



**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA**

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Commission was called to order by Chair Ding on Monday, May 13, 2019, at 8:32 a.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Stephanie Cao, Ellen Daigle Alan Ehrlich, and Robin Hamilton; Chair Jeremy Ding, Vice-Chair Grace Liu Kung.

Absent: Commissioner: Amin Alsarraf.

Officials

Present: Mayor/City Council Liaison Marina Khubesrian, M.D, Fire Chief/Staff Liaison Paul Riddle, Police Sergeant/Staff Liaison Jim Valencia, and Management Aide/Recording Secretary Kim Kha. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

Absent: Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of April 8, 2019

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CAO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER EHRLICH, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2019 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Daigle abstain.

2. Charge and Duties of the Public Safety Commission

Fire Chief Riddle explained that each Commission was asked to review and update the duties and responsibilities of the Commission enacted in the South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC), informed that the Public Safety Commission (PSC) was created in 2009 with the intent to provide civic engagement and insight to Council when addressing public safety issues affecting the City of South Pasadena, noting that the codes are currently outdated and limited, proposed a revision to the Municipal Code such as removing the responsibility of maintaining records and inventory, serving as liaison for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in regards to audits and inspections, conducting emergency preparedness training, etc., and also adding more flexibility to the Commission.

Commissioner Daigle expressed concerns with the lack of resolution and oversight with the MTA, recalling the powerful winter windstorm of 2011, which left many damages to properties, trees, and power outages, leaving most of the Police Department's resources and manpower diverted to the railroad crossings.

Commissioner Ehrlich suggested deputizing citizens for additional public safety resource, recalling an incident where power lines were brought down by a large tree, and only one Police Officer was on hand directing traffic, noted that additional resources could have been used to assist.

Chair Ding inquired about directing public concerns in regards to light rails, MTA, and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) if the Commission is removed from serving as a liaison; requested clarification of code enforcement in the revision.

Police Sergeant Valencia explained that code enforcement is a part of a division within a City department that is responsible for maintaining public safety and welfare in compliance with the City of South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC), code enforcement investigates possible violations and addresses public concerns or nuisance, advised that it is separate from the Police Department.

Fire Chief Riddle informed that all concerns, issues, and complaints can be brought up to the staff liaisons, and then forwarded to the Council, City Manager, and respective personnel to review, noting that the revision is broader and gives more flexibility to the Commissions' duties and responsibilities.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER EHRLICH, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CAO, CARRIED 6-0, to support the Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article IVB, Section 2.43 of the South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC) and provide recommendation to Council.

Public Safety Commission requested discussion on false alarms and procurement of a software to be agendized for upcoming meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Mayor Khubesrian discussed concerns with the rise in mosquito population and potential mosquito-borne diseases, provided background on issue, noting her monthly attendance at the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District, encouraged everyone to attend the "South Pasadena Bites Back" workshop held on June 11th, at 7 p.m. in the Library Community Room, noting an informative workshop hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District; provided update on the smoking issue at the Prospect Manor, noted that many residents were impacted by the secondhand smoke, informed that Police were present to enforce the City's smoking ordinance.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Fire Chief Riddle provided update on recruitment and staffing, informed that the application period for lateral and entry level firefighter/paramedic was recently closed; reported that all Fire personnel attended the RT-130 Fire Safety Training and Refresher course hosted by the City of Glendale, which along with 15 other Fire Departments are preparing for the upcoming busy fire season due to the recent rain that created overgrowth of vegetation; announced Fire's participation at the upcoming active shooter training exercise at the Rose Bowl, a multi-agency drill; advised that the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), a five year plan that looks at potential hazards to the community and the proactive steps to mitigate and accomplish emergency response and recovery in the event of a disaster, was approved by CALOES and is now awaiting approval from FEMA.

Police Sergeant Valencia provided update on recruitment and staffing, informed that two veteran officers resigned, noting the difficulty in finding replacements due to their highly specialized training and expertise in many areas including being well-rounded instructors, advised that although staffing is stretched, the department and dedicated personnel are doing their best and handling it, noted that they are currently accepting applications for police recruit.

Mayor Khubesrian advised that they have started labor negotiations and are looking into ways of retaining personnel with incentives and benefits, noted budget issues and limited resources.

3. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Kung informed that the last day of school is June 5th, noted final testing, upcoming promotions and graduations.

Commissioner Cao inquired if the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District has similar program to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District offering mosquito education to schools such as the mobile "Mosquito SWAT Lab", in-classroom visits, and outreach services; inquired if there would be a partnership with Ring to offer rebate programs for residents purchasing the security devices, and sharing of video information.

Chair Ding recently attended a presentation on the "Neighbors" app hosted by Ring and provided background, explained that the app allows security videos of suspicious activities and crime information to be posted and viewed by anyone regardless of the type of home security used, it allows communities and law enforcement to work together in reducing crimes, when a crime occurs and information is needed, law enforcement must send request to Ring, Ring would then contact user/users for permission to share additional footage or information to law enforcement, the user/users have the right to provide or deny, noted that only videos and information related to public safety, security, and criminal activities are posted, advertisement, marketing, or the sharing of users' information without permission is prohibited and strictly enforced; discussed the three-quarter percent sales tax increase approved by voters in the surrounding cities, inquired how the City of South Pasadena is handling, noting that if cities do not approve the sales tax for its own use, the Los Angeles County will capture that sales tax leaving the cities with nothing.

Commissioner Daigle noted that the Paramedic Subscription Program offered by Fire is a great program where it saves residents and businesses out-of-pocket expenses not covered by insurance and also providing unlimited 24-hour emergency paramedic/ambulance services; commended the City for being proactive in mosquito abatement, City and Police for responding to the smoking issue, and Fire for enforcing fire safety requirements on business licenses, would like to follow up with Knox Box.


Commission Ehrlich inquired on Police recruits and sponsorship, having CERT as additional resource for services, Cal Fire and the deployment of Fire personnel, and the Brown Act.

Fire Chief Riddle summarized on 4 deployments which consist of 5 Engine Company and 1 Battalion Chief, total reimbursement of in-house cost including all expenses, overtime, and station backfill was \$170,000 from the State of California Fire and Rescue (Cal Fire).

ADJOURNMENT


Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Kim Kha
Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Jeremy Ding
Chair