



**MONDAY, JULY 13, 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, July 13, 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: Amin Alsarraf, Ed Donnelly, Grace Liu Kung, and Scot Lam;
Chair Jeremy Ding, Vice-Chair Alan Ehrlich

Absent: Commissioner: Stephanie Cao

Officials

Present: Councilmember/City Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D., Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz, Fire Division Chief/Staff Liaison Eric Zanteson, 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: Fire Chief Paul Riddle

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Deputy City Clerk Lopez read emailed public comments.

Delaine Shane (South Pasadena Resident): stated that on July 6, she had sent an email to the Community Service Department and the Fire Department concerning the Berkshire Pocket Park becoming a weedy lot, she never heard back from the City, she sent a follow-up on July 9, appreciated receiving a response from the Public Safety Commission Chair, former Commissioner Daigle, and Fire Chief Riddle on July 10, noted that other parks are not neglected as this one, and since the City requires homeowners to clear brush from their property, so same rules should apply to City properties.

Andy Eaton (South Pasadena Resident): stated that there were reports on the Nextdoor app, of people recently finding nails on their driveways, presumably in response to the presence of either Black Lives Matter or pro-immigrant signs on their property, informed that on Monday morning, July 6, there were brand new roofing nails scattered on his driveway, emphasized that it was important for the Public Safety Commission take note of these events and determine if they are indeed becoming more frequent and represent an increase in hate crimes.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of June 8, 2020

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAM, AND SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH, CARRIED 6-0, to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting.

2. Proposal to Change the Power and Duties of the Public Safety Commission-Chair Jeremy Ding

Chair Ding explained that the Public Safety Commission Charter was due for a refresh, it was recently redone, but with what is going on and things that we have seen, made it necessary to update the Charter to more accurately reflect things that are brought to the commission and are of community concerns.

Chair Ding presented the Charter with highlighted sections, expressed that some of the City's concerns might be better passed on to the appropriate commission, for example, a non-criminal homeless situation and outreach should be handled by a commission closely related to community services, traffic and pedestrian safety issues in regards to putting up a stop sign and speed bumps can be handled by the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission, and school issues would be handled by the South Pasadena School District instead of the Public Safety Commission.

MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DONNELLY, CARRIED 5-1, to remove section under subsection I that says "The School Resource Officer" and send for staff to review and request that it come back to the Public Safety Commission for final approval before being considered by City Council.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich opposed.

3. An update on the joint subcommittee of the Public Safety Commission and the City Council on the "Future of Policing"-Councilmember Schneider/Comm. Scot Lam

Commissioner Lam reported on the joint meeting between City Council subcommittee and the Public Safety Commission subcommittee discussing policies and the "8CANTWAIT," advised of upcoming community forums.

Councilmember Schneider commended Commissioner Lam for an excellent job reviewing the policies and the “8CANTWAIT” noting what is already in the police manual, advised of the July 16th forum, which is the first of three forums scheduled.

4. COVID-19 Subcommittee Update & future community outreach-Chief Paul Riddle

Fire Division Chief Zantesson informed that the number of calls have not increased, the number of infected that have been showing up at the testing process is still around 175, skill nursing facility and other congregate facilities in the City have not shown an increase, noting that at this time the City seems to be stabilized.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich informed that the subcommittee had a telephone conference with City Manager DeWolfe and Fire Chief Riddle on July 7th, discussed the spike in numbers nationally, at the county, and the city, and how we are communicating to residents.

Commissioner Alsarraff noted that the suggestion for communication coming from the Public Safety Commission on these issues would be well taken, believed in having authorization for the subcommittee to do outreach and communication on COVID issues, informational and recommendations that are consistent with county, state, and local policies and advice

MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DONNELLY, CARRIED 6-0, the Public Safety COVID Subcommittee have authorization to make press releases on behalf of the Public Safety Commission in coordination with City Hall and City Manager’s Office for the general public.

5. Purchase of Police Motorcycles-Deputy Chief Brian Solinsky

Police Deputy Chief Solinsky informed the Commission that the Police Department is seeking the support of the Public Safety Commission for the purchase of three police motorcycles to outfit the Traffic Division, the total cost of the purchase will come out to \$114,338 which would be funded through grants.

“Currently, the Police Department has three officers assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Unit, of that, we currently have three motorcycles in various stages of repair. One of the motorcycles has structural damage, and it would not be safe to keep. The newest is a 2017 BMW and it was just involved in a collision, and it’s being repaired. We would like to keep this one as a spare, and purchase three new additional ones.”

”The additional motorcycles would be the BMW R1250. Kawasaki and Honda were the other options, but they no longer produce those motorcycles for law enforcement purposes. The purchase of these motorcycles would come through the states “COPS” grant, and they are fully funded. The total cost per motorcycle is \$38,111.00.”

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH, CARRIED 6-0, the Public Safety Commission approve and recommend that Council approve and authorize this grant for purchase of motorcycles for the Traffic Enforcement Bureau to use.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Councilmember Schneider inform that the community forum will be on Thursday and it should be informative and educational.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Police Chief Ortiz introduced Police Detective Sergeant Abdalla and Police Lieutenant Jacobs for updates on an investigation and arrest.

Police Detective Sergeant Abdalla reported on a case involving dispersion of nails on the property of some South Pasadena residents, currently investigating ten incidents and have been in contact with the DA's office in Alhambra, unable to classify any of these crimes as hate crimes due to insufficient evidence, but is investigating these with urgency.

Police Lieutenant Jacobs reported on a spitting incident on July 8th with an unknown suspect, however, during a protest this week the suspect returned to the protest group, and one of the people recognized him, he was chased and held until police arrived, officers were able to arrest this individual based on the witness's interview and ID of the suspect, at this point the suspect was cited for his violations and further investigation is pending.

Fire Division Chief Zantesson informed that the Fire Department is a part of the Unified Response AREA C Team, and that they responded and assisted the church fire at the Mission in the City of San Gabriel, Fire Division Chief Szenczi was there as the Safety Officer for the incident, making sure that all the responders were working in a safe environment despite the fact that the roof caved in.

3. Commissioner Communications


Commissioner Liu Kung informed that July 10th was the last day of summer school for kindergarten thru eighth grade, and this Friday July 17th is the last day of summer school for high school, camps have started, school will resume August 13th, and an additional back to school survey that was sent out is due Tuesday by noon, thanked Chair Ding for all the work he's been doing with the subcommittees, as well as Fire Department and Police Department.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich added to the subcommittee update that there is not a specific cluster of locations where COVID19 is present, it is random and throughout the entire City. The County does not give out such specific information about the cases.


ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

DocuSigned by:

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Laura Mendez
Recording Secretary

Approved By:

DocuSigned by:

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Jeremy Ding
Chair