

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

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Thursday, **October 26, 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, Laponis, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: Fire Operations Division Chief Lee Waldron, Police Captain Bill Marazita,  
Secretary Carol Lupo

**2. Changes to the Agenda:**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2017**

**MOTION:** Zeitsoff to approve minutes of September 28, 2017. Laponis seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

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

None.

**5. Subcommittee Reports**

Zeitsoff attended the Police Swearing-in ceremony of 3 new officers on Oct. 4 at the Faulkner Gallery at the Library.

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

Christensen stated that the request for a presentation on domestic violence will be scheduled for next year.

Zeitsoff would also like to have a presentation on emergency preparedness next year.

**7. New Business:**

Laponis Announcement:

Laponis commended Commissioner Zeitsoff for her perfect meeting attendance, and steadfast involvement in police and fire issues.

Laponis also commended Commissioner Christensen on her meeting organization and behind the scenes work.

Laponis felt being Chair was a great learning experience. He also acknowledged City Attorney Doimas for his assistance with various issues.

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

Presented by Operations Division Chief Lee Waldron

- Ambulance Contract: Work on the new contract will continue for the next 2 years. Goal is to improve the EMS system, and using resources in a better treatment, cost effective way. As part of the contract, exploring a central fire/EMS dispatch (rather than a fire/law combined dispatch). Another potential component could be mobile integrated health. Trying to get the best appropriate resources to the call. Provide better support for alcohol and psychological related calls.
- Incident stat report: 1 major fire; Sent 3 engines to Canyon 2 fire in Orange County; sent a Type 3 engine on a strike team up to the Napa and Sonoma fires.
- Emergency notification/Evacuation: Santa Barbara County is well prepared. A notification is done almost every year during various emergencies (fire, flood). The system in place works, however there is always room for improvement. The different fire and law agencies work well together. Notification systems include Aware and Prepare/Everbridge (which requires a sign up), and the national Emergency Alert System. Information systems include Nixle and Nextdoor social network. Outreach efforts to have people sign up are underway. Law Enforcement generally coordinates and conducts the evacuation efforts during emergencies.
- Firefighter hiring: Started application process to hire 4-6 positions for an academy in April. About 500 applications received so far.
- The local Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) is made up with personnel from Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara City, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Vandenberg AFB, Montecito, who come together to perform the management and command of an large incident. The Firefighter Alliance fundraising group is purchasing a Command trailer for the IMT that will be constructed over the next 6 months.
- Drones: Los Angeles Fire Dept. is pursuing a policy on using drones. Santa Barbara is not there yet, but they could be a valuable resource in special situations. Another challenge is potential privacy issues that the ACLU has raised.
- Discussed the Northern California fires.

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

Presented by Captain Bill Marazita:

Thanked Fire for acknowledging Law Enforcement involvement in handling fire evacuations. Officers do have fire protective equipment including gloves and goggles. Recently the Police Foundation also purchased brush jackets for the officers.

### Staffing:

Sworn - Current staffing: 139 filled positions/out of 142 total (3 vacancies). Of the 139, the functional strength is 117 positions (taking out injuries, military service, assignments to the Comm Center, and those still in field training). 2 months ago the functional strength was 109, so there has been an increase of 8 positions.

Civilian - Current staffing: 68 filled positions/69 total (1 vacancy in Information Technology which is in the application process now). Have made good progress in Communications Center as there are currently no vacancies, but some are in training.

Hiring – as stated above there are 3 vacancies. Just sent 7 to the academy, as well as a couple of laterals in the process of getting hired. Trying to stay ahead of future vacancies. One retirement will occur in December.

Stats: Handout

Priority 1 calls average is 6.10 minutes (within 5 year average).

Call volume for Sept. was 4,000 calls for service, which is above 5 year average (trending up, which affects response times for lower priority calls).

Gangs: Handout

“Gang related” - Any crime committed by individual gang member (i.e. a DUI). A “Gang Incident” is any crime committed for the benefit of a gang. Stats for the last 3 years are about the same.

## **10. Adjourn**

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