

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **January 28, 2016** @ 4:00
Police Dept. Murphy Room
215 E. Figueroa St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Laponis, Torell, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Fire Division Chief Lee Waldron, Police Captain Gil Torres, Lt. Todd Stoney, Officer Jaycee Hunter, Deputy City Attorney John Doimas, Councilmember Greg Hart, and Acting Secretary Carol Lupo

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Torell to approve minutes of November 19, 2015. Zeitsoff 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. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

Zeitsoff asked that City Administrator Paul Casey be placed on the next agenda, to provide an update on the status of the Police Dept. building, and Police Chief recruitment. She would also like an update on the Fallen Officer Memorial and the fundraising efforts.

Laponis made a statement on his concern over the 6 homicides since January 1 in Santa Maria. Captain Torres indicated that Santa Barbara does not experience the same situations as Santa Maria.

6. AMISADAIS TOW PERMIT APPLICATION

Doimas was informed by Officer Hunter that the business has moved to Goleta, so a permit is no longer required.

7. STAFF REPORT ON SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL SECTIONS 219 (JOHN DOIMAS) AND 1000.3 (DEPUTY CHIEF MANNIX)

Doimas spoke per Commissioner Daniel's request from the last meeting. Section 219 of the Fire and Police Commission policy manual concerns the meeting location of the commission. Doimas advised that the meeting location should be changed in the policy manual to reflect that meetings are normally held in the Community Development Gebhard Room (rather than the Police Dept. Murphy room). At any time the meeting location can be changed or updated, pursuant to Brown Act requirements.

Discussion continued on the general duties of the commission. Section 816 of the City Charter covers the Duties of the commission:

- Act in an advisory capacity to the City Administrator and City Council on department matters.
- Act as an Administrative body for matters dealing with dance permits, tow permits, Peditax permits, taxi cab permits, pawn brokers, escort (tourist guides) permits. Power is also granted to issue subpoenas for testimony or evidence. All matters are appealable to City Council.

Zeitsoff asked whether the commission would make a recommendation to the City Administrator concerning the Police Chief selection. Torell commented that during past recruitment for Fire Chief, that 2 commissioners sat on separate interview panels.

8. ANNUAL MEETING OF TOW OPERATORS/COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Officer Hunter serves as the Tow Compliance Officer. The first meeting in January is slated to be the Annual compliance meeting, in which all tow operators must be present. All were present at this meeting. All 7 tow companies are in compliance with the rules and regulations, and there are no issues. Hunter gave accolades to all the companies on their performance, and providing assistance when it was needed. Companies on the Police Dept. tow rotation list, are required to have a tow permit, regardless of whether their business is located in Santa Barbara or not.

Discussion or report on the Tow Fee Schedule to be continued at the next meeting.

9. APPOINT FIRE AND POLICE SUBCOMMITTEES

Generally 2 commissioners per department serve on the subcommittees.

Zeitsoff stated she preferred to be on the Police subcommittee.

Laponis stated he would like to serve on both subcommittees (Fire and Police). Absent commission member may decline appointment at her request.

MOTION: Laponis nominated himself and Commissioner Daniel (in absentia) to serve on the Fire subcommittee. Torell seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Laponis nominated himself and Commissioner Zeitsoff to serve on the Police subcommittee. Zeitsoff seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

10. Fire Chief's Report

Division Chief Waldron provided an overview of the new burn prop that has been constructed at the training tower. City, County and Montecito members have been trained to operate the specialized prop. Construction was funded with City, County, Montecito and private funding sources.

Waldron also provide recent significant incidents, including a structure fire on Summit Rd. and flooding from the rain events. There have been 689 incident calls to date for January.

11. Police Chief's Report

Stoney gave an overview on the Police Dept. current hiring situation. The Dept. is authorized for 143 positions, currently 130 are filled (13 vacancies). They are anticipating 7 more retirements in the next 6 months, bringing it to 20 vacancies. The goal is to hire 14 officers. An academy begins in April and 14 candidates are in background checks now. They have also increased the advertising campaign. In addition, they are interviewing 7 lateral candidates next week. A Sergeant has also been transferred to focus on recruitment full time. A marketing firm will be hired to assist with recruitment. Torres added that other agencies are experiencing shortages as well. In general more focus will be geared toward long term planning for hiring.

Laponis stated he understood that the Santa Barbara Independent magazine would be issuing a retraction or correction on their recent article on the department. Torres commented that some of the article was taken out of context, and there were some inaccuracies. Zeitsoff commented that articles like this hurt all parties and that the police and the media need better communication and information sharing. Councilmember Hart said the loss of specialty positions does hurt the city. Many of the vacancies have been due to serious and legitimate injuries.

12. ADJORN: 5:20 PM