

MINUTES  
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
TELECONFERENCED - VARIOUS LOCATIONS  
5:00 P.M.

**The following meeting was held pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Brandie Ayala, Senior Administrative Assistant; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Vice Chair Stewart moved and Commissioner Gibbs 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 July 30, 2020.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Mazza thanked the Commission for recommending the installation of speed humps on Point Dume.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Works Director DuBoux discussed a petition received for additional speed humps on Birdview Avenue. He explained the City's policy for requesting speed humps, which required that 60 percent of the affected neighborhood be in favor of installing speed humps. He stated all information would be confirmed by staff before taking the petition to the City

Council for direction and approval of funding. He stated staff was working with the contractor on speed hump installation on Dume Drive and Fernhill Road

Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated Caltrans held a preconstruction meeting for a slurry project including dig outs and striping on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) between Cross Creek Road and Corral Canyon Road. He stated all work would be done at night with one lane open at all times. He stated the project would take 90 days to complete.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed a virtual pre-fire exercise scheduled tomorrow with outside agencies, including the Fire Department and law enforcement agencies. She stated the exercise would include sheltering and evacuations of a fire during the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed scheduled cleanup of homeless encampments in Legacy Park will and Tuna Canyon. She discussed home assessments being conducted by the Fire Safety Liaison.

#### ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Skophammer discussed possible speed humps on Birdview Avenue and Cliffside Drive. He suggested road repairs be done as part of any speed hump installation project. Public Works Director DuBoux agreed to look into including those repairs. Commissioner Skophammer stated the Trancas Canyon turnout was being patrolled regularly. He stated roping it off was helping to keep crowds away.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Works Director DuBoux confirmed the Trancas Creek Bridge Project was expected to be a two-year project.

Vice Chair Stewart thanked Public Safety Manager Dueñas for allowing him to participate in a recent tabletop exercise. He discussed the unfortunate first death of the summer on PCH. He commended Public Works staff for the speed humps being installed on Dume Drive and Fernhill Drive. He thanked John Mazza for bringing it to the Commission. He requested an update on backup generators and protective cages for PCH traffic signals.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated Caltrans notified the City in June that transfer switch for the signals on PCH was ready. He stated staff conducted a successful test run of transferring power to the generator. He stated Caltrans would not provide a key to the enclosure around the transfer switch until a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was in place. He discussed deployment of the generators during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the backup generators would not provide power to water pumps. He stated procedures for operating Procedures the generators and transfer switch would be implemented soon. He stated the City continued to coordinate for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to be able to flip the switch.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux stated he would investigate and report back about generators for the water pumps in Big Rock.

Vice Chair Stewart requested an update on parking restrictions along PCH between Corral Canyon to the Malibu Pier. Public Works Director DuBoux explained steps required to implement the new parking restrictions, as was done for Las Tunas.

Chair Frost stated the Malibu Pier area had been excluded from proposed parking restrictions due to circumstances that could delay approval. He discussed traffic history on Point Dume and previous discussions of speed humps. He stated traffic navigation apps resulted in increased traffic through residential streets. He stated Broad Beach residents were also discussing speed humps. He discussed the impact of overflow parking near local beaches. He discussed a large party in Beverly Crest and expressed concern about the potential for large gatherings or parties in Malibu. He discussed motorhomes parked on the beach side of PCH near Corral Canyon. He stated beachgoers were forced to park on the inland side and run across the highway.

#### CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Commission requested development of a comprehensive Public Safety Plan be added to a future agenda.

#### ITEM 2      CONSENT CALENDAR

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

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A.      Previously Discussed Items  
None.

B.      New Items

1.      Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2020

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of July 1, 2020.

#### ITEM 3      OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4      NEW BUSINESS

A.      Outdoor Warning Siren Study Report

Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council concerning the consultant's report regarding options for an emergency siren system for the City.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She stated the sound study was the first step in the process. She stated the study would show how the sirens would function both inside and outside, in good weather or during Santa Ana wind conditions. She introduced Patrick McFeely and Brian Malinich of Mission Critical Partners.

Mr. McFeely explained an outdoor warning system was used to alert large areas of the population. He offered a presentation on the Malibu study conducted by Mission Critical Partners. He discussed how the study addressed Malibu's topography.

Mr. Malinich discussed various examples of sound and ambient noise levels. He stated levels that could be heard inside a building were included at the request of Public Safety Manager Dueñas. He stated it was understood the main reason for a siren system in Malibu was to alert for fires and had to be heard in Santa Ana conditions. He explained the differences between high and low power sirens, as well as voice announcements. He stated three system scenarios were being presented. He stated Mission Critical Partners recommended Scenario 2, which was a mix of high and low power sirens. He stated a low power siren could be used in the Zuma and Civic Center areas and high power sirens in canyons and hills. He recommended placement of sirens on an area's northern boundary since winds would push the sound southward.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained that Scenario 1 included installation on six City-owned properties that were identified in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the City's application for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding from FEMA.

Mr. Malinich explained that Scenario 3 would allow for announcements throughout the City through all low power sirens.

Mr. McFeely stated the cost for a system with 20 to 30 sirens would be approximately \$1.2 million to \$1.9 million, not including the cost for site acquisition and environmental studies. He stated a solar option was included, which was a lower cost than systems using utility power.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas reiterated the sound study was step one with step two being system design. She stated the City would need to hire a consultant to design to shovel ready project prior to construction. She discussed permits that

would be required. She stated the grant application was for just under \$1 million. She discussed additional costs, such as implementation, operation and maintenance costs.

John Mazza indicated he was not in support of a siren system for Malibu. He discussed inefficiencies of sirens on the north shore of Hawaii. He stated required testing freaked out new residents while long-term residents tended to ignore the tests. He discussed problems with locations near the ocean. He suggested purchasing battery-powered radios, which were more effective. He discussed the lengthy process for approval of each pole location.

Commissioner Roberts agreed with Mr. Mazza. He stated sirens in Hawaii were not very useful. He indicated opposition to a siren system.

Mr. McFeely explained how newer system differed from Hawaii's system. He discussed different tones used for testing versus an actual emergency.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed monitoring of the sirens. She stated the City would coordinate with the Sheriff's Department and Fire Department.

Mr. McFeely stated systems could be set off individually or by group, and could be directly activated from the siren.

Commissioner Roberts asked who would be responsible for activating the sirens. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated there would be a standardized plan.

Commissioner Skophammer discussed how other communities used sirens for tornados. In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she spoke to representatives in Laguna Beach and Sonoma County regarding their siren systems. She stated Santa Rosa was not in favor of sirens.

Commissioner Gibbs thanked the consultants for a thorough presentation. He discussed community pressure for a warning system after the Woolsey Fire. He expressed concern about reliance on sirens. He discussed issues of ingress and egress in Latigo, Corral and other canyon areas. He discussed problems of being restricted to install within the City boundaries. He discussed the 2007 Corral Fire and issues related to cost and working with the County. He expressed concern for notifying hikers and outside visitors. He suggested utilizing the City's radio frequency. He stated he was not in favor of the siren proposal.

Vice Chair Stewart thanked the consultants and Public Safety Manager Dueñas for the report and proposal. He agreed with Mr. Mazza about people not receiving the notification. He discussed difficulty reaching people with disabilities. He stated the City needs an alert system and advisory system.

Mr. McFeely discussed devices in the market, including FM alert radios and tone alert radios.

Vice Chair Stewart stated it was only \$20 to purchase a battery-operated radio. He suggested sending alerts through the City's local radio station at 1610 AM. He suggested investigating other options.

Mr. Malinich stated sirens were just one tool. He stated outdoor warnings may only reach 30 percent of the people, but a combination of other tools would reach a majority of the population.

Commissioner Gibbs stated radios would work in the daytime during a red flag event. He stated finding a way to waken residents during the night in a red flag event was the challenge.

Mr. McFeely stated a tone alert or FM radio would alert residents with disabilities. He discussed the problem of high turnover of people moving and making sure radios stayed in the house.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested incorporating radios with building requirements, as is done with carbon monoxide detectors.

Chair Frost discussed past considerations of using simple radios. He stated the Commission should focus more on recommendations based on need rather than budget. He discussed problems alerting visitors. He stated one size does not fit all and agreed the City should look at a combination of different options.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas agreed it was important to identify priorities, such as waking people during the night or how to alert visitors. She suggested the Commission help identify the goals and priorities.

Vice Chair Stewart agreed with the need to determine priorities. He stated it was urgent that the Commission report back to the Council about what had been discussed thus far and advise residents that the Commission is working on identifying a solution.

Commissioner Skophammer agreed with the need to identify an effective solution. He suggested forming a subcommittee to pursue this and report back to the Commission. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the Commission could request staff bring back additional solutions. Commissioner Skophammer stated specific recommendations for waking residents at night was critical.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested making a Commission report at the next City Council meeting.

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to: 1) Receive and file the Outdoor Warning Siren Study Report; and 2) request an item be brought back as soon as possible with other options to consider as alternatives to sirens for alerting the community and visitors of a fire or other impending disaster threat with a specific focus on nighttime warnings. The question was called and the motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Roberts dissenting.

Commissioner Roberts asked how many fires there had been in Malibu over the years. He stated people died in the 1993 Topanga Fire.

Commissioner Gibbs stated it was important to give people time to prepare to evacuate. He discussed the 2007 Corral Fire when there was no cell service to notify people.

Commissioner Roberts agreed with the need, but stated sirens were not the answer.

Chair Frost stated it was important to look at all options. He clarified the motion was also about other options and not just about sirens as the only options.

B. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Public Survey

Recommended Action: Receive and file a report on the results of the online public survey conducted by the City's consultant in support of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development and provide feedback to staff.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She stated this plan would be specific to Malibu and address the needs of Malibu's neighborhoods. She discussed another CWPP that covered the Santa Monica Mountains area. She discussed the grant for which staff had applied. She stated the consultant would incorporate into the plan comments from the two community meetings held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as results from the online survey.

Commissioner Gibbs stated there was an apparent misunderstanding about City policy and how the City operates during emergencies like wildfires.

Chair Frost stated some of the comments were brutal and showed a lot of fear within the community. He discussed low participation before the Woolsey Fire and higher commentary after the fire.

Vice Chair Stewart stated the response was based on far more than the fire. He stated the responses represented probably 10 percent of the City. He suggested making the results public.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained that this review of the survey results by the Commission was the first step. She stated the results could be posted on the fire safety webpage. She stated staff could work with the City's media team to make sure people knew they were heard.

Commissioner Gibbs suggested first addressing some of the bigger issues, such as notifications, trust and transparency.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained there was a misunderstanding that the City did not send notifications. She stated the problem actually was that people did not receive those notifications when the power was down. She stated the City had its mass notification provider purchase a listing of all cell phone numbers registered in Malibu to ensure the system included at least one number per household.

Commissioner Roberts agreed with Public Safety Manager Dueñas about the notifications. He stated that was another justification for using radios.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested the Commission review the survey results and identify the most urgent, useful information.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated it was important to try to remove the anger and bring back the identified issues. She stated communications was shown most often. She stated the City was addressing that to make sure messages were more effective and include more direction in the messages.

Commissioner Skophammer stated the results should be integrated into the Public Safety Plan.

MOTION Vice Chair Stewart moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to: 1) Receive and file a report on the results of the online public survey conducted by the City's consultant in support of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development; 2) request staff post the survey results on the City website and communicate that to the community through the City's normal communication channels; and 3) incorporate survey comments in any Public Safety Strategic Plan proposed for the City. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. Trancas Creek Bridge Replacement and Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) at Trancas Canyon Road Right Turn Lane Projects  
Recommended Action: Receive and file report on Caltrans' Trancas Creek Bridge Replacement project and the City's PCH at Trancas Canyon Road Right Turn Lane project.



Public Works Director DuBoux presented the report. He stated Caltrans made the recommendation to replace the old bridge after discovering damage on the bottom of the 96-year old bridge. He provided a presentation showing where the new bridge would be larger and wider to handle anticipated stormwater flows. He discussed the timeline and stated it would take approximately 27 months to complete. He discussed how environmental elements of the creek impacted the work schedule. He stated utilities would be temporarily moved and temporary traffic signals and pedestrian/bicycle lanes would be installed at Guernsey during Phase One. He provided a presentation on the City's project to install a dedicated westbound right turn lane on PCH at Trancas Canyon Road. He stated Measure R funds would be used for design and construction. He stated no City General Funds would be necessary. He displayed how the new lane would allow motorists to safely access the shopping center and turn onto Trancas Canyon Road. He discussed relocation of the crosswalk at the intersection.

Chair Frost expressed concern about the narrow bike lane. He stated it should be at least eight to 10 feet wide.

Commissioner Roberts thanked staff for accomplishing this long overdue project.

Commissioner Skophammer expressed concerns about the safety of putting the crosswalk on the grade. Public Works Director DuBoux stated he would reconsider that plan.

D. Request for Sheriff's Department Transparency

Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department requesting transparency and copies of certain records.

Commissioner Gibbs discussed recent reports of Sheriff gangs. He stated he hoped the Council would send a letter to the Sheriff's Department requesting full transparency.

Commissioner Skophammer stated transparency was a very broad term. He stated the Commission needed to be able to evaluate if the Sheriff's Department was doing what the City was asking them to do. He questioned if the Sheriff's Department was in line with national statistics.

Commissioner Gibbs suggested sending a letter to the Malibu/Lost Hills Station requesting records of deputies assigned in the Malibu area.

Chair Frost stated Lieutenant Braden had advised him statistical information requested by Commissioner Skophammer was being prepared. He stated information related to investigations and open case details could not be shared.

Commissioner Skophammer agreed with Commissioner Gibbs about sending a letter requesting the deputy records.

In response to Chair Frost, Commissioner Gibbs clarified his request for information and the lack of transparency with the Sheriff's Department. He stated a 2018 State law required the Sheriff's Department to release records of misconduct by deputies. He stated personal information was not expected.

Vice Chair Stewart suggesting talking to Lieutenant Braden before writing any letter.

Commissioner Gibbs stated transparency included disclosing misconduct complaints against deputies serving Malibu.

Chair Frost suggested Commissioner Gibbs discuss his concerns with Lieutenant Braden and bring back a draft of the letter he would want the Council to send.

Mary – Motion continue to the following meeting and in the meantime Commissioner Gibbs would meet with the Sheriff's Department to discuss the

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to continue this item until after Commissioner Gibbs could meet with Lieutenant Braden and bring back a draft letter for consideration by the Commission. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Skophammer suggested asking how the Sheriff's Department would do if a deputy was found not to be fit for duty.

Chair Frost stated accountability was critical.

- E. Public Safety Agency Activities  
Recommend 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.

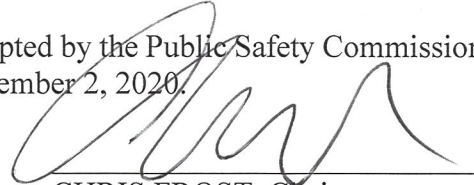
#### CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Commission agreed to receive and file activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Lifeguard Division.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 8:07 p.m., Commissioner Roberts 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 September 2, 2020.



CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:



MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant