

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 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 5:01 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, and Dale Skophammer

ABSENT: Commissioner Fred Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Brandie Ayala, Senior Administrative Assistant; Heather Glaser, City Clerk; Deputy Michael Cerveny, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Roberts absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on August 26, 2020 and the Amended Agenda posted on August 28, 2020.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tara Becerra was not present at the time of the hearing.

Joshua Spiegel thanked the Commissioners and staff for serving Malibu. He discussed an increase of transients breaking into homes on Broad Beach Road. He asked if there was a way the City could communicate information about issues like that to residents similar to how residents can share with one another through Nextdoor.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed a web-based virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) being developed for the City by Oracle. She discussed preparations made for high heat expected over the upcoming Labor Day weekend and large crowds expected at local beaches. She stated the City's communications team met today to discuss protocols and plans for the holiday weekend.

Public Works Director DuBoux discussed plans to replace a Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) car that was damaged. He stated the bailment agreement would go to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in coming weeks and it would be two to six weeks to receive the new vehicle. He stated City crews were continuing to pick up trash along Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and at beach access areas.

Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated he was still working on home assessments, and requests continued to come in. He discussed a recent meeting he and Chair Frost had regarding a volunteer firefighter brigade.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Skophammer discussed unsafe turns at Merritt and Busch Drive. He suggested installing candlesticks. He discussed a recent accident on PCH near Corral Canyon Road and expressed concern about summer safety. He discussed issues with traffic backups on Kanan Dume Road between PCH and the valley. He stated backups could seriously impact evacuations during emergencies, possibly by more than an hour. He suggested people be directed to use Decker Canyon Road.

Commissioner Gibbs stated he would save his comments for specific agenda items.

Vice Chair Stewart congratulated Commissioner Gibbs on the birth of his child. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas confirmed the virtual EOC was created to function outside of City Hall. She stated the system was cloud-based with capability for all staff to access it remotely.

In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux explained the VOP car had been considered totaled by the insurance adjuster, so the new car would be a replacement. He stated the City had three VOP vehicles.

Vice Chair Stewart commended the City for good progress on the speed humps in Point Dume. He discussed a car club gathering in Cross Creek on the past weekend. He stated the property owners did not want them there, and the Sheriff's Department was called. He thanked Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen for contacting his homeowners association (HOA) regarding inspections. He stated the HOA would reach out to the homeowners. He requested an update on blue Botts dots and emergency backup generators for traffic signals.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated City crews were replacing blue Botts dots after consultation with Caltrans and the Fire Department. He stated the City received the

emergency generators for the signals, and Caltrans installed the transfer switches. He stated the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Caltrans and the City was still in process. He stated once it was executed, Caltrans would hand off the key to the transfer switch. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) could not operate the switch until the MOU was finalized.

Vice Chair Stewart reported the City Council held the first reading for parking restrictions on PCH at Corral Canyon Road and in the Zuma area.

Chair Frost discussed parking issues on PCH at Corral Canyon Road and Zuma area. He discussed changes in traffic over the years. He stated traffic today is dangerous. He stated the Sheriff's Department is aware, but residents need to also be aware. He discussed illegal parking, including parking on sidewalks and blocking driveways. He discussed towing in the City. He agreed with Commissioner Skophammer on the issues at Merritt Drive and Busch Drive.

In response to Commissioner Skophammer, Public Works Director DuBoux confirmed there was a stop sign on Merritt Drive. Commissioner Skophammer suggested adding a stop sign on the downhill. Public Works Director DuBoux explained the warrant process required for installing stop signs. In response to Chair Frost, he stated this was not included in the current Work Plan. He stated he would review the budget for possible funding.

Commissioner Skophammer suggested also considering Heathercliff Road and Wandermere Road, as well as Cliffside Drive and Fernhill Drive. Chair Frost requested staff report back at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Stewart stated Malibu Towing was no longer the tow company used for Malibu. Chair Frost confirmed the Sheriff's Department was now contracted with Sierra Towing.

Chair Frost discussed the left turn from Kanan Dume Drive and PCH. He stated a dual left turn lane should be considered,

Safety Liaison Vandermeulen provided an updated on live fuel moisture levels. He stated it was only a few percentage points different from last year at this time. He explained the significance of keeping an eye on it. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated it could possibly hit 60% sooner than last year.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Vice Chair Stewart moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Roberts absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items

None.

B. New Items

1. Approval of Minutes – August 5, 2020

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of August 5, 2020.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

A. National Preparedness Month Activities

Recommended Action: Receive and file a report regarding National Preparedness Month activities in Malibu.

Public Safety Specialist Kaplan presented the report. She discussed the American Red Cross virtual presentation last night on sheltering during the pandemic. She announced a test of the City's disaster notification system would be conducted on September 4 at 4:00 p.m. She discussed the nine trainings scheduled in September. She asked the Commissioners to encourage all residents to participate.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas commended Public Safety Specialist Kaplan for her efforts related to National Preparedness Month. She stated many residents had already signed up for the events. She stated the strong interest was encouraging.

B. CERT Team Fire Season Preparedness Activities

Recommended Action: Receive and file a report regarding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities to help prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Public Safety Specialist Kaplan presented the report. She introduced Richard Garvey, Malibu CERT Team. She discussed the CERT Team's efforts to ensure the emergency bins were fully stocked and in good condition. She commended the CERT Team for their dedication, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated the Team remained focused on being prepared for a potential fire emergency. She stated bins were stocked with first aid supplies, equipment and other provisions. She stated supplies purchased by the City in the early stages of the pandemic in preparation for possible interruptions in the supply chain were now being moved to the emergency bins.

Mr. Garvey agreed with Public Safety Specialist Kaplan that monitoring the bins was an ongoing, critical process.

Commissioner Gibbs requested an update on the AM station acquisition and how the City intended to use the station for emergency communication. Mr. Garvey

stated the station would be a low power broadcast system and that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) allowed power to be increased during an emergency. He discussed the City's AM 1620 and AM 1610 frequencies. He stated Duke's Restaurant would allow City equipment to be installed on its property.

Commissioner Gibbs discussed the need to have options for contacting sleeping residents in canyons when a fire breaks out at night. He asked if the City could send warning messages or tones over the AM radio station. He requested clarification of the FCC restrictions.

Vice Chair Stewart discussed different types of radios.

Chair Frost stated a former Emergency Preparedness Coordinator had recommended the use of weather radios. He asked if they were still a viable option.

Mr. Garvey announced that as of 2:00 p.m. today, the City's repeater on Castro Peak was running. He stated it would cover the Malibu Park, Malibu West, Point Dume, and Saddlepeak areas. In response to Chair Frost, he stated the City was not working with the repeater on Catalina Island. He stated a test of the Castro Peak repeater was conducted today. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Mr. Garvey confirmed a test of coverage in eastern Malibu would take place tomorrow. Vice Chair Stewart suggested the test include the Big Rock area.

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Commission agreed to hear Item No. 4.D. before Item No. 4.C.

D. 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.

Deputy Cerveny discussed the Sheriff's Department's crime impact team's summer operations. He stated additional operations would be conducted in Malibu in the coming months.

Vice Chair Stewart stated burglaries of locked versus unlocked vehicles were higher in July and lower in August. He suggested the recently announced DUI checkpoint might be more successful if it was not publicized in advance. Deputy Cerveny stated it could help prevent some people from drinking and driving. He discussed other violations found during checkpoints.

C. Parking Citation Penalties

Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding revisions to the City's Schedule of Parking Citation Penalties.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report.

Commissioner Gibbs suggested addressing specific trouble areas in the City where violations were more prevalent.

Chair Frost stated parking in front of fire hydrants was common. He stated the fine needed to be high enough to be a deterrent. He agreed the schedule of penalties needed to be updated. He suggested increasing fines for parking in No Parking areas with tow away signs, parking in front of a hydrant, parking on sidewalks, and parking over the fogline.

Vice Chair Stewart agreed with Commissioner Gibbs. He questioned what neighboring cities charged.

Chair Frost discussed differences between Malibu and other cities, such as Calabasas or Agoura Hills. He stated Malibu was more visitor-serving.

Mark Russo, VOP, discussed the VOP monthly report of ticketing activity. He stated the report indicated the type of tickets written. He stated obeying signs and markings was the top violation with 2,830 tickets issued last month. He stated that citation was not correctable. He stated the second and third violations most often cited were both correctable. He stated 2,263 tickets were issued for expired registration tabs and 5,200 vehicles were cited for not having a license plate on the front or back of the vehicle. He stated the four highest violation, parking the wrong way, was not correctable.

Chair Frost discussed citations issued over the weekend.

Commissioner Skophammer stated Malibu Towing was no longer in Malibu. He stated the Sheriff's Department currently used Sierra Towing. He asked why the tow yard located at Malibu High School in the past was no longer used.

Ryan Embree discussed the non-display of a registration tab. He stated he believed the City received the fee charged for that citation. He suggested comparing the fee schedule with what was charged in other cities. He stated the City's fines should be similar to other cities in the Malibu-Las Virgenes Council of Governments (COG). He stated the City could add an administrative fee to the ticketing process.

Vice Chair Stewart stated the Commission's recommendation would be reviewed by the Administrative and Finance Subcommittee before going to the City Council. He agreed with a review of other cities' fines and considering an administrative fee.

MOTION

Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to continue the item to the October 7, 2020 Regular meeting and bring back additional information regarding citation penalties in other cities. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Roberts absent.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested the Chair or Vice Chair gather the data for the next meeting. Chair Frost agreed to help with that research.

Commissioner Skophammer asked if there was a cost for changing the fines.

In response to Chair Frost, Mr. Russo stated many motorists were willing to pay the fine for convenient parking. He stated many asked where else they could park.

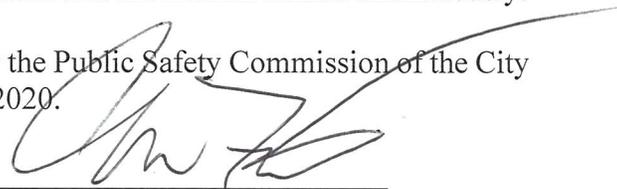
Chair Frost asked if there was a significant change over the past three years. Mr. Russo discussed increases in the number of visitors. He discussed the impact of COVID-19. He stated more people were coming to the beaches and hiking trails since other activities were closed. He stated people were parking in unfamiliar areas.

Chair Frost thanked the VOPs for continuing to do a great job for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 6:57 p.m., Commissioner Skophammer moved and Vice Chair Stewart 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 October 7, 2020.


CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:


MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant