



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030
VIA HYBRID / IN-PERSON**

Monday, September 12, 2022 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.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The South Pasadena Public Safety Commission Meeting will be conducted in-person from the Council Chambers, Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena. Pursuant to AB 361 Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3), the Advisory Body may conduct its meetings remotely and may be held via video conference.

The Public Safety Commission Meeting for **September 12, 2022** will be conducted hybrid via zoom teleconference and in-person.

Please be advised that pursuant to government code, and to ensure the health and safety of the public, staff, and Commissioners, the Council Chambers will be open to the public for the meeting and members of the public may attend and/or participate by the following means:

The Meeting will be available:

- Via Zoom – **Meeting ID: 841 9322 6718**
- Zoom Link – <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84193226718>

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

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84193226718>
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling: +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID

For additional Zoom assistance with telephone audio, you may find your local number at:

<https://zoom.us/u/aiXV0TAW2>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Walter Cervantes, Bethesda Gee, Jeremy Ding, Amin Alsarraf, Vice Chair Lisa Watson, Chair Ed Donnelly

COUNCIL LIAISON:

Councilmember Jon Primuth

PUBLIC COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS

The City Council welcomes public input. If you would like to comment on an agenda item, members of the public may participate **by means of one of the following options:**

Option 1:

Participants will be able to “raise their hand” using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during comment portions of the agenda to speak for up to 3 minutes per item.

Option 2:

Email public comment(s) to pscpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov.

Public Comments received in writing will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be part of the meeting record. Written public comments will be uploaded online for public viewing under Additional Documents. There is no word limit on emailed Public Comment(s). Please make sure to indicate:

- 1) Agenda item you are submitting public comment on.
- 2) Submit by no later than 6:00pm September 11, 2022.

NOTE: Pursuant to State law, the Commission may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the 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

ACTION/DISCUSSION

2. **Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of August 8, 2022**
Consideration of the minutes of the Public Safety Commission regular meeting of August 8, 2022
3. **School Safety**
Discussion and presentation on school safety in the South Pasadena Unified School District

INFORMATION REPORTS

4. **Disaster Preparedness**

COMMUNICATIONS

5. **City Council Liaison Communications**
6. **Staff Liaison Communications**
8. **Commissioner Communications**

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS

The complete agenda packet may be viewed on the City's website, www.southpasadenaca.gov.

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/UCnR169ohzi1AlewD_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 **September 8, 2022** as required by law.*

September 8, 2022

Date



Brian Solinsky, Chief of Police



CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
VIA HYBRID / IN-PERSON
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Date/Time: August 8, 2022 / 8:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Cervantes, Gee, Ding, Alsarraf, Vice Chair
Watson, Chair Donnelly

Commissioners Absent: None

Officials Present: Police Chief Brian Solinsky, Fire Chief Paul Riddle, Management
Analyst Alison Wehrle, Police Department Clerk/Recording
Secretary Laura Mendez, and Police Department Clerk Nelly Ochoa

Officials Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Primuth

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. **Public Comment:** Bianca Richards

ACTION/DISCUSSION

2. **Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Meeting of June 13, 2022**

Motion: MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CERVANTES, AND SECOND
BY COMMISSIONER WATSON, CARRIED 6-0, to approve the
Minutes of the June 13, 2022 Public Safety Commission Regular
Meeting as presented.

Ayes: Commissioners Cervantes, Gee, Ding, Alsarraf, Vice Chair Watson,
Chair Donnelly

Noes: None

Abstain: None

3. **Discussion on the City's Updated Emergency Operations Plan**

Fire Chief Paul Riddle discussed the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and gave an outline of the responsibilities of city staff during emergencies and partnerships that are pre-established to protect the community during a disaster. The EOP is reviewed every 3

years and if there are any updates or changes, it must be updated to reflect it for accuracy. A presentation will be made to the NREC when available and the EOP will be brought to council in October for adoption. Division Fire Chief Eric Zanteson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the EOP. Division Fire Chief Zanteson discussed the steps South Pasadena has taken to track disasters, job duties, and costs to apply for funding with FEMA and EOS.

Commissioner Gee left the dais at 9:00am and returned to the meeting via Zoom at 9:01am.

INFORMATION REPORTS

No items.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. City Council Liaison Communications

No items.

5. Staff Liaison Communications

Fire Chief Paul Riddle gave an update on Fire Department staffing and the projection of a busy brush season. Police Chief Brian Solinsky addressed the community's concerns regarding the unhoused population and the efforts to enforce ordinances and provide resources in line with the decision in *Martin v. Boise*. Police Chief Solinsky provided an update on staffing within the department. There will be a City-wide open house in October, and a "see something, say something" campaign has been launched to get citizens involved if they see suspicious activity.

6. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Ding commented on the City website.

Commissioner Gee left the meeting at 9:22am.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: August 8, 2022 / 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved By:

Nelly Ochoa /
Recording Secretary

Ed Donnelly /
Chair



Public Safety Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. 3

DATE: September 12, 2022

TO: Public Safety Commission

FROM: Brian Solinsky, Chief of Police
Andy Dubois, Sergeant

SUBJECT: **School Safety**

A presentation on the topic of school safety will be provided by the Police Department at the September 12, 2022 Public Safety Commission regular meeting.



Public Safety Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. 4

DATE: September 12, 2022

TO: Public Safety Commission

FROM: Paul Riddle, Fire Chief
Eric Zanteson, Operations Division Chief

SUBJECT: **Disaster Preparedness**

A presentation on the topic of disaster preparedness will be provided by the Fire Department at the September 12, 2022 Public Safety Commission regular meeting.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Written Public Comment #1

I dedicate this statement to the young, vigorous news reporting aspirant in South Pas. May they come from SPHS, says I. Harness the Tiger.

This is to inform that I intend to make a comprehensive public statement regarding the Council's consideration of the City Manager's recommendations to the City Council for performance measurement of the Finance Department when such matter is agendized by the City Manager for the City Council's public discussion at a regularly scheduled meeting.

On a personal note, I have every expectation that we've arrived at a renaissance place of public virtue as pertains to the City's 2020 financial "meltdown," a public failure so great that that has now been renamed a "crisis" by Mayor Pro Tempore Jon Primuth. Primuth is on to something, folks, because he's saying he wants future decision making to be made on the basis of (yes, Virginia, sometimes brutal) facts yet to be published by the City Manager. Primuth upped the ante when he said also that City Manager Armine Chaparyan should be "asked to do more" in her responses to the crisis in her administration.

But I ain't naïve. I speak to those who exercised the damaging controls over the creation of "crisis," those of a divisive community status quo, those within and without of City Hall, and I say to you that you that may have motivation sufficient to obstruct or otherwise dimmish the professional quality of what will become, via City Council vote, the Adopted Finance Department Performance Measurements."

I say also to the Finance Commission that your obligation, faced with "crisis," is to "provide, as the Code sez, "high level advice" to the City Council in matters. More so after this this point, in fact. Time to review your credentials.

To all community public and appointed leaders, I declare, too, that since the summer of 2020, the several reports, analyses, Betta Report, Citygate Report, meeting minutes, videotapes of City Council meetings, news reporting, individual records, business records, social media records, intellectual property records, public records have come together in such manner as to "require" a mastery of a body of knowledge that a reasonable person might judge to be now expected of you as public governors. But check something at the door. Thus said records and evidence can and might be used against you.

Taking such logic further, I opine, last, that it can be effectively argued that corporate and individual responses to the "crisis," coming as the "crisis" does after after 4 years of institutional silence, should be judged in the future by standards requiring community leaders, in the here and now, to act not as a "reasonable public officials," but as a "reasonable, highly informed public officials responding to a crisis." The legal standards weighing the conduct of elected and appointed office has been elevated to higher stature, is what I'm saying. Watch your liability six, ladies and gentlemen, because four of the five City Councilmembers that are attorney's are aware that they risk the potential of State Bar review.

That's crisis management. But I still ain't sure if it makes an impresson on the shifty scales of economic, governmental and public employment "justice" in contemporary South Pas.

Josh Betta

626.533.4145

Written Public Comment #2

All,

Care First has just given a masterclass in the creation of specious noise – page after page of complete bullshit. I would send paramedics to assess them for brain injuries.

Start with their "issue briefs," submitted to the council as public comment, which draw on a larger report from local academic researchers. "Issue Brief #2" says, for example, that "Latinx/Hispanic individuals make up 54% of arrestees, while only making up 21% of the City's population."

But the population *present in* a 3.4 square-mile city is different than the population that *lives in* that small town, and the report from academic researchers that Care First uses to make their "Issue Brief #2" claim specifically addresses this point: "Our data are insufficient to determine how much of this overrepresentation is due to differences in police activities, differences in activities leading to arrest, and differences between the demographics of people present in South Pasadena and residents of South Pasadena."

The academic researchers explicitly tell you they have a data point but *can't interpret it* in the absence of context. Then Care First cleans up the data point: "Such disparities suggest the existence of racially biased policing practices." No they don't. They might suggest something you want to look at more closely, but the data point tells you nothing on its own.

Further, the academic researchers concede that they're just guessing how many SPPD arrestees are Latino – "by imputing Hispanic origin based on the surname of each arrestee." Amazingly, this is not a joke. You can't possibly make policy decisions on the basis of some professors trying to guess whose last names feel Hispanicish, particularly in light of the fact that married names don't tell you anything about the ethnicity of the people who bear them. Again, Care First presents this as a matter of proven fact, with a hard 54%. It's a guess, and a pretty rough guess, and should be treated as a guess.

Then Care First, in "Issue Brief #3," tells you that 6.5% of all calls in which SPPD officers are dispatched come from grocery stores. They offer no context for this information, but grocery stores tend to be full of people, and conflict between people is the thing that drives requests for service from police. There are few calls for police service from unpopulated areas in the desert, for example, which doesn't prove any point about *the police*.

Here's their policy recommendation about those grocery stores:

"Care First wants the City to seriously weigh whether it is appropriate for SPPD to effectively act as private security for large, profitable grocery store chains, which could elect to employ security guards instead of relying on public police patrols to respond."

Look at the unbelievable goddamn stupidity of this argument: Government, securing property, *effectively acts as private security*. What is government, if the security of property is properly a private function? Care First argues that government shouldn't protect property from theft, so please do find out where Care First members live, and feel free to steal from their houses. We shouldn't rely on public police patrols to respond, right?

But second, Care First has asserted without evidence that South Pasadena grocery stores have *not elected to employ security guards*, so they're again pulling made-up facts out of their collective ass, as

they invariably do. I have seen security guards at South Pasadena grocery stores, and I have seen grocery store employees confronting thieves. It is *not true* that our local grocery stores are refusing to secure their own property, relying only on the police to do it for them.

Grocery stores generate significant tax revenue, so Care First argues that companies which *pay for* government services shouldn't *receive* government services. Why? They don't support the assertion – they just casually demand that you "seriously weigh" a premise that they haven't proved or supported. I have never seen people with less ability to *make an argument*.

Speaking of which, next paragraph:

"Further, Care First posits that shoplifting is, by and large, a symptom of economic distress. The City is making a policy decision to fund policing, including responding to shoplifting reports for items such as food and liquor, instead of funding services that ease economic distress, such as child care subsidies, affordable housing, and services to unhoused members of the community."

They don't provide evidence for this claim – they just *posit* it. I posit that my kneecaps are made from diamonds mined by the Hindu god Vishnu from the surface of the planet Neptune. See how saying "I posit this" doesn't mean anything?

Having *posited* that most shoplifting is a symptom of economic distress, Care First proposes that "child care subsidies" will prevent people from stealing "food and liquor." Shoplifters steal vodka because they can't pay for babysitters. Why? Dunno, but whatever.

I'm not halfway through the mindless nonsense in the Care First report, but let's not beat a dead horse. No one in the history of the world has ever been dumber than the people who have formed Care First. They don't know anything about anything, they have no ability to make an argument, they have no ability to speak truthfully, they have no ability to connect facts and policy proposals, and they talk like toddlers. Ignore them. I am *so tired* of these brutally stupid people making all of this worthless noise. Doesn't anyone else ever get tired of these drooling idiots?

Chris Bray