

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
November 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm  
Fire Department EOC Room, 817 Mound Avenue, South Pasadena**

Call to Order and Roll Call. Chair Janet Braun called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Commissioners Urquhart, Chang, Daley, Lieberman and Wing. Also present were Councilman Michael Cacciotti, Council Liaison to the Public Safety Commission (the “Commission”), Police Chief Art Miller and Deputy Fire Chief Paul Riddle.

Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the Commission’s September 15, 2104 and October 20, 2014 meetings were approved unanimously.

Public Comment. None.

Council Liaison Comments. Councilman Cacciotti brought several issues to the attention of the Commission, including an increase in bike thefts at the Metro station. He has observed a bike locker at the Del Mar Metro station in Pasadena, and Police Chief Miller agreed to look into the possibility of something similar in South Pasadena. Councilman Cacciotti also noted the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles. Chief Miller and Commissioner Wing both noted that unfortunately these have been increasing throughout Los Angeles. Councilman Cacciotti commented on a new propane vehicle article and discussed the city’s CNG vehicles. He commented that the City should try to transition to cleaner vehicles when possible. Chief Miller noted that the Police Department does consider purchasing CNG vehicles as part of its replacement strategy, however due to mutual aid duties and other safety concerns it is not possible to use CNG vehicles for certain police department functions, particularly for patrol vehicles. Councilman Cacciotti also commented that the Public Works Department is conducting meetings in neighborhoods whose streets are scheduled for repair, and that these meetings would be great opportunities to distribute information regarding CERT, Neighborhood Watch and other programs. Chair Braun indicated that she had followed up with the City Manager regarding whether the Commission could attend these meetings, and had been told that we were awaiting guidance from the City Council.

CERT Training Completion and Ad Hoc Committee Update. Deputy Chief Riddle reported that the City’s first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training concluded on October 25, 2014, with 33 graduates, representing a 100% graduation rate. The Fire Department received great feedback from attendees. The next CERT training is scheduled for February 21, 28 and March 7, 2015. Commissioner Lieberman reported that the CERT Committee had met earlier in the day and was actively planning the next training and steps necessary to form the CERT team. Members of the committee are arranging to meet with the City of Sierra Madre CERT team. Commissioner Braun reported that the Commission’s

quarterly supplemental training sessions will initially be offered to CERT trainees and Neighborhood Watch block captains. Several CERT trainees had asked for more first aid training, and the committee is organizing a First Aid training by the Fire Department on Saturday, January 10 from 9 am to noon. A Map Your Neighborhood or similar training will be held in April 2015, and electric safety training will be offered in August or September. Deputy Chief Riddle reported that a meeting was scheduled with the San Marino and San Gabriel Fire Departments to discuss sharing resources among the cities' CERT programs.

Neighborhood Watch Ad Hoc Committee Update. Commissioner Lieberman reported that he had met with Rev. Lincoln Skinner of Oneonta Church who had invited him to a meeting on November 20 of all the leaders of churches and places of worship in South Pasadena to help promote the Neighborhood Watch program. Commissioner Braun agreed to attend the meeting. Vice Chair Urquhart inquired about whether the annual Block Captain meeting had been scheduled. Commissioners Lieberman and Braun reported that the first Neighborhood Watch Ad Hoc Committee meeting was scheduled for December 1 at 10 am at the EOC and that the committee would discuss and set a date for the annual Block Captain meeting.

Perceived Increase in Homeless in South Pasadena. Chief Miller reported that the Police Department conducts an annual homeless survey. Currently, the city has 17 homeless residents, which has remained about the same over the past few years, and the police officers know them all by name. The Police Department makes contact with the homeless on a regular basis and offers them information about, and rides to, Union Station in Pasadena and other services for the homeless.

School Safety Report. Chief Miller reported that Officer Salcido, the School Safety Resource Officer, visits the South Pasadena High School or Middle School at least one time each day. He has investigated four incidents in the past month. Video from recent locker thefts was also investigated. Commissioner Daley inquired about follow-up with SPEF about funding additional crossing guards. Discussion ensued about the possibility of utilizing volunteer crossing guards, and Chief Miller agreed to follow-up regarding this issue.

Status of Contract Negotiations and Retention/Hiring Issues. Councilman Cacciotti reported that the City had reached a three-year agreement with the South Pasadena Fire and Police associations. Chief Miller reported the need to hire five more cadets in the Police Department, who would each be assigned an 18 hour weekly schedule. Chief Miller indicated that the part-time nature of cadets makes hiring a bit more difficult, and it would be easier to hire cadets on a 28-hour week basis, but that applications for cadet positions were fine. Chief Miller also reported that he was trying to fill four vacancies for police officers and that since the City and the police association had signed a new agreement, he believed that we do not risk an outflow of police officers to other cities.

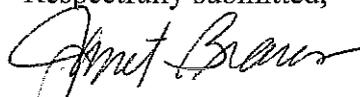
Deputy Chief Riddle reported that, since the new contract had been signed, morale in the Fire Department is upbeat. With a total of 19 members in the Fire Department currently, we have one vacancy. The department has received over 200 applications and has narrowed these to approximately 60 qualified candidates. Deputy Chief Riddle commented that perhaps he would direct those not hired to San Marino or San Gabriel. Deputy Chief Riddle commented that the Verdugo Hills report containing certain statistical information about response times, numbers of calls and various other metrics for all fire departments in the Verdugo Hills area had just been published. He agreed to email the report to all Commissioners. Vice Chair Urquhart commented on the City's outstanding paramedic subscription program and the need to better advertise the program to residents, perhaps in the South Pasadena Review.

Staff Liaison Reports. Chief Miller and Deputy Chief Riddle did not have further reports, as all matters had been discussed during the meeting.

Commissioners' Comments. Chair Braun discussed the Commission's annual report to City Council which had been shared with all Commissioners, and the need to make a presentation to the Council on November 19. The Commissioners provided input on key issues to be addressed. The Commissioners also discussed changing the date of its January meeting, as the scheduled meeting date falls on Martin Luther King Day.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm, motioned by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Wing.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Braun, Chair  
Public Safety Commission