



MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020
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, August 10, 2020, at 8:34 a.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Ed Donnelly, Grace Liu Kung, and Scot Lam; Chair Jeremy Ding, Vice-Chair Alan Ehrlich

Absent: Commissioner: Amin Alsarraf, Stephanie Cao

Officials

Present: Councilmember/City Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D., Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz, Fire Chief/Staff Liaison Paul Riddle, Deputy City Clerk Kenia Lopez, Police Department Clerk/Recording Secretary Laura Mendez, and Management Aide/Recording Secretary Kim Kha. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Fire Chief Riddle read an emailed public comment from Elizabeth Anne Bagasao signed by Ella Hushagen, London Lang, and Helen Tran (South Pasadena Residents): Requested the Public Safety Commission to consider establishing a local daytime drop-in cooling center, recommended the Public Safety Commission request City staff to evaluate the feasibility of opening a center immediately, if possible, expressed concerns for members of the community who not only are experiencing homelessness but also have nowhere to go when temperatures top 103 degrees, expressed that South Pasadena must step up its efforts to support the most vulnerable members of the community.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of July 13, 2020

MOTION BY ED DONNELLY, SECOND BY GRACE LIU KUNG, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2020 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting with correction by CHAIR DING item #2 passed 5-1 with VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH opposed.

2. Fire Prevention & Safety-Chief Paul Riddle

Fire Chief Riddle provided an update on the Fire Prevention & Safety/ Junior Fire program partnering with the elementary schools. The program is ready and may be conducted virtually. The Fire Department has partnered with the Children's Burn Foundation and participated in their 1-1/2 week Virtual Summer Camp for children who have suffered severe burns.

3. National Night Out/Police & Fire Open House-Chief Paul Riddle

Fire Chief Paul Riddle provided an update. Due to these being "hands on" events, both National Night Out and Police & Fire Open House events have been tabled.

4. CAD/RMS Upgrade for PD Communications Center-Chief Joe Ortiz

Lieutenant Shannon Robledo presented a Staff Report for the CAD/RMS upgrade. Current CAD/RMS system is antiquated and no longer meets the needs of the Police Department. The current CAD/RMS. Lieutenant Robledo explained the upcoming reporting standards that will be in effect January 1, 2021, which the current CAD/RMS system cannot comply with.

CHAIR DING asked for clarification of what CAD stood for and what it meant. CAD is Computer Aided Dispatch used by the Police Department's Dispatcher to prioritize calls for service.

VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH asked why End2End did not want to upgrade their software.

Lieutenant Robledo explained that End2End did not upgrade because the State of California has stricter requirements than other states for reporting. End2End is being used in other states and smaller departments.

VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH asked why the Police Department was responsible for all the P.R.R. Requests rather than the City Clerk.

Chief Joe Ortiz explained the Public Records Requests are directed to both the City Clerk and the Police Department as a matter of "Checks and Balances."

CHAIR DING asked for the implementation timeline and confirmation that the cost would be covered through grant funding.

Lieutenant Robledo reported a timeline of approximately 8 months to build and the cost would be covered by COPS grant.

CHAIR DING asked if CAD would pop up on the displays in the patrol cars.

Lieutenant Robledo explained that the functionality would be there, however the department does not have the proper computers in the vehicles. An upgrade of the in-car computers would be required.

CHAIR DING asked Chief Ortiz if he wanted approval or if the Commission was being briefed.

Chief Joe Ortiz responded "both."

Deputy Chief Solinsky added the history of the Police Department's current CAD/RMS stating End2End was originally geared towards schools and explained the need for the upgrade.

CHAIR DING clarified that as long as COPS grants were funded the CAD/RMS upgrade would be funded, while if the COPS grants were to stop the City would be on liable for funding.

Deputy Chief Solinsky explained the stability of the COPS grants and continuing their funding.

ED Donnelly asked for further clarification of the upgraded CAD/RMS for future proofing and integration with other agencies.

Deputy Chief Solinsky explained the selection process of the upgraded CAD/RMS and the use of this system of other agencies. It was also further explained that upgraded CAD/RMS is by Spillman, which is owned by Motorola and was compared against the current system in use.

VICE-CHIAR EHRLICH asked how records from other departments would get into the system.

Lieutenant Robledo explained that the system would be Police Department specific.

VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH asked how this would help with public records requests.

Deputy Chief Solinsky explained the process of the Police Department receiving public records requests. The request is funneled first through the City Clerk's Office and then to the Police Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER Schneider, MD asked if the City Clerk's Office would have access to the Police Department's records management system.

Deputy Chief Solinsky explained that they would not due to CLETS and other state mandates which would not allow access.

VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH asked if the system needed to be in place by January 2021, why was it not brought up to the Commission earlier.

Deputy Chief Solinsky replied that funding first had be secured and in place prior as well as other external factors such as COVID and working with a third-party vendor before bringing it before the Commission and Council.

CHAIR DING acknowledged that the CAD/RMS upgrade had been brought up while Deputy Chief Solinsky was Acting Chief and that the project had been in the works for quite some time.

Chief Ortiz directed to VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH that the Spillman CAD/RMS has been vetted throughout the San Gabriel Valley and he has had numerous conversations with chiefs throughout the San Gabriel Valley and has gone through the different stages of the process. As a chief, he is very confident in the new system.

VICE CHAIR EHRLICH asked about the conversion of historical documents.

Chief Ortiz explained that that the department would keep the legacy system on a separate server to retrieve historical data while the new Spillman would be separate.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHNEIDER, MD asked Chief Ortiz when this would be brought to council and if the Police Department needed more funding.

Chief Ortiz stated that it would be brought up in the first or second meeting and that he did not think extra funding would be necessary.

MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH CARRIED 5-0, to approve and recommend CAD/RMS Upgrade for PD Communications Center

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Councilmember Schneider stated that he looked over revisions and advice about the Charter.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Police Chief Ortiz spoke with the City Attorney regarding an update on the Charter, which would be coming back for review.

Police Chief Ortiz provided an update on the 2019 Police Department Annual Report. It is currently a work in progress with about 50% to 65% complete. An update will be sent to the Public Safety Commission.

Chair Ding shared his concerns on the way that the city website was being updated. The agenda and public comments should be updated at the same time to reflect the current meeting. Police Chief Ortiz will address this issue and provide an update.

Chair Ding shared concerns from a community member regarding well intentioned actions from the Department with unintended consequences. For example, the removal of demographics from the weekly crime summary is a step backwards in transparency. The removal of thin blue line stickers from police equipment could be interpreted as improving race relations or an empty gesture.

Fire Chief Riddle provided an update on the Fire Department. The call load remains at normal levels, there is a slight decrease in suspected COVID cases in the past two weeks. The positive rate in L.A. County to 7.2%. Two Fire Engineers were put off as a precaution to COVID after responding to a traffic collision. The Fire Department has also sent out personnel to respond to multiple brush fires throughout the state. The Fire Department currently has one opening for their Firefighter/Paramedic position.

Fire Chief Riddle provided an update on COVID cases in South Pasadena. There are 229 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There were 25 deaths reported by LA County.

3. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Kung stated that the school year is starting and that Chromebooks were issued to students for virtual learning.

Commissioner Lam stated that he, Commissioner Donnelly, and Chair Ding participated in a community meeting on police reform. They discussed recommendations and policies. They are waiting on another joint subcommittee meeting.

Vice Chair Ehrlich asked Fire Chief Riddle for more information about the spread of COVID within the community, the costs related to COVID, using goats to manage vegetation, and a fire related call.

Vice Chair Ehrlich asked Police Chief Ortiz on his plans to enforce speeding violations on Meridian and Fremont. Police Chief Ortiz stated that officers are working on the areas. Vice Chair then asked for an updated on the Traffic Bureau. The motorcycle academy class won't start until September due to Covid. Officers are responding to citizen's emails regarding concerns and complaints on traffic. The Traffic Bureau officers have been teaming up with patrol officers for traffic enforcement.

Vice Chair Ehrlich complimented Police Chief Ortiz and the Police Department on protecting protestors by blocking off streets in front of City Hall.


Vice Chair Ehrlich asked for clarification on the organization of a police reform meeting that occurred in July. Councilmember Schneider stated that it was a meeting for the public to voice their concerns on police activities. Police officials were present to listen to complaints. Participants had to email the City Manager's office in order to participate.

Chair Ding stated that the Public Safety Commission Charter was sent to Police Chief Ortiz, the South Pasadena Police Officers Association, and South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform. He has asked the city staff to include documents in the agenda packet for the community to access. Chair Ding as asked for the draft Charter to be reviewed on July 22nd. A recommendation was to reduce the Commission from 7 to 5 commissioners. Chair Ding was open to having a Youth Commissioner on the Public Safety Commission. He also believed that section "I" in the Charter should be removed. He felt some mandates would be better for a Police Commission rather than a Public Safety Commission. These include ride longs and using a force simulator. The Charter amendment discussion will be pushed to September.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gary Sze
Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Jeremy Ding
Chair