

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, **April 27, 2017 @ 4:00**

David Gebhard Room
Comm/Dev Public Works
630 Garden St.

4:00pm

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Present: Police Chief Lori Luhnaw, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Deputy City Attorney John Doimas, Councilmember Gregg Hart, Police Officer Keld Hove and Secretary Rosie Calvillo

2. AGENDA CHANGE:

LAPONIS MOTIONED TO MOVE ITEM #9 and #11 AFTER #7 AND BEFORE #8, POLICE CHIEF HAS A COMMITMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO GO PRIOR TO THE OTHER ITEMS, UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

3. Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2017

MOTION: Christensen approve minutes of March 23, 2017, Daniel seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

4. Public Comment (Total Time 10 minutes)

Tamara Erickson, her family owns Hotel Santa Barbara on the 500 block of State Street, has worked there since she was 18. She would like to express her concern and loves the changes that she heard at the Safety Committee Meeting this morning, that are happening on State Street and downtown during the day. Her business is opened 24 hours a day and there is a concentration of Dance Permits and Alcohol Licenses in that area. There are 15 dance permits within 2 blocks of the hotel, which means there are a lot of bodies, drinking and rowdy activity.

There a couple of full-time security staff that work for her that work 8:00am to 3:00am, they continuously report to her that there is no Police presence at all at night. She thinks the Life Enforcement Team has been able to be staffed. There has been 2 stabbings within the last 2 weeks. Her concern is to prompt and urge the Police Department to look into staffing the Life Enforcement Team and that the permits that are coming up for renewal once a year are examined and adequate security is provided. Only the ones that are down there at night that aren't bar owners are concerned. She suggested to the Commissioners to walk State Street on a Friday or Saturday night at midnight, so they can experience what she is talking about.

Laponis asked if it's particularly weekends or just Friday and Saturday nights. Ms. Erickson said it's heightened on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights because Bill's bus, busses a lot of people. There are thousands of people on State Street and she feels it's an accident waiting to happen. Her main concern is safety. Ms. Erickson suggested the Commissioners go down there since they are the ones that grant the Dance Permits.

Daniel ask what Bill's bus was? Bill's bus brings students from UCSB downtown several times during the night.

Laponis asked Chief Luhn and Council to explain what the criteria is on Dance Permits and do they come up every year?

Doimas responded that he didn't want to go in depth on the issue and suggested that if it was something they wanted to discuss it would be fair to prepare for it and avoid a potential Brown Act violation.

Zeitsoff asked if it would be appropriate for the Chief to respond on the officers that are looking at the night time environment. Chief said it would be included with her update. Zeitsoff said there was a time when they were asked to approve a Dance Permit and she was the only one that voted no. Zeitsoff was concerned if the rules that were established in 2008 were keeping up with technology, security and the cumulative impact of the permits that were being awarded. Zeitsoff feels we need to review the Dance Permits and the requirements. Daniel thanked Ms. Erickson for voicing her concerns and reassured her that they take it seriously. Torell asked if Ms. Erickson's concern was that there should be more Police presence and she said the concentration and the managing of the Dance Permits were her concerns.

Gail Zannon, lives at 407 State Street, in a condominium in the back of their front building next to Matrix Club. There was a stabbing a week and half ago, that particular evening was incredibly loud. There were busses brought in and they are called Bill's Booz Bus, they park on Gutierrez Street and unload the people there. That's where they defecate, urinate and finish what they were drinking on the bus, then they go into the clubs. The stabbing occurred in the club and they were letting people out the back door and that's when we heard people screaming and being inappropriate. We have called the Police Department and Dispatch over the years, I have been on the Safety Committee since it began, was on the Downtown Organization for 12 years, has donated her time and no one is listening or examining the situation. We have gone to ABC, they said they have the funds to do the enforcement, but they don't have the staff. The clubs have employees wearing security shirts but no one has checked to see if they really are security. When the kids were coming out of the club the security were just standing at the door not trying to enforce crowd control. Ms. Zannon feels the Bus Company or UCSB should take responsibility for these kids.

Torell asked what the percentage of the UCSB students are 21? They should check their ID's when they come off the bus.

Chief Luhn explained that ABC is the entity for the State that issues alcohol licenses, unless we have local control through a conditional use process, we can't regulate the saturation of alcohol establishments. Any punitive action against an establishment is within their ABC conditions and it goes through an ABC administrative process with an ABC hearing officer. There was a presentation at City Council about 2 months ago on Alcohol Policy, and they directed us to continue with some off sale establishments, local control ordinance, and the market. We are moving forward with some local control, land use process that list all the

conditions that we can hold them accountable for and if they violate them we can take their land use away.

ABC has said that Santa Barbara County is the most saturated for alcohol licenses per capita than any other place in the State. They have 2 enforcements officers for the whole region.

They can't help us control our problem and we don't have local control to manage it to the best of our abilities. City Council has decided for us to focus first on off sale. New licenses will have a conditional use process and for the existing licenses we will hold them to certain operating guidelines. If they violate these guidelines we will take action.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Zeitsoff attended the new Police Officers swearing in ceremony, 10 new Officers and 2 Laterals.

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

Daniel went on a ride-a-long with Sgt. Katsapis and was profoundly impacted by the experience. Was on the ride-a-long from 6:30am to 1:00pm, they responded to various calls. Daniel said we are blessed as a community, with the relationship that the Police department and Fire department have, impressive how they work hand in hand. Sgt. Katsapis response to all calls was outstanding and his humane treatment to the homeless was incredible.

Daniel recommended this website:

<http://webarchive.urban.org/publications/900990.html> (on homeless people)

7. New Business:

Review the criteria of Dance Permits and enforcement of criteria after they have been awarded Dance Permits. Include a list of active Dance Permits.

MOTION: Laponis to add review of Dance Permits to May 25, 2017 agenda.

Zeitsoff seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote.

Daniel recommended that the agenda and minutes be sent electronically and not a hard copy. Christensen suggested opt in or opt out.

MOTION: Laponis to have agenda and minutes sent electronically and not a hard copy.

VOTE: Zeitsoff and Torell want a hard copy, Christensen, Daniel and Laponis electronic.

8. Police Chief's Report:

New Public Engagement Manger, Anthony Wagner has been hired, he is a land use policy expert for health and safety issues. He was a strategist for the San Diego Alcohol Policy Panel. There are a lot of things we can do for example, hosting responsible hospitality meetings with the staff trying to work to ensure that their people are trained to do the best that they can.

- 4 New Sergeants will be promoted on May 13, 2017.
- 1 Officer will be added to the Restorative Policing Team.
- May 13, 2017, there will be a significant internal restructure. A Watch Commander Lieutenant position has been pulled, that Lieutenant will oversee a neighborhood policing

unit, it will be comprised of Beat Coordinators, Bike Team, Restorative Team, Special Enforcement Team, a proactive team that will manage problems in the nighttime hours.

- 9 Uniformed Volunteers, Peace Officers that have a sense of calling.
- We have accepted a donation of a store front office for a few months, at 430 State Street. Officers will be able to write reports and not have to come back to the station.
- \$70,000 was paid for a crime analysis program that will be up and running soon, possibly 2 months. It will give the officers accurate up to date data.

Chief Luhnnow went to visit Israel for 9 days as a part of an Anti-Defamation League counter terrorist seminar, she went with 16 other law enforcement professionals. It was unbelievable to stand at borders of every country, feel safe and secure, was really excited to be there. They have a high level of nationalism and patriotism never seen before.

Christensen would like the Chief to report 2 months of crime analysis in neighborhoods, for next month's meeting.

Officer Keld Hove reported on Restorative Policing, that he has been running for 10 years. He works with people that are alcoholics, drug addicts and homeless. These people have not chosen this live style, they don't remember some of their inappropriate behavior. He enrolls these people in restorative court for 6 months and if they don't commit anymore offenses they get their tickets dismissed. He will try and help these people enroll in programs so they don't commit crimes or receive citations that they can't pay. This process helps the officer and the homeless to try and direct them in a different direction to better their lives. Officer Hove doesn't wear a uniform because he can sit and talk to anyone that is paranoid or delusional a little easier and not make them uncomfortable. This program creates hope in the people that have given up.

Zeitsoff asked Fire Chief McElroy that out of the 700 calls they receive what percentage are related to homeless people? The Fire Chief said 20% are homeless people, they are transported by AMR at a significant cost.

Zeitsoff asked where does SB Cottage Hospital put these people when they are released? SB Cottage Hospital sends them to PATH, (People Assisting the Homeless) where they put them on a medical bed until they recover.

Daniel asked if the percentage of people that have been through Restorative court would go up if we had a larger team? Officer Hove said there used to be 2 in the position but 1 was eliminated. It's not a 1 man detail, it needs to be 3 or 4, 50% of the calls received during the day are transient or homeless related.

Laponis said that there are more homeless in Santa Barbara per capita population than any other place our size. Officer Hove said if services are provided it brings people here.

Zeitsoff asked if Officer Hove had an idea on the number of chronic or mentally ill people. Officer Hove said there are between 200 or 300.

Daniel asked if Officer Hove was afraid of contamination of the different diseases. He said no, because to do his job he has to interact with them.

Torell told Officer Hove that if there was any way they could help by allocating money to improve the program they would happy to.

Daniel asked how much money is being spent on providing for the homeless? Chief McElroy said the cost to the City is not the true cost. There are many that if affects hospitals, doctors, AMR. Officer Hove said approximately \$12,000.00. **Keld Hove, Restorative Officer, 331-6641.**

Laponis requested that item #8 be added to the agenda for next month.

9. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief McElroy complimented Officer Hove and Officer Burleigh on what a difference they made on the street.

- This is the busiest quarter of the year in terms of training. We are getting ready for fire season and doing a lot of intense training.
- We had 2 big drills, RT130, annual refresher for wildland season, it involves reviewing all our personal protective gear, a class on trends on things we learned in the last year, we do line cutting, fire response and practicing at our fire shelters.
- WUI drill (Wildland Urban Interface) involves firefighters from SB County, San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County, we practice communicating with each other, we setup an ICS system and we setup camp. This is very effective because it involves other agencies.
- We did a Staff Ride that is when you visit a scene of a catastrophic event or a burn over. We did one on the Tunnel Road area. Two of the firefighters from the Jesusita fire crew were there and they went through the whole process of what happened, how the decisions were met and how to make decisions in a crisis situation.
- Fire will be sending people to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.
- 2 significate fires, Marborg truck on Coast Village Road and a fire at the Brewhouse.
- Fire Captain Bernie Pigott retired, promoted Fire Engineer Brandon Paige to Fire Captain and Firefighter Tyler Smith to Fire Engineer.
- Started talks on a CAD to CAD interface. Montecito wants to invest on our Dispatch center.
- 211 additional calls this month, possibly because of the length of the month. Medical emergencies dominate the calls. Core station is downtown.
- SB County Fire Chiefs formed a group of younger Battalion Chiefs & Division Chiefs to review emergency service models all over the US.

Laponis asked what is the percentage of medical emergencies if we don't get there within 5 to 6 minutes that we are in danger of losing a life? The percentage is 30%.

Daniel asked when is the event in Emmitsburg, MD? Fire Chief said it is not a public event. Daniel would like to recommend that the Commissioners go see how there is little clearance for Engine 3 on Sola St. to get in and out.

Zeitsoff asked if they could have a resolution that they support both Fire and Police budgets.

MOTION: Laponis that the Commission has reviewed the Fire and Police Department budget submissions and we recommend Council approval.

VOTE: Laponis YES, Zeitsoff YES, Christensen ABSTAIN, Torell YES, Daniel ABSTAIN

12. Adjourn 6:02 PM