



**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, June 09, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena Public Safety Commission was called to order by Chair Cervantes on Monday, June 09, 2025, at 9:34 a.m. in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr. Council Chambers, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Marcos Holguin
Vice-Chair	Charley Lu
Commissioner	Walter Cervantes
Commissioner	Armando Munoz
Commissioner	Dr. Stephen Sanko
Commissioner	Gabriel Reza

**ABSENT**

Commissioner	Bethesda Gee
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Kevin Tiet, Management Assistant, announced a quorum.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Brian Solinsky, Chief of Police, Merrill Ladenheim, Deputy Chief of Police, Shannon Robledo, Police Lieutenant, Davit Ghazaryan, Management Analyst, Kevin Tiet, Management Assistant were present at Roll Call.

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

Greg Lloyd, Fire Chief, Omari Ferguson, Councilmember

**COUNCIL LIAISON:**

Councilmember	Omari Ferguson
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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **1. Public Comment**

Yvonne LaRose made a public comment regarding the impact of recent federal orders on public safety, specifically impacting Los Angeles but with a possibility of affecting South Pasadena as well. She mentioned that Senator Perez had issued an informational brochure over the weekend regarding knowing your rights if apprehended by immigration authorities. She indicated that she had posted it on Facebook and will forward the web link of the brochure to the Public Safety Committee. She mentioned that "it is said that some of those who are part of ICE are current members of the proud boys who were part of the insurrection that happened in January 2020". Mrs. LaRose said that as seen throughout the history of deportations, 'it's not only focused on Latinos, it's across the board, all populations'. She indicated that she doesn't feel safe and that she would like some input 'on what we are going to do'. She said that 'it appears SB 54 is not going to be sufficient'. She mentioned that the National Guard has been called and so have the Marines and according to her the Marines have the philosophy of "do what you're told". Mrs. LaRose said that she is scared, and she would like to know what 'we need to do' and how the Police Department and the first responders will be enforcing 'our rights and our protections as we move forward'.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **2. Public Works: Tree Ordinance Revision** Presentation of the Tree Ordinance Revision.

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst and Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer, from the Public Works Department presented the Tree Ordinance Revision.

Commissioner Cervantes had a recommendation on the importance of having native trees around for the environment. He encouraged to have incentives for nurseries in the City to purchase more native trees. Mrs. Garcia agreed and mentioned that there is currently a water conservation rebate program for drought tolerant and native trees. Commissioner Sanko seconded the comments of Commissioner Cervantes and asked what the responsibilities for homeowners are for trees that are located between a sidewalk and a street. Mrs. Garcia responded that currently it is loosely incorporated in the current ordinance but with the proposed update it will be clear what the responsibilities are. She said that area is called the right of way public easement and if a removal of a tree in that area is necessary the City will cover those costs, but the maintenance of the tree is the responsibility of the property owner.

Commissioner Sanko asked about the fees related to the permitting process and was given that information. Michael Vartanians provided more information regarding fees related to permitting and appeals.

Commissioner Munoz asked about diseased trees and property owners' responsibilities in relation to the removal of diseased trees. Michael Vartanians responded that with the new ordinance - diseased or dying trees that pose an imminent threat to life or property - the replacement requirement will be one tree. Meaning the City will ease the replacement requirements.

Commissioner Reza clarified the information provided regarding the radius of property owners responsibility. He also asked whether the same permitting process would apply if there is an emergency high wind event and was told that disasters will trigger expedited paths of permitting.

Chair Holguin asked about the timeline of collaboration with the Fire Department and their feedback. Danielle Garcia clarified the timelines of receiving feedback and presenting the finalized version to the City Council on July 16, 2025. Commissioner Sanko also encouraged the staff to get feedback from Fire Chief Lloyd.

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION**

### **3. Public Safety Commission: Meeting Times**

Consideration of changing meeting times of the upcoming Public Safety Commission Regular Meetings.

Brian Solinsky, Chief of Police, spoke regarding adopting new Public Safety Commission meeting dates and times and asked Chair Holguin to lead the discussion with other Commissioners on what the best option would be for them and the public.

The City Council Chambers is available on last Tuesdays of each month and that was proposed as the new meeting day for Public Safety Commission Regular Meetings. Chair Holguin stated that he's open to proposals but one thing to consider would be that Mondays are hard for most Commissioners, and he mentioned that he'd prefer evening meeting times.

The new Public Safety Commission Regular Meetings proposed date would be every last Tuesday of each month at 5:30p.m.

### **COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Reza, seconded by chair Holguin proved by roll call vote, Item No.3 Public Safety Commission: Meeting Times as presented.**

**AYES:** Chair Holguin, Commissioner Sanko, Commissioner Reza, Commissioner Cervantes, Commissioner Munoz

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Lu, Commissioner Gee

**ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion passed.

### **4. Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting of April 14, 2025**

Consideration of the minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting of April 14, 2025

### **COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Cervantes, seconded by Commissioner Sanko, approved by roll call vote, Item No.4 the Meeting Minutes of the April 14, 2025 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting as presented.**

**AYES:** Chair Holguin, Commissioner Sanko, Commissioner Reza, Commissioner Cervantes

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Lu, Commissioner Gee

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner Munoz.

Motion passed.

5. **Minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025**

Consideration of the minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025

**COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cervantes, seconded by Commissioner Reza, approved by roll call vote, Item No.5 the Meeting Minutes of the May 12, 2025 Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting as presented.

**AYES:** Chair Holguin, Commissioner Sanko, Commissioner Reza, Commissioner Cervantes

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Lu, Commissioner Gee

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner Munoz.

Motion passed.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

6. **City Council Liaison Communications**

None.

7. **Staff Liaison Communications**

Brian Solinsky, Chief of Police, advised that the Police Department and the City are very proud of their diverse heritage of South Pasadena where the rights of all individuals are respected. He indicated that it's the Police Departments goal that a safe community is provided for all the people that live, work or travel through South Pasadena. Chief Solinsky added that South Pasadena Police Department (SPPD) doesn't enforce immigration laws and that responsibility lies solely with the Federal authorities. He also mentioned that SPPD officers are currently deployed to the City of Los Angeles, purely for the purpose of ensuring public safety.

Chief Solinsky provided an update on the Departments staffing levels. He mentioned that the Department is almost fully staffed, and the recruitment is done to ensure a seamless transition as Officers retire.

Commissioner Munoz commended the Police Department for being almost fully staffed within two years.

Commissioner Cervantes asked Chief Solinsky for an update regarding new communication towers. Chief Solinsky responded that there haven't been any changes so far and that is a long term project but

it is looking promising per Congresswoman Chu's office. He added that an update is expected by the end of the summer, and it will be brought to the Commission.

Chair Holguin asked if there is an SPPD departmental police in relation to the Departments stance on immigration enforcement. Chief Solinsky responded that there is, in addition to the Department following SB 54, the Department has an internal policy that mimics that law which has been internally and externally peer reviewed, including by the Public Safety Commission. Chair Holguin asked if the policy is available for the public to review and was given the instructions on where it is located online on the Departments website.

Chair Holguin asked about the SPPD police officers' deployment to a Los Angeles and its impact on South Pasadena. Chief Solinsky responded that there will be no impact to Officers' availability to handle or respond to any calls for service. He added that there is a mutual aid requirement that the Department sends 50% of its on-duty force anytime mutual aid is requested. Based on the Departments new staffing levels, SPPD didn't have to pull from it's current on-duty staff and was able to call Officers that were off.

**8. Commissioner Communications**

Commissioner Cervantes asked if the Chief of Police and the City's legal Department, given the current climate, can provide information to South Pasadena residents on what to do if they are detained by immigration authorities.

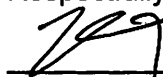
Commissioner Sanko echoed Commissioner Cervantes comments about the current state of fear immigrants and their family members experience.

Chair Holguin expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for being named Chair during the previous meeting and thanked Chief Solinsky for being invited to the recent badge pinning ceremony.


<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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There being no further matters, Chair Cervantes adjourned the meeting of the Public Safety Commission at 10:37 a.m., to the next Regular Public Safety Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Kevin Tiet  
Management Assistant

Approved By:

  
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Walter Cervantes Marcos Holguin  
Chair