

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
November 14, 2016 at 9:00am
Fire Department EOC Room, 817 Mound Avenue, South Pasadena, CA**

Dr. Harry Lieberman, Chair
Vice-Chair - Vacant
Ellen Daigle, Member
Vernon Rene Daley, Member
Robert Ettinger, Member
Luis Reinoso, Member
Alex Wing – not present
Robert S. Joe, Council Liaison
Paul Riddle, Deputy Fire Chief Staff Liaison
Mario Rueda, Fire Chief Staff Liaison
Art Miller, Police Chief Staff Liaison

Alan Ehrlich, City of South Pasadena Community Member

Call to Order. Chair Commissioner Dr. Lieberman opened the meeting at 8:32am.

Approval of Minutes. Approval of the minutes of the Commission's October 17, 2016 meeting was moved to approval by Commissioner Daigle and seconded by Commissioner Ettinger, as amended.

Public Comments. None.

Council Liaison Comments. None.

Chief Rueda Liaison Report. Chief Rueda advised that the Fire Team returned from Pierce Apparatus Manufacturing after observing firsthand the purchases FD had made. The captain exam was administered to seven employees within Shared Command with one successful pass in SPFD. There are two vacancies for chief assignments to fill within Shared Command and the City Managers are working through the process on how to fill these positions. Additionally, two firefighters have accepted positions with other agencies; SPFD has hired one new firefighter who is starting today and another applicant who is in backgrounds. SPFD has an active list of applicants – to hire they must complete a background check in addition to a medical and psychological exam. Commissioner Reinoso asked how much it costs from “hire to start” for a new firefighter. At this time the amount is unknown. Chief Rueda explained many agencies are struggling to retain their force due to retirements and firefighters are actively testing to other agencies. SPFD hires only those applicants that have been through the fire academy and are paramedic trained. Deputy Fire Chief Riddle is compiling data and working through the

survey phase for restricted red curb parking and red flag days and is close to completion. DFC Riddle shared three photos showing pinch points in the hill areas. There are approximately 20 pinch points that make it difficult to get fire resources up in the hills. Chief Rueda's concern is that although SPFD knows the City's hillsides, other agencies who respond to assist do not know the blockages they will encounter. Chief Rueda invited all Commissioners to participate in a ride-along to observe the difficulties FD is experiencing. Commissioner Reinoso suggested that community leaders and Neighborhood Watch captains be identified and contacted in order to assist in influencing the hillside community for the need to implement new parking provisions for FD and community safety.

Chief Miller Liaison Report. Chief Miller advised that the October 24, 2016 Formal Inspection was successful and provided an opportunity for the Department to focus and re-center. Guest speaker was Chief Miller's son, Ricky, a Navy Seal who discussed his experiences, and focused on teamwork and overcoming obstacles. A Neighborhood Watch meeting was held that included three new Watch Captains. SPPD officers receive training for dealing with the mentally ill with a mental health awareness component. SPPD is POST compliant. South Pasadena has joined a four city coalition for a Mental Awareness Response Team with Arcadia, Irwindale and Monrovia that provides assistance for mentally ill citizens with SRO Manukian assigned once every two weeks to work with a mental health clinician. SPPD has joined the LA County Homeless Task Force. Sgt. Robledo is conducting a survey and has identified approximately 20 homeless in the City currently. Property crime went from 41% to 6% within a one month period as a result of predictive policing and direct patrols. Chief Miller discussed AB 109, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57 which just passed that will all adversely impact property crime and crime in general. He indicated that violent crime is low if domestic violence is removed from the statistics. Once SPPD hires one more officer the department will be fully staffed – Chief Miller expressed thanks to the PSC and City Manager Gonzalez for their response and support for PD staffing.

Commissioner's Comments. Commissioner Daigle indicated that a landlord with a storefront for lease was approached by applicants willing to pay four times the rent for a marijuana dispensary. Additionally, with the homeless and mentally ill population growing, changes in marijuana laws and Proposition 57, the PSC has an opportunity to assist in facilitating change. Chair Dr. Lieberman suggested a media article to highlight the FD and Chief Rueda agreed to contact Bill Glazier. Commissioner Reinoso provided a handout of the PSC webpage. After discussion, it was determined that an easier way to contact or comment to the PSC and other Commissions is still needed - Chief Miller agreed to contact Chris Castruita to inform him of the request. Commissioner Reinoso indicated FD has asked for trees to be trimmed, DFC Riddle is working with Public Works Director Paul Toor and LA County is currently providing weed abatement in the hill areas. The Commissioners expressed thanks to Chief Miller for the Women's Self Defense classes. Commissioner Daley requested Chief Miller provide a presentation/report on the shooting incident on Huntington once the LA County Sheriff's Department completes their investigation.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am. The next PSC meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2017 at 8:30am.



~~Dr. Harry Lieberman~~ Resigned
Ellen Dagle
Chairperson 

Respectfully submitted,

Idessa Gonzales

Police Clerk