. Christensen suggested this information could be incorporated into the Chiefs reports.

7. AMISADAIS TOW PERMIT APPLICATION

Present: Attorney Daniel Murphy, applicant Ana Jacinto

Officer Hunter summarized his investigative findings and informed the Commission that per the Santa Barbara Municipal Code, tow businesses must have a business office and an adequate yard for vehicle storage. Based on the information provided in the application as well as an interview with the applicant, the applicant has no such office or yard, and her apartment cannot be used as a business office unless properly permitted for commercial use through Building and Zoning departments among others, and which would require that the apartment be made handicapped accessible among other things.

Attorney Daniel Murphy emphasized that his client should not be judged for the actions of her husband who was cited for operating a tow business illegally. He stated that Ms. Jacinto has rented a storage yard in Goleta where she can store vehicles and her tow truck, and she will post rates at that location as required by the Municipal Code. Mr. Murphy stated that his client will take any further steps necessary to come into compliance.

Office Hunter stated that more time would be needed to review the new information presented to determine compliance with the requirements of the law.

MOTION: Commissioner Laponis made a motion to continue the item until the Commission meeting on January 28, 2016. He requested an updated investigative report for that meeting. Zeitsoff seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote. Motion passed.

8. CAPITAL INVESTMENT/IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Police: Captain Gil Torres:

- Biometric Rifle Lock System for the Armory. Current access requires a supervisor. A biometric system would allow access without a supervisor while maintaining a high level of security and accountability. Research is still underway and the department is accepting proposals. The Police Department was funded \$100,000 for this project.
- New Police Department Headquarters Building. This is an \$80 million unfunded item, listed as the City's top capital project but without secured funding. The project is so expensive because Police Departments must be built to the same standards and seismic specifications as hospitals. If the current location is used, the Police Department would need to build two levels underground which is highly expensive. The Armory would be a viable location for the Police Department at a lower cost, but other parties are interested in that property, and the City would have to offer a comparable premise within the City to the current occupants of the

Armory. Alternate locations were researched but most are unsuitable due to seismic challenges or being located in flood or natural disaster zones. The money for a new building would most likely come from a bond or taxes, both of which would require voter approval, but historically the public has not been receptive to either. Commissioner Zeitsoff asked whether the Police Foundation could assist with raising funds. Captain Torres replied that the Foundation could help. Commissioner Zeitsoff confirmed that the first step of the funding process is getting 5 of 7 Councilmembers to agree to move forward with the funding. Commissioner Christensen suggested that the Commission could advise Councilmember Hart, the Commission liaison, that the Commission would like Council to revisit funding options for this project.

- Locker Room Remodel. A \$150,000 project funded by the Public Works Department. This is not a full remodel, but more of a facelift improvement.
- Police Department Gym. This was originally an unfunded project. The PD was able to obtain funding through revenues in a special fund, donations from the Police Foundation, and Facilities Maintenance.

Fire: Battalion Chief Chris Mailes

- Dispatch Center's Emergency Medical Dispatch Program Upgrade. This is a \$75,000 project approved for funding in 2014. The program is serviced by Priority Dispatch Corporation. It is an online version of medical dispatch instructions that the dispatchers give over the phone. The program allows the dispatcher to more quickly process calls; help starts as soon as the call comes in. All dispatchers who use the program are Certified Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD). No medical training needed. This program also dramatically improves data collection, which used to be manually compiled but will now be electronic.
- Live Burn Training Prop at Drill Tower. Two props were installed: one that simulates flash-over conditions, and another that simulates zero-visibility conditions. Firefighters are required to go through live burn training annually. It will dramatically reduce costs because previous training and certification required travel, and now it can be done onsite. Other fire departments will be using it as well. This project took several years to come to fruition and included funding from the capital improvement fund, community donations, and financial contributions from other fire departments.
- Remodel of Fire Station #7 (2411 Stanwood Drive). This is an unfunded project. The Fire Department is currently reviewing for design options, including looking for alternate locations, as well as exploring options for funding. Because the property also houses US Forest Service in a temporary trailer, options include housing both the Forest Service and Fire Department in the new station. Funding options include the possibility of some federal funding because federal employees will be housed there as well.

9. APPOINT FIRE & POLICE SUBCOMMITTEES

The Fire Chief went directly into his report after Item 8 and this item was not addressed.

11. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Battalion Chief Chris Mailes:

- Since October 22nd Fire Dept. has had 722 calls for service, approximately 30 calls/day.
- Gibraltar Fire. 21-acre fire in the mountains on a south-facing slope in sundowner conditions with 55 mph winds. This was the only fire SBFD has ever been able to stop on a south-facing slope in sundowner conditions. That's a testament to our fire department and the solid relationships we have with other fire departments. It was a multi-jurisdictional response that included aircraft. It was an expensive response, but it was threatening an estimated \$3 billion

in real estate, so swift response was necessary to avoid significant loss. SBFD filled multiple roles, extra personnel was called in, and 2 fire engines were operating at Station 7 the time the call came in so both crews were sent in.

- Several small fires in the last couple of months as well as two significant auto extrications in one day.
- Structure fire season is upon us due to more people using
- El Nino preparations are underway, including swift water and ocean rescue training. Public outreach included a sandbag distribution event that had a very high turnout with some people waiting over two hours for sandbags. Many downtown areas, including the Funk Zone, are historically prone to flooding and the Fire Department is preparing for that.

12. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Deputy Police Chief Frank Mannix:

- Response times for Priority 1 calls are holding flat, well within P3 goal of 7 minutes. Response times for Priority 2, 3, and 4 times are increasing due to scaled-back staffing. Team strength remains at workable levels, currently at 46. Specialty teams have vacancies.
- Call volume for October was 14% above the 5-year average, which is an ongoing trend. SBPD is a busier department than it was years ago, primarily due to the "transients disturbing" calls.
- Part 1 crimes are holding with no dramatic increases. Residential burglaries were 25% below the 5-year average.
- Theft from Vehicle calls were up 40% from the 5-year average. Typically that's due to a one-man crime wave.
- DUI Arrests were down in October but that was because the DUI officer was away at SWAT school for two weeks.
- Methamphetamine use has dramatically increased to 67 arrests in October versus a 5-year average of 33. This figure includes being under the influence of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, or possession for sale of methamphetamine.
- Staffing is at 94.4% with 135 of 143 positions filled. Staffing challenges are due to injuries. Currently 17 officers are on an injury list or not available to work patrol. This is triple the normal number. Five officers are going through field training, and five more in the academy, so there are officers in the pipeline. The big concern is that in the next six months the PD will lose approximately 9 officers. Aggressive recruitment efforts are underway, including an advertisement in PORAC magazine.
- Cold case solved. In 1997 Linda Archer was murdered and on October 30, 2015, Manuel Manzanares plead guilty. He was caught due to a DNA hit.

11. ADJORNED: 6:14 PM