



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, August 22, 2019  
EOC//Classroom, Fire Station 1  
121 W. Carrillo St.

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

Present: Commissioners: Daniel, Parker, Rodriguez, and Stedman

Absent: Christensen (resigned)

Staff and Liaisons Present: Councilmember Oscar Gutierrez, Division Chief Lee Waldron, Police Chief Lori Luhnnow, City Attorney John Doimas, City Clerk Services Manager Sarah Gorman, Police Technician Liz Scott, Secretary Carol Lupo

Daniel announced that Commissioner Christensen has resigned from the commission. Daniel thanked her for 10 years of service to the commission.

**2. Changes to the Agenda:**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2019**

**MOTION:** Parker to approve minutes of June 27, 2019. Rodriguez seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

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

None

**5. Brief Presentation on the City of Santa Barbara's Non-discrimination/Harassment Policy**

City Clerk Services Manager Sarah Gorman presented a brief outline on the Non-discrimination/Harassment Policy, and employee complaint procedure. A handout of the policy was provided to each commissioner and Gorman verbally highlighted a couple portions of the policy, including the definitions of discrimination and harassment. Commissioners then signed an acknowledgement document.

**6. Subcommittee Reports**

None

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

Parker referenced a recent media article stating that some California Police Departments now have policies to not respond to suicides due to fears of 'suicide by cop' scenarios, and whether Santa Barbara Police had a similar policy. Luhnnow stated they do not have that policy.

Rodriguez inquired about the new Use of Force bill that the Governor signed and whether it changed the Police Department's Policy. Doimas stated there will be a review. Luhnnow stated that POST (Peace Officers Standards & Training) is assessing it and developing a recommendation.

**8. New Business:**

Parker inquired if the Police Department had a backlog. Luhnnow stated there is no back log.

Daniel requested a presentation and discussion in November regarding AB 748 which relates to Body cameras.

Since there is not a regularly scheduled meeting in November, a request was made to agendaize and schedule a meeting the first week of December, at which AB 748 will be discussed.

**9. Approval to Reinstate Santa Barbara Towing to On-call Rotational Towing Duties.**

Technician Liz Scott reported that Santa Barbara Towing was suspended last year due to violations in conditions of their tow yard. The conditions have been remedied, and the Police Department recommends that Santa Barbara Towing be reinstated for On-call Rotational Towing Duties.

**MOTION:** Daniel to approve the Police Department's recommendation to reinstate Santa Barbara Towing to on-call rotational towing duties. Stedman seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**10. Approval of uniforms to be used for a private patrol operator, Command International Security Services**

Technician Liz Scott reported that Command International Security has a valid state license, and that their uniforms do not resemble Police uniforms. The Police Department recommends that Command International Security Services be approved as a private patrol operator.

**MOTION:** Rodriguez to approve the Police Department's recommendation to approve Command International Security Services as a private patrol operation. Daniel seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

Commissioners commented that they have seen other private patrol companies whose uniforms do resemble law enforcement.

**11. Selection of New Commission Chair, and Vice Chair**

**MOTION:** Stedman to nominate Parker for Commission Chair. Parker seconded.

Discussion: Daniel expressed concern due to Parker's meeting attendance, as well as his term ending in December. Parker stated he has not been absent that often, and that he plans to re-apply to serve on the commission.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Parker and Stedman; No: Daniel and Rodriguez. (2-2 Tie)

Doimas advised that the vote can be redone, or the vote postponed to a future meeting. If the vote remains deadlocked, the positions remain status quo.

**MOTION:** Parker to postpone the vote to the December meeting, by which time his commission re-appointment should be decided. Stedman seconded.

Discussion: Rodriguez would like to remove last motion and re-nominate now.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Daniel, Parker, Stedman; No: Rodriguez. (3-1 In favor)

**MOTION:** Parker to nominate Stedman for Commission Vice Chair. Rodriguez seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**12. Selection of New Liaisons for the Fire Department and the Police Department**

**MOTION:** Daniel to postpone nomination for department liaison positions until the commission Chair is approved. Stedman seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote.

**13. A discussion on providing a recommendation to the Santa Barbara Police Department on how the Department can make the public aware of up to date general police statistics.**

Rodriguez gave an overview of the reasons for this discussion, which relates to a national evaluation and grading of police departments. Santa Barbara's grade was based on old data and recent data is not available to the public. Rodriguez initiated a public records act (PRA) request to obtain current data from the department, which took several weeks. It included very specific information. She would like a more general breakdown of this information easily accessible and available to the public.

Daniel expressed concern about the amount of staff time to produce this information. Rodriguez would like to see reports similar to those that are generated for this commission meeting available to the public in another method besides the meeting.

Luhnow stated there is a new assembly bill effective January 2020 requiring all Police Departments to list their policies and training online. The department is preparing for that and recognizes there is a need for public access. There is also a new online program that will imbed county data together. PRA requests have increased dramatically over the last couple of years, and providing more information online should help to decrease those requests and staff time.

Daniel suggested a city announcement requesting the public's input on information they want to see.

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

- From Acting Fire Chief Lee Waldron:
- New OES Engine
- Location – Station alerting system now in use
- Fire Stats – Data analysis tool
- PulsePoint rollout
- Countywide consolidated dispatch
- Strategic planning process
- Telestaff rollout
- Chief Nickel absence

Commissioners inquired about the Station 7 rebuild project, and what the prediction is for the Fire Season. Waldron replied that a seismic study needs to be conducted for Station 7. Fire Season is predicted to be cooler and shorter this year.

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

- Sept. 17 council agenda item to accept staff's recommendation that a new Police department be built on the Cota St. commuter lot. Commissioners were invited to attend the meeting or write personal letters of support.
- Solstice, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, & Fiesta events – no significant incidents of violence
- Homeland security grant funding for 2 in-vehicle command systems that will assist supervisors manage a dynamic event, and also received funding for a tactical robot for the SWAT team.
- SB Police Foundation "Fun with the Force" fundraiser – Sunday, Sept. 29 at the Nesbitt estate in Summerland. This event funds the "At Ease" program which provides employee counseling.
- Fire Academy – Chief made offer to 7<sup>th</sup> applicant. Expect 11-12 to attend academy. A large percentage of the force will be in training next year.
- Promotions – 2 dispatch supervisors. There are now 3 dispatcher openings.
- Review of comp stat report.

Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Chief Nickel's son.

#### **16. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.