MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2020
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Chair Chris Frost; and Commissioners Keegan Gibbs, Fred Roberts, Dale Skophammer, and Doug Stewart

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Jerry Vandermeulen, Fire Safety Liaison; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjadjian, Public Works Superintendent; Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist; Sergeant James Braden, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mike Treinen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on December 27, 2019.

CEREMONIAL / PRESENTATIONS

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Stewart nominated Chris Frost as Chair. There being no further nominations, by acclamation, Chair Frost was unanimously elected as Chair.

Chair Frost nominated Commissioner Stewart as Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, by acclamation, Commissioner Stewart was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.
ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hudson Breese deferred his time to Kelly Pessis.

Christina Vescovo deferred her time to Kelly Pessis.

Marni Kamins deferred her time to Kelly Pessis.

Susan Malzoni deferred her time to Kelly Pessis

Kelly Pessis requested homelessness be addressed as a health and safety crisis. She stated Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey estimated the five-year cost of caring for a homeless person was over $1 million per individual. She stated that equated to over $144 million for Malibu’s current homeless population. She stated health and safety rules were being ignored and the housing first policy was not working. She suggested migrating homeless individuals to areas where services were available. She suggested the City form a homelessness task force with a legal advisory board to define goals and steps to achieve the goals. She discussed a new law in Los Angeles and provided a copy of Los Angeles Municipal Code section 56.11.

Alan Armstrong discussed problems with the timing of the traffic signal at Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Las Flores Canyon Road. He stated motorists making left turns from eastbound PCH onto Las Flores must wait for opposing traffic to have a red light before it was safe to make the turn. He suggested the signal be modified to add a left turn only arrow.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen reported he completed 126 home assessments in 2019. He stated he would offer a refresher class to those previously trained to conduct assessments. He displayed and explained enhancements to the City website’s fire safety page at www.MalibuCity.org/FireSafety. He displayed the new online scheduling app on the website for making appointments for a home assessment. He discussed the status of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). He announced two CWPP public workshops scheduled on Thursday, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 22, at 10:00 a.m. He displayed a new radio for use by staff and fire personnel to communicate during disasters.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated he had conducted a few assessments of multifamily homes and would continue to do so by request.

In response to Chair Frost, Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated approximately 20 or more individuals in Malibu were qualified to conduct home assessments.
In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated there were currently no plans for following up on homeowners whose homes had an assessment completed. He stated the homeowners were under no obligation to correct issues identified in the assessment, and any follow-up was by request only.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas thanked Ms. Pessis for her comments. She stated all current laws were being enforced. She stated the City was evaluating other cities’ ordinances. She discussed a January 13, 2020 City Council agenda item to consider scheduling a City Council Special meeting to discuss homelessness issues. She announced the Homeless Count on January 22, 2020 beginning at 7:00 a.m. and stated the City was still looking for more volunteers. She stated homeless count numbers dictated funding available to the City.

Commissioner Roberts discussed a previous count of homeless encampments. He stated driving up and down PCH would not result in an accurate count. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated outreach workers and law enforcement personnel would conduct the counts in the brush and canyons. She discussed the status of the radio antenna to be installed at Castro Peak. She announced the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes beginning Saturday, January 25, 2020. She stated there have been slight changes to the CERT program. She stated strategies based on a traffic study conducted in August 2019 were now included in the Draft Evacuation Plan. She stated the plan would be presented to the Malibu Disaster Council on Thursday, January 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., after which it would be presented to the City Council in February 2020. She introduced Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist. She stated Public Safety Specialist Kaplan was assisting her with CERT training and homeless issues.

In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the evacuation plan was intended for mass evacuations, such as during a major fire.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated Caltrans had begun removing signage from the Escondido Slope Stabilization Project, including the reduced speed signs.

Public Works Director DuBoux discussed the City’s response to storms over the past month and plans for upcoming storms. He stated there have been no major problems to date.

In response to Chair Frost, Public Works Director DuBoux explained the process for staging equipment and contractor personnel based on forecasts from the City’s weather consultant.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux discussed the status of two guardrail repair and replacement projects.
ITEM 1.C.  COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Roberts agreed with Public Works Director DuBoux that mud flows seemed much less this year than last year. He discussed trash along PCH. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated Caltrans was responsible for maintaining PCH. He discussed the Adopt A Highway program covering certain sections of PCH. Commissioner Roberts discussed a Malibu Times article about using bird dogs in Malibu for firefighters working at night.

Commissioner Skophammer stated he attended Coffee with a Cop. He stated he researched the State law requiring homeowners to clear brush on land owned by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) adjacent to their homes. He expressed frustration that residents were required to conduct and pay for brush clearing on State-owned land. He suggested the City assist with clearing those properties to reduce the fire threat. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen included in a recent grant application a request for funds to assist with brush clearance.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the next Homeless Connect Day was scheduled on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Commissioner Gibbs urged Ms. Pessis to invite her friends and neighbors to volunteer at the Homeless Connect Day to better understand the situation. He encouraged the public to share their suggestions and ideas with members of the City Council prior to the Council’s Special meeting. Public Safety Manager Dueñas encouraged interested community members to attend Homelessness Working Group meetings.

Commissioner Gibbs agreed with Mr. Armstrong’s concerns about the intersection of PCH and Las Flores Canyon Road. He asked if a site visit could be arranged. Public Works Director DuBoux stated staff had been there today and would discuss the issue with Caltrans. Commissioner Gibbs stated the bird dog option might be considered as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) responsibility. He requested the Commissioners receive notifications of safety-related events. Executive Assistant Linden suggested all Commissioners subscribe for e-notifications in the Emergency Preparedness Calendar category on the City website.

Vice Chair Stewart thanked Ms. Pessis for her comments. He stated parking restrictions on PCH and landscaping rules would be discussed at the City Council meeting on January 13, 2020. He suggested the full evacuation plan also include communication plans.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Sergeant Braden explained requirements for Malibu Towing to be authorized to work with the Sheriff’s Department in Malibu. He stated the Lost Hills Station was not opposed to working with Malibu Towing. Vice Chair Stewart discussed reports of street racing on PCH. He commended the members of the Malibu CERT Team and Volunteers on Patrol (VOP).
Chair Frost agreed that the CERT Team and VOP were great assets for the City. He thanked Ms. Perris for her comments and for bringing others to the meeting. He suggested a task force be established for the issues related to parking restrictions in the City. He stated a recent street racing accident near Corral Canyon occurred at the location where Caltrans wanted to install a crosswalk. He agreed with Mr. Armstrong’s suggestion to add a left turn light on PCH at Las Flores Canyon Road. He stated Bob’s Towing was using Kanan Dume Road to tow vehicles over the hill. He stated tow companies must be able to tow larger vehicles. Sergeant Braden stated there were three companies authorized to tow in Malibu.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

B. New Items
1. Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2019
   Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of December 4, 2019.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

A. Traffic Calming Measures and Enforcement for Point Dume (continued from November 6, 2019)
Recommended Action: 1) Receive and file the traffic data collected during the period of September 2019 through December 2019 from the speed advisory signs installed in the Point Dume neighborhood; and 2) receive a presentation regarding the potential locations of additional speed humps in the Point Dume neighborhood; 3) provide feedback to staff; and 4) consider providing a recommendation to the City Council regarding possible locations for installation of additional speed humps in the Point Dume neighborhood.

Public Works Director DuBoux presented the report. He discussed the Speed Hump Policy and discussed which streets in Point Dume could have speed humps installed. He distributed a report of data collected from the speed advisory signs currently installed in the Point Dume neighborhood. He explained the difference between the 85th percentile and average speeds. He stated the 85th percentile was used as the standard for establishing speed limits. He stated the highest speeds over the speed limit were on Dume Drive and Birdview Avenue.
John Mazza stated the supplemental report should be added to the City website. He stated the Planning Commission would review Point Dume Elementary School at the end of the school year. He stated having the community decide about speed humps was inadequate. He stated the Public Safety Commission should review the speed data and make changes, as necessary.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the City’s traffic engineer made a determination about the speed limit on Dume Drive based on a City speed survey. He confirmed that Dume Drive was a collector street. He confirmed that, with the exception of Heathercliff Road, all other streets in Point Dume were considered residential with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian discussed a prior citywide traffic survey that resulted in speed limit recommendations. He stated speed limits on three roads in Point Dume had been lowered. Commissioner Gibbs stated Birdview Avenue had the highest speed limit in Point Dume and the highest number of speeding violations. He expressed concern that the data was based on speeds only where the sign was located and not on the sections of the road where speeding was more likely to occur.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Works Director DuBoux clarified that the Commission could make recommendations different from those listed in the staff report. Commissioner Gibbs asked what criteria was necessary for lowering a speed limit. Public Works Director DuBoux explained that State law mandates how speed limits are set.

Commissioner Roberts questioned whether different areas of a road would have drastically different results if the speed advisory signs were moved. He suggested moving the speed advisory signs and comparing the resulting data with current data. He stated speed humps would probably not be necessary if 85 percent of the vehicles were obeying the speed limit.

Commissioner Skophammer asked if there was accident data for the areas in question. Sergeant Braden and Public Works Director DuBoux stated they could look into getting that data.

Vice Chair Stewart stated the Commission’s original concern was speeding near the school. He discussed maximum speeds listed on the data report. He suggested focusing data collection nearer to the school. Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated there was a sign on Grayfox Street approaching the school.

Commissioner Gibbs stated his greatest concerns were the maximum speeds. He stated a speed hump would prevent those extremely high speeds.
Chair Frost suggested installing a traffic calming measure near the school. He stated it was more needed on Fernhill Drive than on Grayfox Street.

In response to Chair Frost, Public Works Director DuBoux explained that the Speed Hump Policy was used when residents request speed humps to be installed in their neighborhoods.

Commissioner Gibbs noted that more streets than those directly adjacent to the school needed to be considered since students walked to school using those streets.

Commissioner Skophammer suggested recommending a crossing guard.

In response to Chair Frost, Mr. Mazza stated he agreed with installing speed humps on Dume Drive and Fernhill Drive. He stated motorists on Fernhill Drive also went into the oncoming traffic lane to go around vehicles waiting to enter the school.

**MOTION** Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to: 1) Receive and file the traffic data collected during the period of September 2019 through December 2019 from the speed advisory signs installed in the Point Dume neighborhood; and 2) provide a recommendation to the City Council to consider directing Public Works staff to install speed humps on Dume Drive and on Fernhill Drive, between Grayfox Street and Cliffside Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Public Safety Work Plan for 2020**
Recommended Action: Receive and file report regarding the Public Safety Work Plan for 2020 and provide feedback to staff.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She discussed recent audits that criticized Ventura County for not communicating in Spanish with its Spanish-speaking population. She stated the City was looking into options for translating alerts into Spanish. She discussed a grant received that could provide funding for conducting CERT background checks. She discussed the City’s recent request for proposals for its mass notification system. She stated Civic Plus, the City’s website provider, was the preferred proposal. She stated the City chose to concurrently contract with both Civic Plus and Everbridge to ensure there was a working system for mass notifications while the new system was implemented and evaluated.

**B. CERT Team Program Guidelines**
Recommended Action: Receive and file report regarding the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Guidelines and provide feedback to staff.
Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She stated the CERT Program Guidelines (Guidelines) would be amended to include background checks for CERT. She stated the CERT Team would be supportive of functioning as bird dogs, as suggested by Commissioner Roberts.

Commissioner Roberts stated civilians acting as bird dogs would not be allowed to ride on fire department equipment. He stated they would likely be communicating from a car.

Chair Frost stated bird dogs would need to know all the locations where water was available for the responding fire agencies.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated using CERT as bird dogs could be added to the Guidelines with the requirement that all deployed individuals were knowledgeable with the specific area where they were assigned.

Vice Chair Stewart stated the Sheriff’s Department had indicated that, due to training requirements, CERT volunteers should not be involved with traffic control. Public Safety Manager Dueñas concurred and stated the Guidelines would be edited to clarify that CERT may assist with roadblocks, but not direct traffic.

Commissioner Skophammer discussed his CERT training experience. He stated the Guidelines seem to treat CERT as more of a City entity than a community organization. He stated that was counter to his understanding of the CERT mandate.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained the difference between those who completed the CERT training classes and members of the CERT Team.

Donna Gilbert, CERT Team member, stated Team members were covered by insurance only when they were deployed by the City.

Peter Banner, CERT Team member, stated CERT Team members provided assistance during the Woolsey Fire before being deployed. He stated when deployed, they knew where to go and specifically what needed to be done. He discussed advanced training members of the CERT Team received. He stated waiting to be deployed did not prohibit CERT Team members from helping their neighbors.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated that, immediately upon deployment, CERT Team members became official Disaster Service Workers.

Richard Garvey, CERT Team member, discussed what the CERT Team did when activated during the Woolsey Fire. He stated there was no micromanagement, so
they worked based on the advanced training they received that fit within the directions they were given.

Vice Chair Stewart asked how the CERT Team training compared with Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training. Public Safety Manager Dueñas confirmed the CERT Team completed basic EOC training and had been given specific assignments within the EOC. She stated that clarification of EOC assignments would be added to the CERT Program Guidelines.

C. Public Safety Agency Activity

Recommended Action: Discuss recent Public Safety Agency activities and receive and file monthly activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, Fire Department and Lifeguard Division.

Sergeant Braden discussed statistics that had increased over the past year, including burglaries and robberies. He explained the different types of robberies and the status of arrest investigations. He discussed how visitor populations and the Woolsey Fire had affected statistical trends.

At 7:41 p.m., Commissioner Roberts left the dais.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Sergeant Braden stated public education about crime prevention would be beneficial. Sergeant Braden stated approximately 75 percent of the locked vehicle burglaries were committed by individuals from outside the Lost Hills Station jurisdiction. He stated unlocked vehicle burglaries or thefts were more evenly committed by individuals from within and outside the Lost Hills Station jurisdiction.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Sergeant Braden stated public awareness was important. He suggested placing signs in hotels reminding visitors to not leave valuables in their cars.

Commissioner Skophammer asked if there was something homeowners whose homes burned in the Woolsey Fire could do to prevent theft from their properties during rebuilding. Sergeant Braden stated many homeowners had locked storage units. He stated homeowners should be advised to secure their construction sites.

Commissioner Gibbs stated that type of educational information could be included in the public safety newsletter.

Executive Assistant Linden announced that California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara would hold a town hall at City Hall on Thursday, January 30, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by one-on-one consultations with Insurance Commission staff.
In response to Chair Frost, Guy Blake stated the VOP regularly patrolled burn areas to watch for suspicious activity.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:52 p.m., Commissioner Gibbs moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Roberts absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on February 5, 2020.

CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:

MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant