

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2022
TELECONFERENCED – VARIOUS LOCATIONS
5:00 P.M.

The following meeting was held pursuant to AB 361 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Chair Chris Frost; Vice Chair Doug Stewart; Commissioners Daphne Anneet, Keegan Gibbs, and Joshua Spiegel; and Ex Officio Member Brent Woodworth

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Gabe Etcheverry, Fire Safety Liaison; Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison; Brandie Ayala, Senior Administrative Assistant; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Lieutenant Chad Watters, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Fire Safety Liaison Etcheverry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Vice Chair Stewart seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on March 31, 2022.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Epstein was not present at the time of the hearing.

Jo Drummond discussed a fire in Chatsworth today. She stated she looked forward to hearing more about the City's fire prevention plans.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Works Director DuBoux stated City staff was working with Caltrans on better traffic control at the Trancas Creek Bridge Replacement Project. He stated the City completed its speed survey and reported that speed limits on several streets would be reduced. He stated Civic Center Way between Malibu Canyon Road to Webb Way would be reduced from 40 miles per hour (mph) to 35 mph.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced the Commission's recommendation to increase parking citation fines would go to the City Council on April 11, and the impound site would go to the Council on April 25. She stated she continued to follow up on Flock cameras and began the purchase process. She stated the City Attorney was reviewing the Flock Agreement and the County was reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for managing the data. She discussed the status of the Fire Safety Liaison recruitment, which would close next week. She stated a request for proposals (RFP) was issued for homeless outreach services. She stated Public Safety Specialist Kaplan was working on a Hazard Mitigation Grant application for a home hardening rebate program.

Fire Safety Liaison Etcheverry stated some structures were threatened by the fire in Chatsworth today. He discussed the long-range weather forecast of extended heat waves and above-normal temperatures. He stated high winds were not expected.

Public Safety Liaison Flores discussed the City Council Special meeting on March 24, 2022 regarding the Homelessness Task Force's Alternative Sleeping Location (ASL) Action Plan. He stated the Council approved moving forward with pursuing the establishment of an ASL outside Malibu with non-City funding.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ex Officio Member Woodworth discussed the impact of past fires on increased heating effect and winds. He discussed home ignition zone training. He stated residents were concerned about Fire Department enforcement of home hardening. He suggested working with the County Board of Supervisors to have the Agriculture Department assist with enforcement. He stated the brigades were looking for funding for equipment.

Commissioner Gibbs commended the Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol (CHP) for taking a stronger stance on enforcement of speeding in the canyons. He stated he met with Megan Currier, Fire Department Community Services Liaison, who said she could generate maps identifying collisions with dates, times, and injury statistics. He stated he would request a series of the heat maps to assist with scheduling of law enforcement.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Fire Safety Liaison Etcheverry discussed the Fire Mitigation Grant for which the City was applying and how the grant funds

would be issued. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated it would be helpful to incentivize homeowners to do more.

Commissioner Spiegel requested an update on implementation of license plate readers. Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County. She stated the agreement with Flock was under review by the City Attorney's office. She stated it would take approximately three to four months to get the cameras up and running and deputies trained once agreements were in place.

In response to Commissioner Spiegel, Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated brush clearance started in Malibu on June 1 and throughout the County on May 1. He commended Lieutenant Watters and Acting Captain Fender for cracking down on car shows.

Vice Chair Stewart commended Commissioner Gibbs for requesting a heat map about traffic incidents. He thanked the Sheriff's Department for their work on car shows and racing. He stated permits may be necessary for the Flock cameras. He agreed with trying to get the Agriculture Department to assist the Fire Department with fire inspections. He discussed Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA Rangers) and homelessness. He announced a blood drive at City Hall this Friday, April 8. He requested additional Sheriff enforcement of recreational vehicles (RVs) parked throughout the City. He stated the City of Los Angeles had reinstated its no camping ordinance. He discussed the status of Alert FM. He stated installation of the antenna at Malibu Bluffs Park required a permit. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she and the City Manager met with Hans Laetz last week. Vice Chair Stewart announced a new Captain for the Malibu-Lost Hills Station should be announced on May 5.

Chair Frost agreed with Vice Chair Stewart that installing the antenna was important to improve communication. He discussed the risk of traffic incidents at the Trancas Bridge Replacement Project. He stated Public Works Director DuBoux advised him that Caltrans was including cameras at intersections in the signal synchronization project. He suggested hiring three part-time Fire Safety Liaisons instead of one full-time liaison. He commended Public Safety staff for their efforts on fire mitigation, including the Fire Mitigation grant application. He commended Todd Prince and members of Arson Watch.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

Item Nos. 3.B.1. and 3.B.2. were pulled by the public.

MOTION Commissioner Spiegel moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, except for Item Nos. 3.B.1. and 3.B.2. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following item:

A. Previously Discussed Items

1. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2022 (continued from March 2, 2022)
Recommended Action: Approve minutes for the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of February 2, 2022.

The following items were pulled from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration:

B. New Items

1. Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2022 Public Works Commission and Public Safety Commission Joint Special Meeting
Recommended Action: Approve minutes for the Public Works Commission and Public Safety Commission Joint Special Meeting of February 23, 2022.

Alex Stein was not present at the time of the hearing.

MOTION Chair Frost moved, and Vice Chair Stewart seconded a motion to approve minutes for the Public Works Commission and Public Safety Commission Joint Special Meeting of February 23, 2022. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2022
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of March 2, 2022.

Alex Stein was not present at the time of the hearing.

MOTION Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Spiegel seconded a motion to approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of March 2, 2022. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendations for Commission Assignments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023
Recommended Action: Review Public Safety Commission assignments from FY 2021-2022, remove completed assignments, add new topics for consideration, and recommend that the City Council approve the revised task list for assignment in FY 2022-2023.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report.

Ryan Embree suggested the Commission request an assignment to review effectiveness of battery backup systems on PCH traffic signals and critical wireless transmission facilities in Malibu. He suggested the February 23, 2022 minutes be amended to include his recommendations about angled parking.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated backup battery systems from Topanga Canyon Road to John Tyler Drive would be upgraded with the signal synchronization project. He stated he received updates from Caltrans on its routine maintenance, including battery backup systems. In response to Chair Frost, Public Works Director DuBoux stated all generators were wired from Kanan Dume Road to the California Incline in Santa Monica.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux stated there would be auxiliary power would be on the new cabinets by the end of the fiscal year. Vice Chair Stewart stated he had agreed with Mr. Embree about diagonal parking, but it was not recommended by the Commissions at the joint meeting.

Commissioner Spiegel stated he wanted to focus on exploring and providing a recommendation for a permanent, year-round tow yard. He stated a solution for summer 2023 should also be in the list of assignments.

Commissioner Anneet stated she agreed with including searching for alternate solutions for a permanent tow yard. She stated she received input from the community about that issue. She suggested other properties might be available to lease from private landowners.

Commissioner Spiegel agreed with Commissioner Anneet. He stated he had spoken with some private property owners about possibly leasing their land for a tow yard.

Chair Frost stated he had been looking for an optional tow yard site for over two years.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth suggested adding a review resiliency of water and power utilities in Malibu. He suggested continuing review of logistical support needed during evacuations.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated infrastructure resiliency would be reviewed at a tabletop exercise in September.

Commissioner Spiegel suggested adding potential expansion of Arson Watch's role with the City and Sheriff's Department. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated it was not a City program and would have to be addressed by the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Spiegel suggested forming an ad hoc committee to get things started.

MOTION Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Anneet seconded a motion to recommend that the City Council approve that all assignments from the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 task list, except the Public Safety Newsletter, be reassigned in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with the addition of: 1) Search for a permanent location for an impound site; 2) Search for an alternative to the Heathercliff property for location of a temporary impound site for summer 2023; and 3) Provide input and feedback on potential Fire Prevention and Hazard Mitigation grants and projects. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Public Safety Agency Activity

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

Ryan Embree requested noteworthy events be dated and listed in chronological order. He asked if two transient incidents in the report were related. He discussed a traffic accident at Stuart Ranch Road and Civic Center Way. He stated it should indicate Webb Way, the public street. He asked for clarification of zero parking citations reported. He discussed a tsunami concern.

Jo Drummond thanked the Sheriff's Department for increased traffic enforcement. She asked how CHP officers were deployed on Big Rock. She discussed Beach Patrol deployment. She asked if the fire evacuation process was coordinated with the Sheriff's Department. She stated brush clearance was needed in Big Rock.

Bill Sampson agreed with Ms. Drummond about the need for considering the reallocation of Beach Patrol deputies. He stated the City spent a lot of money patrolling someone else's beaches and highways.

Chair Frost stated CHP officers on Big Rock were part of Hunter Biden's detail.

Lieutenant Watters discussed the Beach Team deployment. He stated the number of deputies varied on different days throughout the summer. He stated other Sheriff's personnel may also be onsite. He discussed problems addressed by the Beach Team. He stated the Sheriff's Department was taking many steps to address problems with car shows. He stated there was a zero tolerance policy with speeding and modified exhaust systems. He stated there were 1,293 parking citations issued in March. He discussed a DUI checkpoint conducted in Malibu. He discussed Safe Canyons 184 citations issued in March. In response to Mr. Embree, he stated dates could be added to reported incidents. He confirmed that the two transient incidents in the report were not related. He recommended the City tighten up its no camping ordinances to allow stronger enforcement. He expressed support for Lieutenant Fender being named Captain of the Lost Hills Station.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the no camping ordinance was updated in August 2021.

Chair Frost discussed the difficulty of enforcing the City's current no camping ordinance. He discussed the Coastal Commission's role. He stated the Commission supported making the ordinance easier to enforce.

In response to Chair Frost, Lieutenant Watters stated the recent death in Trancas Canyon was an isolated incident. In response to Commissioner Spiegel, Lieutenant Watters discussed the enforcement of car shows over the past weekend. He stated they addressed the greater problem of when the vehicles left the parking lots and were speeding on PCH.

Commissioner Spiegel discussed Arson Watch applications pending at the station. He commended Lieutenant Watters and Acting Captain Fender.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Lieutenant Watters stated the recent increase in crime in Santa Monica was not moving into Malibu. He stated it was mostly related to the new rail line between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth thanked Lieutenant Watters and others in the Lost Hills Station for addressing issues in the canyons.

Commissioner Gibbs asked about the number of visitors to Zuma Beach.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:00 p.m., Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to adjourn. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on May 4, 2022.



CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:


MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant