

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2019
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Deputy Mike Treinen, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brian La Spada led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Stewart moved and Chair Frost 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 September 26, 2019.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meril May discussed roads needing repairs and upgrades throughout the City. He distributed photos of various locations. He thanked the City, County and Caltrans for brush clearance.

Brian La Spada, Chaplain at Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station, announced the Interfaith Clergy Council formed by new Sheriff's Captain Vander Horck to allow collaboration between the faith community and the Sheriff's Department. He announced a Clergy Advisory Council Meeting on October 23, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen had conducted over 40 home inspections. She stated the Public Safety Specialist had resigned and the City was recruiting for her replacement.

Public Works Director DuBoux announced the City's follow-up meeting for Civic Center Water Treatment Facility (CCWTF) Phase Two on October 10 at 6:00 p.m. He stated Caltrans would hold another community meeting regarding the Corral pedestrian crossing on Wednesday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. He stated Caltrans would continue its slurry project from the McClure Tunnel to Malibu Lagoon through October. He stated final equipment for the La Costa Pedestrian Improvements Project was delivered last week. He stated Caltrans would test the equipment and materials then schedule installation. He stated the City continued to work with the Sheriff's Department and other agency stakeholders to develop evacuation plans, including a traffic control plan.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gibbs expressed concern that the control box on the ocean side of the new La Costa signal blocked the traffic sightline. Public Works Director DuBoux stated Caltrans was aware and was reviewing the problem.

Commissioner Roberts stated he observed bollards being installed at the east end of the Malibu Colony Plaza parking lot. He asked if Southern California Edison (SCE) would provide advance warning before implementing a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated SCE would give the City a two-day notice with a second update 24 hours before shutting off power. She explained the City's process for notifying residents in the specific area that would be affected.

Commissioner Roberts stated he observed new No Parking markings near El Matador and El Pescador State Beaches. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Deputy Treinen stated the plan for staggered night parking on PCH was expected to go to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) later this month. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated a County ordinance was moving forward.

Commissioner Stewart asked if CCC had jurisdiction only on PCH. Public Works Director DuBoux stated coastal access applied to City streets as well.

Commissioner Gibbs thanked Mr. May. He stated he had spoken to the Sheriff's Department and Caltrans about problems at Las Flores Canyon Road. He stated the signals at the intersection were not synchronized properly. He discussed the newly formed Point Dume Fire Brigade.

Commissioner Stewart thanked Mr. May for the photographs he provided. He discussed the need for light shields on traffic signals. He thanked Public Safety staff, CERT and VOP

for the Emergency Preparedness Month activities. He commended Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen for an excellent presentation to his homeowners association in the Upper Latigo area. He stated a PSPS was recently implemented in Mammoth during a serious windstorm that resulted in over 80 power poles going down. He stated the PSPS saved the area from fire. He requested updates on the recent fatality on PCH and problems at Malibu High School.

Commissioner Gibbs stated he and Commissioner Stewart discussed plans for a public safety newsletter. He stated they thought it should be issued twice annually along with a weekly or monthly column in local papers.

Commissioner Stewart stated it would be a little different than a standard newsletter. He stated he would like to see regularly scheduled updates on strategic issues, such as evacuation plans for Malibu in an emergency, to include progress being made to achieve objectives, added to the agenda. He suggested it be added as an agenda item in November.

Vice Chair Cohen stated the Auto Club would now send Malibu Towing on request. He asked if Legacy Park's larger plants could be replaced with smaller native plants. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she would discuss that with the Community Services Director and report back to the Commission. Vice Chair Cohen asked if Arson Watch could assist with watching for burglaries. He asked for an update on the Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) vehicle. Mark Russo, VOP, stated the County was conducting an inspection of the vehicle before submitting to the Board of Supervisors for approval. He stated the vehicle would then be equipped, including an updated computer, and put into service.

Chair Frost asked Mr. May his thoughts about pavement conditions on PCH between Puerco Canyon and Corral Canyon. Mr. May stated it was not as good as it could be, but there were worse areas in the City. Chair Frost expressed concern about Fire Department equipment dispatched outside the City getting back through traffic. He suggested the City consider adding a full-time law enforcement liaison at City Hall.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

Executive Assistant Linden stated references to Chair Frost as Vice Chair would be corrected in the adopted August 7, 2019 minutes.

MOTION Commissioner Roberts moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections to the minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of August 7, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

B. New Items

1. Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2019

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of August 7, 2019.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Agencies Annual Service Review

Recommended Action: 1) Review services provided by the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Lifeguards, and Malibu Volunteers on Patrol (VOP); and 2) make recommendations to the City Council for service level adjustments, if appropriate.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She introduced Acting Assistant Fire Chief Michael Brown, Los Angeles County Fire Department Division VII.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown distributed and discussed the Overview of Los Angeles County Fire Department Services. He stated the first of two Blackhawk helicopters being converted to Firehawks would be available in November and the second would be outfitted and available in early 2020. He discussed paramedic squads in the City. He stated dispatch communicated with the battalion chief if a squad had to leave the city limits. He stated the Fire Department had begun planning and outreach to address increased responses. He stated the Fire Department would follow up on the upcoming Los Angeles County Task Force's post-Woolsey Fire report. He discussed brush clearance compliance and corrections made. He discussed the Sweetwater Fire, a two-alarm fire in August. He stated after the Woolsey Fire, the Fire Department changed its standards operations during a fire to communicate status reports every 10-15 minutes. He stated air tankers previously requested on second alarm would now be available on first alarm. He stated tankers were brought in early this year and were available for use on the Sweetwater Fire. He stated the Department continues to work with City staff to educate homeowners to be prepared. He suggested homeowners use the Ready! Set! Go! plan. He discussed the use of helicopters. He announced Fire Prevention Month in October. He stated the National Fire Protection Agency's theme for this year is "Not every hero wears a cape; plan for your escape." He stated it was important that all families have an escape plan and discuss it with the entire family before an emergency happens.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown said there were no paramedic engine companies in Malibu, but there are assessment

companies. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown explained the County's contract with private ambulance companies. He stated the City was never without an ambulance or paramedic. He stated all firefighters are trained paramedics. He explained paramedic coverage. Commissioner Roberts discussed Malibu's unique situation due to the distance outside units must travel to get here.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown explained brush clearance procedures when properties were placed on a declaration list due to fire hazard concerns.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown explained how local firefighters provide mutual aid, such as was done earlier this week to fight a brush fire in Pacific Palisades.

In response to Chair Frost, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated a paramedic squad at Station 70 would require additional personnel and equipment. Chair Frost stated it should be considered due to significant increases in the number of visitors to the City. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated the Lifeguards also provided assistance when needed.

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown discussed the Fire Department's participation with the City's multi-agency working group currently working on evacuation plans.

Acting Chief Lifeguard Fernando Boiteux discussed work performed by the 27 lifeguard stations in Malibu. He stated there were approximately 4,100 ocean rescues and 3,300 medical aids. He stated Lifeguards were trained on basic life support and would notify the Fire Department for advanced life support. He stated Malibu was unique in that it had access to a medivac helicopter when needed. He stated the Baywatch rescue boat patrolling the Malibu coastline was the only emergency vessel on the Los Angeles County coastline. He stated Baywatch conducted over 300 boat rescues and patrolled the Marine Protected Area (MPA). He stated the Underwater Rescue and Recovery Unit (URRU) covered the coastline from Ventura County south to the Los Angeles Harbor. In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Acting Chief Lifeguard Boiteux confirmed URRU members were on-duty lifeguards with specialized training who were on call for URRU response. He stated over 400 Malibu youth went through the Junior Lifeguard program. He discussed Lifeguard assistance provided during the Woolsey Fire. He discussed the statistics in the monthly report.

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Acting Chief Lifeguard Boiteux confirmed there were no fatalities in Malibu during the past year. He stated the average was one drowning per six million visitors.

Chair Frost commended the Junior Lifeguard program. Acting Chief Lifeguard Boiteux discussed the different levels in the program based on age. In response to Chair Frost, Acting Chief Lifeguard Boiteux stated participation increased approximately 10% each year. He stated the only limitation was availability of lifeguards to conduct the training.

Commissioner Gibbs commended the Lifeguards for public communication through social media. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated both Lifeguards and Fire Department Division VII communicated through various social media networks.

Mark Russo presented the report for VOP. He stated the team was up to about 20 members with five more in various stages of training. He stated VOP was good with retention. He stated he and VOP member Guy Blake were going to drive with Caltrans tomorrow to view signage in need of repair or replacement to improve enforceability. He discussed VOP activities, including over 8,400 patrol checks and nearly 800 critical facilities checks. He stated he expected the next year to be the best for parking citations. He discussed red-tagging of vehicles exceeding 72-hour parking limit. He stated VOP were on call 24/7 to assist with traffic control at traffic accident scenes. He discussed VOP activity during the Woolsey Fire. He stated VOP worked about 14,600 hours during the Woolsey Fire, including providing escorts, conducting looter checks and welfare checks, and assisting with traffic control. He commended Lieutenant Seetoo for implementing the summer traffic enforcement program (STEP). He stated VOP worked closely with STEP throughout the City.

In response to Vice Chair Cohen, Mr. Russo explained the red tag enforcement of vehicles parked over 72 hours without moving. In response to Vice Chair Cohen, he stated the ordinance was part of the California Vehicle Code. Vice Chair Cohen suggested the City adopt an ordinance requiring vehicles to move a further distance than the one foot required by the Vehicle Code. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she would investigate the feasibility of that change and report back.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Mr. Russo stated a resident could request a vehicle be red-tagged even if the owner had notified the Sheriff's Department it would be parked for an extended period while they were out of town.

Vice Chair Cohen asked what the ideal number of VOP vehicles would be. Mr. Russo stated scheduling the team was difficult due to team member and vehicle availability. He stated four cars for the current team would be beneficial. He stated all the team members exceeded the required 16 hours per month. He discussed the County's new procedure for getting a new vehicle activated. He stated the VOP were considering having a car available on the west end to reduce response time.

Commissioner Roberts left the dais at 6:42 p.m.

Chair Frost requested a permanent law enforcement liaison be based in City Hall assigned only to Malibu. Public Safety Manager Dueñas suggested it would be a service area lieutenant.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Deputy Treinen stated some smaller contract cities have a lieutenant out of the city hall.

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas clarified a service area lieutenant would work full time for Malibu and would not be called to other cities covered by the Malibu/Lost Hills Station.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated adding a lieutenant would include a fiscal impact.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the Commission would review and comment on staffing levels with the Sheriff's Department. He expressed concern that adding a lieutenant might result in diminished patrol in the field due to fiscal impacts.

MOTION Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Stewart seconded a motion to recommend to the City Council that it add a service area lieutenant to work full-time in Malibu as long as there was no diminished patrol coverage services. The motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 4.D. was heard concurrently with Item No. 4.B.

- B. 2019 Summer Beach Enforcement Operation Summary
Recommended Action: Receive and file summary report of the 2019 Summer Beach Enforcement Operation.

Deputy Treinen presented the report. In response to Commissioner Stewart, Deputy Treinen confirmed the 4,378 parking citations were issued only by the Beach Team.

- 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 Lifeguards.

Deputy Treinen stated the majority of vehicle burglaries were surfers hiding keys on their cars. Deputy Michael Kelley discussed a fatality involving a pedestrian last week.

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Deputy Kelley stated using crosswalks and the new signaled pedestrian crossing was the best suggestion for educating the public to prevent similar incidents.

Deputy Treinen discussed two recent, isolated threats at Malibu High School. He stated a juvenile was arrested for one threat. He stated detectives had identified a possible suspect for the other threat. He stated deputies were investigating discrepancies in what was reported.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Mr. Russo stated VOP were at Malibu Elementary School during the first week of the school year. He stated traffic was backing up on Fernhill Drive due to parents parking on Fernhill in advance of pickup. He stated VOP and the City were working with the school to improve parking enforcement. He stated the school was recruiting parent volunteers to assist.

- E. Ordinance to Prevent Trespass in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council concerning the Draft Ordinance that would amend Title 8 of the Malibu Municipal Code (MMC) to prevent trespass in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She stated the intent was to provide a tool to Sheriff's deputies to remove individuals camping in brush areas as fire prevention. She stated the ordinance was based on the City of Los Angeles ordinance. She stated a task force may be organized to work out any problems within the ordinance.

Commissioner Stewart stated he liked the idea of the ordinance, but as written, it had too many loopholes that would prevent enforcement.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the City would work with the local Fire Department to identify the specific areas where the ordinance would be applied.

Commissioner Stewart stated residential areas should be specified within the ordinance. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the ordinance would allow for verbal notification if there was an existing threat of fire.

Commissioner Stewart discussed potential enforcement of parkland owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) could be enforced. He stated he hoped the City would follow the City of Los Angeles. In response to Commissioner Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated guidelines to be developed would be modeled after those established by the City of Los Angeles. She clarified the ordinance was not intended to abolish homelessness or penalize homeless individuals but rather enhance fire prevention.

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated Red Flag Warnings were issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In response to Commissioner Stewart, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated MRCA was aggressively enforcing zero tolerance on homeless encampments.

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to recommend that the City Council consider adopting the Draft Ordinance that would amend Title 8 of the Malibu Municipal Code (MMC) to prevent trespass in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:20 p.m., Commissioner Roberts moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on November 6, 2019.


CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:

MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant