



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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, September 14, 2020, at 8:33 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., Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Diana Mahmud, Police Chief/Staff Liaison Joe Ortiz, Deputy Police Chief Brian Solinsky, Fire Chief/Staff Liaison Paul Riddle, Deputy City Clerk Maria Ayala, 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

Chief City Clerk Ayala read emailed public comments.

Sally Kilby and Dean Serwin (South Pasadena Residents): The South Pasadena YES on Measure U committee urges support to renew the Utility Users Tax (UUT) at the November 3rd General Election. Renewing is a way to maintain South Pasadena’s basic services, especially now due to pandemic-related losses. Visit www.SouthPasYesonU.com.

John Srebalus (South Pasadena Resident): Care First South Pasadena demands city leaders adopt the priorities of a Care First approach. Realign city budget to support community services, not excessive levels of policing. Can be reached at carefirstsouthpas@gmail.com. (Signed by 128 individuals)

Larry Abelson (South Pasadena Resident): Mobile and Transportation Infrastructure Commission hears and discuss concerns from the community on traffic issues. Demand for enforcement greatly outweighs the supply. Sincerely appreciates SPPD assistances while awaiting Public Works Department's permanent solutions.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

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

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH, AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DONNELLY, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Alsarraf abstain.

2. Mandated Inspection Report-Chief Paul Riddle

Chair Ding noted that this was on the upcoming City Council Agenda for discussion, advised Commissioners to follow and if any questions, email staff.

3. COVID-19 Subcommittee Update-Chief Paul Riddle

None.

4. PSC Ordinance Revision-City Attorney Terri Highsmith

City Attorney Highsmith discussed the revisions of the charter including new recommendations/proposals from the City Council Subcommittee, such as a broader and updated authority, required training and duties, and reducing the Commission from seven members to five for more efficiency; explained that the Public Safety Commission's draft had areas that was inconsistent with the council-manager form of government and general law city, in violation of public complaints procedures (penal code section 832.5 and 832.7), and a requirement of "meet and confer" with Unions before implementing (Meyers-Milias-Brown Act); advised that the revision was made as close as possible to the draft but modeled after the City of Claremont Police Commission.

Commissioners' expressed concerns with the new recommendations/proposals, noting less accountability, efficiency, and the decrease in the amount of community involvement with a five-member commission, questioned the training and specific background for the Public Safety Commission especially when not required for other City commissions; expressed concerns with the process of the revision, noting that the Public Safety Commission spent

a lot of time and effort on a document that was appropriate and presentable to the City Council, but instead find a different document modeled after another City and without feedback or clarifications as to the inconsistencies and violations; explained that the community wants more transparencies and discussions put on the agenda but the current code limits the Public Safety Commission the authority to discuss, review, and recommend; request further explanation and clarification to the revision, expressed that it would have been helpful for the Council Subcommittee to work collaboratively with the Commission.

Chief City Clerk Ayala read emailed public comments.

South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform: Expressed that the SPPD's draft displayed fundamental misunderstanding of how representative democracy should function, argued that the PSC should not be filtered through the City Manager and should operate at the behest of Council, urges the PSC and City Manager to bring both versions before Council.

Matthew Barbato (South Pasadena Resident): Opposed the Police Department and the City Attorney's attempts to take control of the Public Safety Commission, any changes to the Public Safety Commission charter should only serve to expand transparency and influence by the community.

Evelyn Zneimer (South Pasadena Resident): Expressed that the Public Safety Commission should be an independent advisory body free from the control of the city manager's office and provide direct recommendation to the City Council.

Larry Abelson (South Pasadena Resident): Expressed concerns on staff's revision, conveyed that the PSC is the voice of the community on public safety issues, and should be allowed to communicate with staff and make requests and recommendations on issues without being filtered through the City Manager.

Mayor Pro Temp Mahmud provided background to the staff revision, explained that the revision was modeled after the municipal code of the City of Claremont Police Commission because of its detailed description of citizen's input into Law Enforcement and Public Safety issues, advised that only two of the 15 cities that have a Municipal Police Department in the San Gabriel Valley, San Marino and Claremont, had anything close to a Public Safety Department/Commission, while other cities utilize and contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department as their public safety, noted that some of the changes were to provide Commissioners with in-depth insights and understandings, providing a balance between the City and the community, and committed to keeping a police department despite being among the lowest paid in the region, expressed interest, and happy to work together with the commission on the charter revision.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DONNELLY, to reject the current ordinance revision provided by staff.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ALSARRAF, CARRIED 6-0, to also have staff review the PSC version and provide clarifications on sections that would violate laws, polices, regulations, etc.

MOTION BY CHAIR DING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DONNELLY, CARRIED 6-0, to appoint Commissioner Alsarraaf and Commissioner Kung to work with Council Subcommittee and the City Attorney's Office on the Public Safety Commission charter revision.

5. Police Reform Subcommittee Update-Commissioners Lam & Donnelly

Commissioner Lam informed that the subcommittee met and heard concerns from the community, police interest groups, police employees, and former committee members with law enforcement background regarding police reform, gave presentation and analysis of the current SPPD Policy, the draft updated Lexipol SPPD Policy, and the Public Safety Commission Subcommittee comments and recommendations on each of the "8 Can't Wait" issues, stressed that this was a draft and continues to be an ongoing discussion and meetings.

Commissioner Donnelly commended Commissioner Lam in doing a fantastic job looking at the policy in a granular way as it exists; informed that the subcommittee also looked at what the liability implications were going from the suggested policies of Lexipol into a local agency policy, as well as what case law and how that impacts on the way the policies are written, noted a comprehensive look at all not just the specific wording of each suggestions, encouraged to see how close the policies were to the 8 Can't Wait recommendations, stated "I just wanted to make sure folks understand that this isn't just about reading the text, it's about looking at the context of how that actually works in the real world as well."

Chair Ding echoed Commissioner Donnelly, adding that it was a lot of work, a lot of time, and a lot of meetings that the subcommittee put in to produce a great product, advised of an upcoming meeting with the police department to discuss some of the proposed recommendations and reforms.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Councilmember Schneider informed that City Manager DeWolfe retired last week and Fire Chief Riddle is our Acting City Manager.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Fire Chief Riddle provided update on brush fires, informed that the fire crews have responded to more than twelve fires throughout the state, recently dispatch from the El Dorado Fire and deployed to the Bobcat Fire, ensured that all costs including administrative fees are fully reimbursable to the City; informed of the firefighter/paramedic recruitment.

Police Chief Ortiz informed that the South Pasadena Police Department have been on tactical alert due to civil unrest, assisting the City of Pasadena in several volatile situations, most recently seven overdoses with three ending in deaths, two shootings and a stabbing;

emphasized public awareness and to please do not hesitate to call, “see something, say something,” informed of an upcoming management-level training to assist on frontline response and an updated first aid staff training.

3. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Kung informed that schools have been in session for a month and continues to be distant learning.

ADJOURNMENT

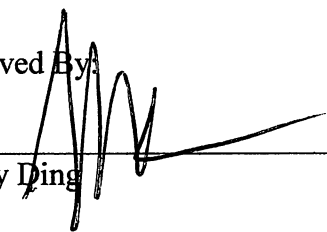
Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m., noting a follow up with staff on October’s meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/

Kim Kha
Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Jeremy Ding
Chair