

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **June 23, 2016** @ 4:00
Classroom/EOC, Fire Department

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Daniel, Laponis, Torell, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Police Chief John Crombach, Fire Division Chief Lee Waldron, Deputy City Attorney John Doimas, and Secretary Carol Lupo

AGENDA CHANGE:

ATTORNEY DOIMAS REMOVED ITEM 7 FROM THE AGENDA (“HEAR INFORMATION REGARDING A COMPLAINT CONCERNING 805 ROADSIDE TOWING/AARON BOUCHER”)

2. Approval of Minutes of May 26, 2016

The commissioners asked for clarification from Attorney Doimas about the statement in the minutes that non-attending commissioners cannot vote to approve the minutes. Doimas corrected his statement that commissioners can approved the minutes, whether or not they were present at the meeting.

MOTION: Zeitsoff to approve minutes of May 26, 2016 with the correction. Torell seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

3. Public Comment (Total Time 10 minutes)

None.

4. Old Business: Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, refer to staff for factual information or make brief reports or announcements.

None.

5. New Business:

Zeitsoff would like to receive information and data from the Fire and Police Departments relating to the homeless issue, that the commission could discuss and use to make a recommendation to City Council.

Attorney Doimas asked the commissioners to send written requests to the secretaries of items they would like placed on the agenda. Doimas would email an outline to the Commission detailing what the request should include.

Zeitsoff also would like a discussion relating to the concentration of liquor licenses.

6. Determine Whether to Hold a July Commission Meeting

Laponis will not be able to attend. After discussion, the July meeting is scheduled unless something changes.

7. Agenda Item removed.

8. Hear a request by Holly Perea to appeal a towing fee

Present: Holly Perea, Mr. Love of Love's Towing

Ms. Perea distributed information related to her case, and presented her reasons why she feels she should receive a refund of the towing fee she paid.

Ms. Perea was parked in the commuter parking lot at Cota and Santa Barbara streets, and was towed due to the Saturday Farmers Market event. Ms. Perea's position is that she was not informed of the parking restriction via her parking agreement; the restriction is not mentioned on the permit itself, and that the posted signage at the lot was not adequate, and does not meet signage rules. In addition, she was not given any of the notices from Love's towing as specified by the municipal code or California Vehicle Code

Mr. Love spoke. He is the sole towing service which services the Cota commuter lot to remove cars for the Farmers Market event. He stated his employee was doing his job. He stated also that the signs seemed inadequate to him as well, and stated this was brought up to a City Attorney in the past, who advised the signs met the rules.

The Commission advised that Mr. Love in the future provide copies of the proper notices to the vehicle owners.

Following discussion, Ms. Perea and Mr. Love stated that they would be meeting to discuss and remedy the matter between themselves.

MOTION: Christensen that the Commission does not take action on the appeal, and refers question of the legality and compliance of the signage at the Cota commuter parking lot for a legal opinion from the City Attorney's office, and recommends that the wording on the Commuter Parking website be amended to include the Farmers Market parking restriction. Daniel seconded.

Doimas clarified that the Commission is taking no action on the agenda item today, until such time that Ms. Perea withdraws her appeal, or returns to commission for a decision. Doimas also commented that it would be the purview of Ms. Perea to contact the Downtown Parking Office to ask that the commuter parking permit agreement be amended.

Torell commented that there is no evidence of wrongdoing on part of Love's Towing, and expressed concern of the appearance of a conflict of interest or intimidation between Perea and Love.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

9. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Waldron presented a review of the Sherpa fire:

- Currently at 7400 acres and 95% contained. Little fire growth the last 3 days.
- Santa Barbara County Fire and US Forest Service were the initial attack on the fire.

- Within 2 days of the fire start, a Type 2 Team was called in, which was then increased to a Type 1 Team due to the threat to populated areas.
- Railroad and Hwy 101 were closed at a couple of points.
- Refugio and El Capitan public campgrounds are closed until further notice.
- Some avocado and citrus orchards were affected.
- 300 people overall were evacuated.
- Exxon Mobil trucking operation will resume next week.
- Cause is under investigation.
- Currently in mop up and patrol status.
- Repairing roads and fire suppression impacts to area.
- 3 closures remain. Refugio State Park, El Capitan State Park, and El Capitan Canyon
- The Fire transitions back to the local team tomorrow.

The incident responses for the last month were provided. The Commission asked for a further breakdown or sub categories on the medical calls in the future.

A new Type 1 engine (the common type you see about town) was received a week ago.

10. Police Chief's Report

- Recruitment has been prioritized and is continuous.
- 2 new laterals are being hired. Lateral hiring is a new method for SBPD.
- Candidates disqualified during the process.
- Based on experience, you need 100 applicants to yield 1 recruit.
- 79 applications are under review.
- Another hiring test will take place in July.
- Solstice, 4th of July, and Fiesta event preparation. There will be a significant change in deployment for Solstice this year after the Orlando attack. Full staff deployment for the 4th and Fiesta.

The Commission thanked Chief Crombach for his service.

Zeitsoff inquired as to the status of the Fallen Officer Memorial Statue. Crombach replied that Riley Harwood and Cam Sanchez were going to visit the statue builder shortly.

The new Police Chief was invited to attend the next meeting if she is available.

11. Adjourn 5:56 PM