

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

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Thursday, **February 22, 2018** @ 4:00

EOC/Classroom

Fire Station 1

121 W. Carrillo St.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

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

Present: Commissioners: Daniel, Parker, and Zeitsoff

Staff Present: City Administrator Paul Casey, Fire Chief Pat McElroy, Police Chief Lori Luhnnow, City Attorney John Doimas, Police Public Engagement Manager Anthony Wagner, Secretary Carol Lupo

**2. Changes to the Agenda:**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2017**

**MOTION:** Zeitsoff to approve minutes of October 26, 2017. Daniel seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

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

Lizzie Rodriguez from the Restorative Community network spoke on the need for a City of Santa Barbara Spanish language/bilingual communication employee/PIO for the Fire and Police departments to assist with public outreach during disasters.

**5. Fire Chief Recruitment Update**

City Administrator Paul Casey gave an update on the recruitment process:

- Spoke to the Fire Department
- Spoke with Battalion Chiefs, Fire Captains, Community Leaders and the Fire Association
- Asked about the challenges facing the department and how it is doing currently
- An Interim appointment of 3-6 months will be made before a final hire
- A panel interview of candidates will take place with representation from the Fire and Police Commission
- Commissioners are invited to send any qualities, thoughts and ideas regarding the next Fire Chief to Casey
- Final candidates will be reviewed with the commission in a closed session

## **6. Subcommittee Reports**

Zeitsoff mentioned that Chief Luhnnow had attended a recent athletic roundtable and provided good outreach to female athletes. She also commended Officer Bryce Ford who is helping to support and fundraise for a family who lost a child.

Daniel attended a public preparedness outreach and photo show of the debris flow event by Santa Barbara County Fire Department employee Mike Eliason.

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

Parker stated he was pleased to be returning to the commission and looks forward to working with the commissioners. Parker stated he is currently a criminal justice consultant.

## **8. New Business:**

Parker would like to meet with each department and get an overview.

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

- Last month's incident statistics were distributed.
  - o Consistent numbers and patterns.
- Striving toward a closest available resource response amongst neighboring agencies and combined dispatch center.
- 3 very busy years in a row. Stress on the department.
- Seeing things never thought possible. Situations that were previously thought of as 'This never happens', are now happening.

McElroy then gave an overall operation synopsis of both the Thomas Fire and the 1/9 Debris Flow incidents.

A Debris Flow level worksheet that has been developed was presented, based on what was learned from the January incident. It will serve to pre-plan responses based on difference levels of rain events.

Chief McElroy thanked the Commission for its support over the years, and thanked Law Enforcement, Cal Trans, utility companies, public works for their heroic work during the disaster.

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

Anthony Wagner provided information on the progress of an integrated restorative unit to address mental health issues in a new way.

Developing a promising working relationship between the Police and Fire Departments, Doctors without Walls and Path to bring together the restorative unit to address mental health in a different way than has been done before.

The concept is that an integrated response unit comprise of Police restorative officers and a medical practitioner from Doctors Without Walls would look at the top 25 unsheltered

individuals who the Police and Fire departments most frequently contact. The unit would help triage and meet the pharmacological need of the individual to stabilize them mentally. The program also involve temporary housing while the individual's needs are evaluated. Hopeful this approach would lower the cost and time currently spent on this population by the City. Approximately a \$400,000 cost for this concept. Developing a 1 year pilot program, from which the results could then be used to get additional Federal or private funding for 5 year project.

Presentation from Police Chief Luhnaw:

- Provided Comp Stat report. She noted numbers are skewed due for last month due to unusual incident response for the disaster.
- New Year's Day gang member related homicide.
- Currently 9 employee openings due to retirements and injuries.
- Communications Center is fully staffed. 6 are in training.
- Officer test on March 8 and laterals can apply.
- Year-end call volume
  - o 45,000+ calls for service
  - o Response time average increased to 6.50 min (up .20 minutes)
  - o 7.5% increase in violent crime; mostly aggravated assaults
    - Have increased downtown nighttime presence.
  - o Rape decreased 17%
  - o Robberies decreased 8.4%
  - o Overall property crime decreased 17%
  - o Grand theft auto increased 21%, a lot of scooters
  - o Gang related crime decreased 8%
  - o Gang incidents decreased 39%
- Preliminary discussions on the feasibility of incorporating an entertainment permit as a replacement of dance permits. This will require a new ordinance.

## 11. Adjourn

**MOTION:** Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 PM. Zeitsoff seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.**