



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, September 9, 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: Amin Alsarraf, Stephanie Cao, and Alan Ehrlich; Chair Jeremy Ding, Vice-Chair Grace Liu Kung.

Absent: Commissioners: Ellen Daigle and Robin Hamilton.

Officials

Present: Mayor/City Council Liaison Marina Khubesrian, M.D., Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz, Police Deputy Chief Brian Solinsky, Fire Division Chief/Staff Liaison Eric Zanteson, and Management Aide/Recording Secretary Kim Kha. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

Absent: Fire Chief/Staff Liaison Paul Riddle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Dean Serwin, South Pasadena resident and co-chair of the "South Pasadena Committee for Fiscal Stability 2019-Yes on Measure A," discussed the City's growing budget deficit of \$1 million dollars and possibly \$2 million dollars annually in the next five years due to rising costs, explained that although the Utility User Tax (UUT) was passed, the revenues are either stagnant or decreasing because of alternatives and less usage, explained that Measure A, a three-quarter percent sales tax, would help sustain and balance the City's budget, support infrastructure, maintain public safety staff, and continue to provide community programs and services vital to the quality of life here in the City of South Pasadena, reported that twenty-seven cities in the Los Angeles County, including Pasadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pomona, and Santa Monica have already passed similar measures, other cities like Monrovia, Duarte, Claremont are following suit, informed that

Measure A is endorsed by the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, urged voters to support Measure A in the November ballot and to ensure that the funds stay in the City of South Pasadena and not taken away for the Los Angeles County, noted more information can be found on the website, www.SouthPasYesonA.com.

There being no others desiring to speak, the Public Comment period was closed.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of August 12, 2019

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CAO, SECOND BY CHAIR DING, CARRIED 5-0, to continue review of the August 12, 2019 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting Minutes to next meeting, noting revisions to police reorganization and the Open House.

2. Discussion of Past Agenda Items/Accomplishments of Public Safety Commission

“Fiscal Year Annual Report of Public Safety Commission” from 2013 through 2018 highlighting past accomplishments were provided, discussion moved to next meeting with follow up on retention period and accessibility to reports on the City’s website.

3. Discussion of Schedule of Events for the Public Safety Fair/Open House – Chief Ortiz and Division Chief Zanteson

a) Police and Fire Demonstrations

Police Chief Ortiz discussed the schedule of events, which includes the color guard presentation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), canine demonstration, informational booths for crime prevention and pink patch project supporting breast cancer research and awareness, firefighting equipment and fire vehicle/apparatus on display, informed that some activities done in the past such as tours and hands-on demonstrations will not be given, explained that the events have been scaled back due to staffing issues and costs.

b) Public Safety Commission Booth

Police Chief Ortiz noted that the Public Safety Commission is considering setting up the booth in front of City Hall or by Mound Avenue which will be closed off.

Chair Ding informed that the Public Safety Commission subcommittee met with staff liaisons to discuss the scaled back events of the Open House, informed that Commissioner Daigle gathered contact information for EOC volunteers at a recent Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action (WISSPA) meeting.

c) EOC Volunteer Sign-Ups

Fire Division Chief Zanteson provided update on the outreach for Emergency Operation Center (EOC) volunteers, noted that recent outreach and a Neighborhood Watch meeting

with Block Captains provided limited feedbacks, noted discussions with Fire Chief Riddle and City Manager DeWolfe on more community outreach, currently the City is still seeking volunteers who can contribute their time and skills in the recovery efforts, volunteers with expertise in building, finance, legal, etc. are welcome to apply and help the City get back up and running as quickly as possible.

d) **CERT and Neighborhood Watch Sign-Ups**

In response to Commissioner Ehrlich inquiry, Fire Division Chief Zanteson noted that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members can also sign up as an EOC volunteer, keeping in mind that CERT will be very much needed out in the community.

4. Discussion of Future Public Safety Events

Chair Ding spoke of frustrations from the community regarding the changes to the “Open House” event, citing lack of communication from the City, provided an example in comparing the 2018 flyer to the current 2019 flyer showing major differences in the marketing of the open house event, noting the public perception that the event is cancelled while the City’s message is just a scaled back event.

Mayor Khubesian informed that the options were brought up, noting limited timeframe and the Public Safety Commission not in session, noted having discussions with the Tournament of Roses Committee which helped in making the decision, explained that the event would mainly focus on the car show and the fundraising for the Tournament of Roses, understood the community’s concerns and will follow up with updated communications, explained that many factors will be looked at for future events such as budgeting, staffing, attendance, etc., discussed the success of the recent “National Night Out” event held on August 6th, suggested consolidating both events, requested feedback from the Commission in streamlining future public safety events.

Police Chief Ortiz distributed the “2019 Special Events Calendar,” added that each events have public safety involved, which puts heavy strain on cost and staffing, with many working overtime and covering extra shifts, noted support and understanding on the discussion of the scaled back event from the subcommittee meeting, but understands the community’s frustration and will improve on more communications, .

5. Discussion of Cancelling/Rescheduling October 14, 2019 and November 11, 2019 Meetings due to National Holidays

October 7th or 21st pending
November 4th or 18th pending

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Mayor Khubesian reiterated the changes in the City, moving forward from the success of the 710 fight to a new transition and reorganization phase; pleased with the recent outcome of the labor negotiations, hearing positive feedbacks from City employees; discussed the importance of passing Measure A and keeping the funds in the City.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Police Chief Ortiz informed that the South Pasadena Police Department participates in the Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST), a program comprised of multiple agencies throughout the San Gabriel Valley, the team visits various local cities where they reach out to homeless offering information and resources, the team also educates business owners on preventive measures in being less attractive to homeless activities, it is a program to address homeless issues with regional partnerships, reported that on August 27th both the South Pasadena and the San Gabriel Police Department provided homeless outreach in South Pasadena, informed that the next HOST outreach is on August 31st, provided update on the homeless female by Rite-Aid, noting resources offered but was not ready to accept, expressed compassion and understanding that homeless is a situation and not a crime, encouraged everyone on a ride-along at the next HOST outreach.

Fire Division Chief Zanteson added that it is a recurrent process with mental illness and addictions, credited the Police Department for doing an outstanding job in making contact, mitigating issues, and being proactive in helping to provide services and resources to the homeless; reported on Fire Departments participation with the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC), in a nationwide initiative to collect both suspected fatal and non-fatal overdoses using a digital mapping tool, Overdose Detection Mapping Application (ODMAP), it can help track and identify overdoses, trends, and spikes across the nation; provided update on the new firefighters; announced the First Annual Spaghetti Dinner on October 19th, hosted by the South Pasadena Firefighters Association, a fundraiser for the City of Hope Breast Cancer Research and Treatment Foundation, in collaboration with the South Pasadena Police Association, pink shirts and patches are available for purchase.

3. Commissioner Communications


Commissioner Kung discussed school safety and crossing guards, noted that a study to warrant the need for crossing guards at school sites was completed, however, school officials have not reviewed the results because of new staffing at Monterey Hills Elementary, noted the PTA are finding alternative ways to mitigate traffic and keep pedestrians safe, noted that no incidents have been reported and schools are off to a good start, noting police presence and more awareness.

Police Chief Ortiz discussed the crossing guard policy, no further follow up needed.

ADJOURNMENT

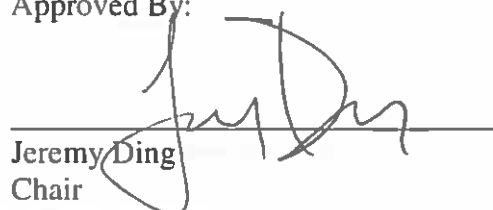
Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Kim Kha
Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Jeremy Ding
Chair