



CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR. COUNCIL CHAMBER
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030
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Monday, January 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

South Pasadena Public Safety Commission Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made today will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Commission for January 11, 2021 will be conducted remotely and held by Zoom Webinar video conference, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, the Council Chambers will not be open for the meeting. Commissioners will be participating remotely and will not be physically present in the Council Chambers.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting via Zoom Webinar in one of the methods below.

**Public Safety Commission
Zoom Webinar Information
Meeting ID: 96815699853**

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Webinar information accordingly; or
2. Click the following link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96815699853>
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling: **+16699006833** and entering the Zoom Webinar ID when prompted to do so.

For additional Zoom assistance with telephone audio, you may find your local number at: <https://zoom.us/u/adz9VBkd7p>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Members of the public may access the meeting to observe the meeting's proceedings; however, at this time, there is no live, real-time participation by members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: If you would like to comment on an agenda item or make a general public comment, members of the public may submit their comments in writing, for Commission consideration, by emailing them to: pscpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov

Public Comments must be received by **6 p.m., January 10, 2021** to ensure adequate time to compile. Public Comment portion of the email is limited to 250 words. Please make sure to indicate: 1) your name; 2) what agenda item you are submitting public comment on or if it is a general public comment; and 3) clearly state if you wish for your comment to be read.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jeremy Ding

ROLL CALL

Commission members Grace Liu Kung, Stephanie Cao, Amin Alsarraf, Alan Ehrlich, Ed Donnelly, Scot G. Lam

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Public Safety Commission welcomes public input. Members of the public may address the Public Safety Commission by emailing: pscpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov
Public Comments must be received by **6 p.m., January 10, 2021** to ensure adequate time to compile. Public Comment portion of the email is limited to 250 words. Please make sure to indicate: 1) your name; 2) what agenda item you are submitting public comment on or if it is a general public comment; and 3) clearly state if you wish for your comment to be read.

Pursuant to state law, the Public Safety Commission may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the Public Safety Commission or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

1. Public Comment – General

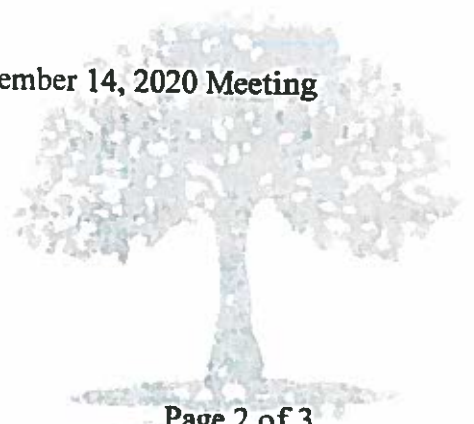
ACTION/DISCUSSION

2. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of December 14, 2020

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

3. Approve the 2021 Annual Work Plan



Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission approve the 2021 Annual Work Plan.

4. CERT and NW Programs and Recruitment Options

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission discuss the CERT and NW programs and recruitment options.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. City Council Liaison Communications

6. Staff Liaison Communications

7. Commissioner Communications

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS

The complete agenda packet may be viewed on the City's website at:
<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

Meeting recordings will be available for public viewing after the meeting. Recordings will be uploaded to the City's YouTube Channel no later than the next business day after the meeting. The City's YouTube Channel may be accessed at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnR169ohzi1A1ewD_6sfwDA/featured

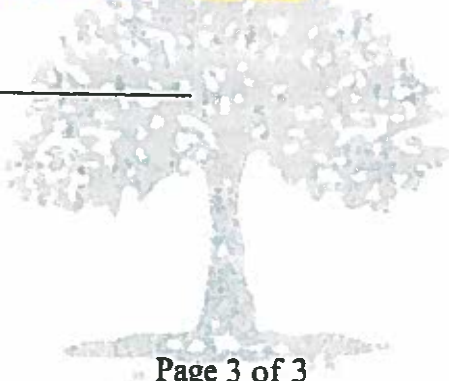
ACCOMMODATIONS

The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division via e-mail at CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov or by calling (626) 403- 7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

*I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA, and the City's website at www.southpasadenaca.gov on **January 6, 2021** as required by law.*

1-6-21
Date

Brian Solinsky
Brian Solinsky, Interim Police Chief





**MONDAY, DECEMBER 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, December 14, 2020, 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, Ed Donnelly, Grace Liu Kung, and Scot Lam; Chair Jeremy Ding, Vice-Chair Alan Ehrlich

Absent: Commissioner Cao.

Officials

Present: Mayor/City Council Liaison Diana Mahmud, Interim Police Chief/Staff Liaison Brian Solinsky, Fire Chief/Staff Liaison Paul Riddle, and Police Department Clerk/Recording Secretary Laura Mendez and Police Department Clerk/Recording Secretary Joe Ramirez.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

(SOUTH PASADENA RESIDENT) MARY URQUHART: First comment urges residents to sign up to South Pasadena’s Paramedic Subscription program. Next comment is regarding the vacant Caltrans homes; she is asking to create a subcommittee on this matter and work with the Planning Department to present long-term options to the City Council to sell the homes or fix them up and rent them.

SEAN TEER raised concerns over people moving into vacant Caltrans owned properties due to the dilapidated state of the structures and the risk of fire to adjacent homes posed by occupants needing to heat and cook inside these structures. He states that he appreciates the more visible police presence lately, however, there is no way that law enforcement can monitor these run-down structures every minute and “No Trespassing”

signs have not turned people away. He asks that a permanent solution be found and he and his neighbors have seen suspicious activity on their street by people they do not recognize viewing these properties.

KIM CARLSON brought up concerns over squatters in the 7 vacant Caltrans homes on Bonita Drive. She stated that the reason these homes are not being rented out or sold is that they are entirely uninhabitable and it puts the residents in danger because squatters may illegally turn on electric or gas, increasing the fire risk and thus threatening the homes and hills in our neighborhood .

EMILY BEAGHAN brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans, which she states have been in violation of various South Pasadena City Codes for decades. Though she appreciates the increased police presence, she states that law enforcement cannot guard these dilapidated structures at all times. She is requesting that a subcommittee be created with the Planning Commission regarding these matters.

JOANNE NUCKOLS brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans homes. She states that there is no need for Caltrans to hold on to the properties and they could all be legally sold under the regulations. Eliminating the vacant house problems, restoring the neighborhoods, and getting these 100+ properties back on the city's tax rolls should be one of the city's top priorities. She suggests that the City take an aggressive approach and that the PSC recommend to the City Council immediate reconstituting of the Caltrans House Sub-Committee.

LINDA ESPOSITO brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans homes. She cited an incident where On April 6, 2020, a purported homeless rights organization/activist group broke into two Caltrans owned properties. She stated that she did not feel support from local law enforcement or any South Pasadena elected official or city representative and is tired of multiple government agencies disowning jurisdiction. She wants reassurance that productive measures are taken to patrol or sell the vacant Caltrans properties.

SUSAN SULSKY brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans homes on Bonita Drive and Meridian Avenue and states that safety continues to be compromised. She is asking to hear what actionable steps will be taken to stop squatters from residing in her neighborhood and mentioned that In April 2020, squatters broke into 901 Bonita Drive and an adjacent property. She is also concerned that due to the properties not having power, people who illegally take over a property will tap into gas lines and start a fire. She states that this this is a major public safety issue and puts our neighborhood and our children in danger. She would like the City to actively work with state officials to secure the properties.

SALLY TAKEDA, SEAN TEER, NOAH TAKEDA-TEER, EVAN TAKEDA-TEER brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans homes on Bonita Drive. They want to hear what actionable steps will be taken to stop squatters from illegally residing in their neighborhood. They state that the vacant Caltrans homes are uninhabitable and do not have gas nor electric in the property. They state, "If they are willing to illegally reside in a property, very likely, they would illegally turn on the gas and electric line. This is a major public safety issue. And one wouldn't need to stretch their imagination that other illegal activities would then follow."

DELAINE SHANE brought up concerns over the vacant Caltrans homes. Though she appreciates the increased patrol by law enforcement during the holidays, she states that

police and other law enforcement agencies cannot guard these dilapidated structures all the time. She states that with too many of these vacant homes on one particular street, she and neighbors have become anxious and suspicious of anyone they do not recognize walking along their street. She asks that the PSC create a subcommittee on this matter and work with the Planning Department Commission to present some viable, long-term options to the City Council.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of October 19, 2020

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR EHRLICH, AND SECOND BY, COMMISSIONER ED DONNELLY, CARRIED 6-0, with to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Cao Absent.

2. Discussion on nomination for Chair and Vice-Chair-Jeremy Ding

CHAIR DING informed about the upcoming 2021 elections for Chair and Vice-Chair, Chair Ding stated he will not accept nomination for Chair or Vice-Chair. Elections will take place in February.

3. PSC Charge-Chief Riddle

FIRE CHIEF RIDDLE, Gave an update on the forecast for getting the PSC Charge to the City Council and informed that it will go to Council on January 20, 2021.

4. 2020 Draft Annual Report

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF SOLINSKY, States the draft copy of the Annual Report lists accomplishments of the Public Safety Commission, Police Department and Fire Department that they have all collaborated on like The 8 Can't Wait, Sub-Committee Covid-19 Response and Charter Change.

This Report will be read at the Commissioners Congress at the beginning of the year, staff is seeking the commission's approval to move forward with this.

Chair Ding Stated he wanted recognition for the members of the Sub-Committees

Vice-Chair Ehrlich suggested adding activation of the EOC and EPO to the Annual Report.

MOTION BY CHAIR DING, AND SECOND BY, COMMISSIONER LIU KUNG, CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE THE 2020 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT, AS PRESENTED BY STAFF WITH THE RECOMMENDATION CHANGES, ABOUT RECOGNIZING SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

5. 2021 Draft Work Plan

Chair Ding stated that Interim Police Chief Solinsky sent a copy of the Work Plan for the commissioner to review. The work plan states for the months of July and November the Public Safety Commission was not going to meet. The topics of the Work Plan can be changed if needed.

6. Covid-19 Recovery Response Plan

FIRE CHIEF RIDDLE, informed of an update on Covid-19 in October the positivity rate was at 3% and now the positivity rate is at 12%. Hospitalization rates from last time we spoke in October were at 722 patients hospitalized, and now we have over 4,000 in hospitals. The fire department's call load is at normal status, the challenges the Fire Department is facing is The Wall Time they face when arriving at the hospital with the patients not being admitted right away. Every jurisdiction is going through this ever hospital is doing the best they can.

The second challenge is exposure to our personnel, it's an ongoing challenge because the risk to us isn't the exposure out in the field it's personnel coming to work and then finding out that their loved ones had and exposure that possible affected them.

Chief Riddle informed that part of the recovery was 480 thousand dollars were reimbursed from the Federal, State and FEMA and part of the recovery is to continue to track those cost moving forward and continue to receive reimbursement for those costs. Another point of discussion is the roll out of the vaccine and how that will play out for first responders. Initially, first responders were going to be among the first to receive the vaccine, but now we will be probably the second round. For Citizens the distribution of the vaccine will most likely be at CVS and Walgreens.

7. Vacant Caltrans Homes-Alan Ehrlich

VICE-CHAIR ALAN EHRLICH gave a background to the vacant Caltrans homes and the incident on March 14 in El Sereno regarding the group "Reclaiming Our Homes" occupying the vacant Caltrans owned homes. Vice Chair Ehrlich went on to mention the incident on April where 2 of the vacant Caltrans homes on Bonita Avenue similarly occupied by squatters. Vice Chair Ehrlich brought up the resident's concerns of an increase in crime, safety, and as none of the Caltrans owned homes have running electricity or gas that there is a possibility of fire starting in one of those homes could quickly spread to the neighboring properties which are tightly packed in a hilly section of the City. He mentioned steps taken by residents to evict the squatters which included reaching out to local and state officials. Vice-Chair Ehrlich expressly thanked Watch Commander Sgt. Bartl for his response and the SPPD for stepping up patrols in the area.

Vice Chair Ehrlich also informed that again on November 25 in El Sereno the group "Reclaiming Our Homes" occupied another 20 homes. There was in a 3 day stand-off with occupants and protesters where 62 people were arrested for trespassing and an unlawful assembly.

Commissioner Ed Donnelly asked Interim Chief Solinsky to briefly describe how jurisdiction works between SPPD, CHP, and Caltrans for the vacant Caltrans owned

properties. Interim Chief Solinsky responded that the Caltrans owned properties are owned by the state, the CHP has been tasked with patrol and any law enforcement activity there. Chief Solinsky stated that he meets regularly with Altadena and East Los Angeles CHP stations, which are the offices that provide the protection and enforcement to the properties in South Pasadena. Chief Solinsky went on to explain that SPPD, CHP, and Hollenbeck station of LAPD have committed to work together and keep each other informed of any action that is going to take place. If a South Pasadena resident sees something, the SPPD will respond, secure the scene, and call in the CHP. Depending on the nature of the investigation, either the CHP or the SPPD will handle the investigation.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich asked Interim Chief Solinsky if Caltrans could install security cameras on the properties to which Chief Solinsky replied he would bring it up at their next meeting. Chief Solinsky urged that if anyone was concerned for their safety over individuals that are walking around the properties to call the SPPD. Individuals should call the business line (626) 403-7270 for non-emergency or 911 if it is a life-threatening emergency.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich in response to public comment inquired about starting a subcommittee with the Planning Commission and other interested parties.

Fire Chief Riddle responded that earlier this year Mayor Mahmud put together a vacant property task force, which includes of the departments in the City. The Planning Department was in transition and the events of 2020 have delayed the process. The task force has now reconvened and has started the discussions moving forward with the goal of bringing recommended revisions to the City Council sometime in March.

Mayor Mahmud also noted that there is an Ad-Hoc committee on Caltrans homes. Due to the City Council members who were on that committee no longer being part of the council, Mayor Mahmud will reconstitute that committee when she considers City Council Liaisons.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich asked Mayor Mahmud if the City has considered using eminent domain to claim any of the vacant Caltrans properties. Mayor Mahmud responded that the City does not have the money to purchase the properties and she has not looked at the issue as to whether a local government can condemn a State property. Mayor Mahmud stated that the City government is a political subdivision of the State doubts that a political subdivision of the State has the ability to condemn State property.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich asked if the City thought about partnering with another organization such as Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing there (Caltrans owned vacant land). Mayor Mahmud responded that the City was open to partnering with anyone, however those entities must come with money and unfortunately neither the State nor Federal government have made funding available for the development of affordable housing.

Chair Ding noted that if the Mayor was going to reconstitute the Ad-Hoc committee, the PSC should wait and see what roll the PSC can play in that capacity. Chair Ding stated that he believes the way issue is going to be solved not through Police and Fire, but through legislative activity and contacting our legislative representatives. The PSC could lobby the legislators.

Vice-Chair Ehrlich stated that he would like Chief Riddle and Mayor Mahmud to bring up this issue again at the next City Council meeting to let the community know what is already in the works.

Chair Ding suggested that perhaps the PSC could monitor and track resources used towards this issue such as Police calls for service, etc. to show legislators that this is an urgent matter requiring attention.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Counsel Liaison Communications

Mayor/City Council Liaison Diana Mahmud had no further comments.

2. Staff Liaison Communications

Fire Chief Riddle commented that we have brought on 2 firefighter paramedics and that the department is now fully staffed.

The Fire Department succession plan is in full effect because 1/3 of the department could be retiring within the next 1 to 4 years. We are in a good place as there are internal candidates who are ready to promote up and are constantly ready to recruit on the bottom to keep us fully staffed looking forward.

Interim Chief Solinsky announced that the Police Department hired a new Police Officer who just graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy and is currently in field training. The officer's name is Ederson Gramajo.

Chief Solinsky also announced the retirement at the end of this month of SSA Peggy Grangetto after 30 plus years with the Police Department.

3. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Amin Alsarraf wanted that thank everyone for their words today and to those folks who are retiring.


Commissioner Grace Liu Kung updated that the schools are continuing distance learning through the end of the semester, which ends at the end of next week. Winter break is through January 4th. The schools are planning on a re-opening schedule. A SPUSD Covid-19 Compliance Task Force has already developed a 2020 – 2021 School Opening and Safety Plan, which is on the School District Website. In November, SPUSD received approval from the LA County Department of Public Health for Transitional Kindergarten, TK – 2nd grade waiver. At the end of the 1st week of January, the LA County Department of Public Health will send reps to elementary and preschools to check to ensure that there are proper safety protocols. Throughout January, the elementary school principals will host a parent town-hall meeting to share details about the health and safety protocols. The tentative reopening plan is for January 27th for preschools, special ed students and transitional kindergarten and kindergarten will open at the end of January. Around February 1st will be the tentative return date for the K – 2 special day class and 1st and 2nd graders.

There is a new legislation proposal, AB 10 to propose that schools in the red, orange, yellow tiers need to reopen within 2 weeks. For more details there is a school board meeting on Tuesday December 15 at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ding adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Laura Mendez / Joe Ramirez
Recording Secretary

Approved By:

Jeremy Ding
Chair

Public Safety Commission

2021 Work Plan



Objective	Tasks and Activities	Lead Person(s)	Timeline	Desired Outcome
Unarmed Traffic Enforcement	Conduct a feasibility study to determine if unarmed traffic enforcement is appropriate for South Pasadena	DC Solinsky	January	Present feasibility study results to Council.
CERT, Neighborhood Watch and Map Your Neighborhood	Discuss recruitment tactics and strategies to increase membership	Chief Riddle DC Solinsky	February	Strategy to increase recruitment through community engagement
Homeless Outreach and Housing Update	Update presentation on the homeless and 2021 homeless count	DC Solinsky	March	Update on the HOPE Unit and additional program resources
Annual Reports	Present Police and Fire Department Annual Reports	Police Chief Chief Riddle	April	Receive and File Annual Reports
			May	
National Night Out and Police/Fire Open House	Organize Police and Fire NNO Event	Police Chief Chief Riddle	June	Community Outreach and Education

Fire Prevention and Safety	Public Outreach and Education	Chief Riddle	August	Community Outreach and Education
			September	
Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness	Organize City wide Drill/ Training Exercise	Chief Riddle	October	Ability to Respond/Recover from Disaster
PSC Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan		Police Chief Chief Riddle	December	Community Outreach and Education