



**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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, March 9, 2020, at 8:31a.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, Ellen Daigle, Grace Liu Kung, and Ed Donnelly; Chair Jeremy Ding.

Absent: Vice-Chair: Allen Ehrlich.

Officials

Present: Councilmember/City Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D., Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz, Police Deputy Chief/Staff Liaison Brian Solinsky, 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/Staff Liaison Chief Riddle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Chris Bray (South Pasadena Resident): Commented on making sure the Public Safety Commission is being involved in creating a policy that allows the Police Department to release video of OIS for the City of South Pasadena as soon as possible.

Delaine Shane (South Pasadena Resident): States that she support the proposed Traffic Enforcement Bureau and it’s long overdue, and she would like for the South Pasadena Police Department to collaborate with other cities to educate them on traffic safety. In addition, a report on the city newspaper of people who speed would be helpful. Mrs. Shane stated that on Meridian Avenue the number of collisions has risen significantly during the last few years and is dangerous for pedestrians.

Joanne Nuckols (South Pasadena Resident): Suggested to revise a study already done for Oak Street and Meridian Avenue and put a stop sign, she would like for the City Council to put this back on the agenda for the next meeting. Mrs.Nuckols supports the Traffic Enforcement Bureau and would like for South Pasadena Police Department to speak to Pasadena Police Department and try to tackle the problem of traffic at Pasadena Avenue where it starts.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of February 10, 2020

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALSARRAF, SECOND BY CHAIR DING, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Daigle Abstain, Vice-Chair Ehrlich Absent

2. Discussion Creation of a Traffic Enforcement Bureau in the Police Department

Police Deputy Chief Solinsky presented and asked for the Public Safety Commission support in creating a Traffic Enforcement Unit.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit will be revised to 3 motorcycle officers, and one corporal officer to oversee the unit.

Over the last 5 years our traffic related accidents have increased by 7%.

Motor officers would not only enforce traffic, but they would also be out at schools and educating the public.

Police Deputy Chief Solinsky, spoke about the 3E's; Engineer, Enforcement and Education. The police department partners up with Public Works, in addressing the concerns within the City to help eliminate the problem long term and not only put a band aid over it.

The corporal position is not a new position, it is a police officer that has been promoted, the position will cost approximately 15 thousand annually, with the funds coming from our salary budget, and will be incorporated in future years.

The most recent study in 2014, stated that 138,000 vehicles drive through the City of South Pasadena daily, and estimated that from six years ago the traffic has increased. The traffic unit would certainly alleviate some of those problems and congestion.

Commissioner Daigle asked if the two new motorcycles would be paid through a grant.

Commissioner Alsarraff asked about the timeline for achieving Traffic Bureau goals.

Chair Ding stated that City Councilmember Cacciotti asked for a six month report after the creation of the Traffic Enforcement Unit.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAIR DING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KUNG, CARRIED 6-0, to recommend this to Council and the Traffic Enforcement Bureau be approved and created.

3. Discussion of Homeless Outreach & Housing Update

Police Lieutenant Robledo presented on Homeless Outreach and Housing stating that The Los Angeles Homeless Authority (LAHSA) estimates that people who experience Homelessness City of South Pasadena is 12.

90% of the homeless population in South Pasadena are male adults and 10% are female adults.

10% of the South Pasadena Police Department's calls for service are regarding homeless individuals.

Measure H, a countywide sales tax that passed helps combat homelessness.

South Pasadena Police Department has an outreach program (H.O.P.E.) and they do check on homeless once a week.

4. Discussion Update on Coronavirus- City Council Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D.

All seven of the COVID-19 cases in California have been travel associated, no human to human that we know of and no reason to panic, this is a viral disease like most viral diseases we don't know how many people it will affect or the mortality rates.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

City Councilmember Liaison Richard D. Schneider, M.D. gave a brief history about the Fremont and Columbia 1976 conjunction and how it came about. He stated that about 15 or 20 residents on Fremont joined Police Chief Ortiz, City Manager, Public Works Director, Police Officer Holland and City Council to look at the problem with the streets.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

First, Police Chief Ortiz shared an email that was sent to him from Vice-Chair Ehrlich about a South Pasadena resident who approved of Traffic Enforcement Bureau.

Second, Police Chief Ortiz was asked to provide and update about two traffic collisions on Fremont, one on Friday night at Fremont and the other on Monday night, the first collision was a moped scooter that lost control and collided with another vehicle, the second collision was a DUI.

3. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Alsarraf, expressed frustration and disappointment towards the City Council Meeting and how the Public Safety Commission was not included during the Traffic Enforcement Bureau talk, he also expressed frustration about not being informed with more time for the press release of the OIS. He is concerned about the role of the Public Safety Commission. He would like to propose that they have a discussion about the roles of the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Kung update on the school district, stated that they had sent out CDC flyers about hand washing to families. School district are in close contact with the CDC about possibly closing schools in South Pasadena. Little League also sent letters to families about COVID-19 since their season just began.

Commissioner Daigle expressed the same concerns as Commissioner Alsarraf, she also doesn't feel they have the respect they need for the Public Safety Commission.


Chair Ding expressed concerns over the charter of the commission and expressed frustration about not being informed in a timely manner about the OIS press release.

Commissioner Donnelly expressed frustration as the other Commissioners. He would like to commend Police Chief Ortiz for handling the press conference with professionalism.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 10:09 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