

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

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Thursday, **August 24, 2017** @ 4:00  
David Gebhard Room  
Comm Dev/Public Works  
630 Garden St.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Christensen, Daniel Laponis, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Police Captain Bill Marazita, Secretary Carol Lupo

**2. Changes to the Agenda:**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2017**

**MOTION:** Zeitsoff to approve minutes of July 27, 2017. Laponis seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**4. Public Comment (Total Time 10 minutes)**

Dan Cerf introduced himself as an observer.

**5. Subcommittee Reports**

Zietsoff commented that from her viewpoint Fiesta went well and her family felt safe.

Daniel commented that during Fiesta she observed the police issuing citations in the Funk Zone which was commendable.

Zietsoff inquired about the ComStat report. Marazita responded that he will send the report to the commissioners.

Daniel mentioned the recent fatality crash on Gibraltar Rd. McElroy responded that there will be an 'After Action Review' by those agencies involved including City Fire and Police, Sheriff, Montecito Fire, County Fire, and AMR.

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

Laponis inquired about the Commission meeting schedule to confirm the meetings for November and December. Christensen responded that the December meeting has always been cancelled, and that the November meeting is generally cancelled if there are no items

for approval. Lupo clarified that November meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November (Nov.16, 2017), should any item need approval.

## **7. New Business:**

Lupo announced the scheduled discussion of the 'Vision Zero Plan' at the September meeting.

Zeitsoff would like to discuss Domestic Violence in October. Daniel suggested that since the non-profit Domestic Violence Solutions holds a fundraiser in the spring, it may be beneficial to coincide the discussion/presentations until that time.

Daniel inquired about the policy of commissioners attending community outreach events, such as the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Daniel and Christensen will discuss with City Attorney Doimas.

## **8. Monthly Fire Chief's Report**

Presented by Fire Chief McElroy:

- There were 767 calls for service in the last month. It seemed to be a busier Fiesta.
- It was a heavy mutual aid month for out of town fires. Fire still has firefighters in Oregon and Modoc County, Calif.
- Santa Barbara will be going into a weeklong hot spell next week. If wind speed increases, a Red Flag alert will be initiated.
- Reviewing alternative EMS programs in preparation for the negotiations of the Ambulance contract with AMR. Will be visiting Contra Costa County next week to view their system.
- Starting a collaborative project between Fire, Police, Cottage Hospital and Doctors Without Walls to keep homeless out of the emergency room. Looking at grant funding.

Daniel inquired about the Hwy 192 construction hampering an evacuation. McElroy confirmed that when a Red Flag Alert is issued, there are mechanisms to stop all construction projects in the High Fire Hazard Area.

## **9. Monthly Police Chief's Report**

Presented by Captain Marazita:

### Staffing:

Total allowed positions: 142 Sworn, 69 Civilian

Sworn - Current staffing: 134 filled positions/142 total (8 vacancies). Of the 134, the functional strength is 109 positions (taking out injuries, military service, assignments to the Comm Center, and those still in field training). The field training will be completed in October, bringing the functional strength up to 120. An additional 7 positions are in the background hiring phase, and 2 lateral applicants. There are 3 anticipated retirements in the future.

Civilian - Current staffing: 61 filled positions/69 total (8 vacancies). 5 of the vacancies are in the Comm Center. They are in the process of hiring and revamping the training.

PERS Issue – Historically they have hired back retired employees (PERS Annuitants) to work as hourly employees, who could work up to 960 hours per year. There are new rules in place and PERS may be auditing hourly employees to make sure the positions are temporary (defined as up to 18 months), and for special projects, or are supplementing current positions. The department has terminated all of their hourly employees, as the exposure to the employee may be that they have to repay retirement payments they have received.

Call Volume – 3810 calls for service in June (higher than 5 year average). Call numbers have been creeping up. Priority 2, 3 & 4 calls are higher than goal response times.

PAL - Operates the Teen Center at 1235 Chapala

- Managed by sworn and civilian staff
- 140 student participated last year in PAL.

Police Explorer Program:

- Members are between the ages of 14 to 21.
- 20 members currently in the program.
- Members meet once a week, receive uniforms and learn about department.
- Group has previously participated in statewide competitions for explorers.
- Some explorers have become cadets or dispatchers.

Zeitsoff inquired about the Ambassador Program. Marazita responded that it is going well, that they are walking State St. and greeting people in the Police Dept. lobby, and they have other ideas to expand the program.

Christensen inquired about the effects of the California's early release/decriminalization changes. Marazita responded that the Probation Department is following closely, but Santa Barbara hasn't see a major spike in associated crimes.

Daniel inquired whether there was a higher volume of calls during Fiesta, specifically stats in the lower State St. area. Marazita did not have the information, but will have something at the next meeting.

## **10. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Laponis to adjourn the meeting. Zeitsoff seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**