

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2018
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randall 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 Carol Randall; Vice Chair Chris Frost; and Commissioners Andy Cohen and Fred Roberts

ABSENT: Commissioner Tracy Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Acting Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Lieutenant Jim Royal, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Safety Manager Dueñas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on September 26, 2018.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 1.B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cohen introduced himself and discussed his background and interest in public safety. He commended the Commission for its efforts. He stated the VOPs are a cost-effective way to get law enforcement presence on the highway and in the community.

Vice Chair Frost reported that one VOP vehicle was back on the street and the other would be soon. He stated the City should get a third vehicle. He discussed problems with pedestrians crossing the highway near Corral Canyon. He discussed safety hazards related

to the reduced speed limit through construction zones. He stated a 30 mph sign needs to be placed in the construction zone.

Chair Randall stated she attended the Safety Preparedness Expo last weekend. She commended Public Safety Manager Duenas for an excellent event. In response to Vice Chair Frost, she stated a hawk crosswalk system would be installed near the trailhead east of Corral Canyon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Roberts moved and Vice Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Wright absent.

Public Safety Manager Duenas introduced Stephanie Berger, the City's new Public Safety Specialist. In response to Chair Randall, Public Safety Manager Duenas stated Public Safety Specialist Berger would help with homelessness issues and all other Public Safety office issues.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Commissioner Roberts moved and Vice Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Wright absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

B. New Items
1. Approval of Minutes – September 5, 2018
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of September 5, 2018.

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) provide a recommendation to the City Council for service level adjustments, if appropriate.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas introduced Battalion Chief Andrew Smith, Los Angeles County Fire Department,

Battalion Chief Smith introduced himself and presented the Fire Department report. He discussed air support now available, if needed, including helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. He explained area training, including evacuation planning, equine rescue, cooperation with law enforcement. He discussed the Fire Department's social media activity to communicate with the communities served.

Battalion Chief Smith introduced Captain Scott Grigsby, Los Angeles County Lifeguards. Captain Grigsby presented the Lifeguards report. He provided year-to-date 2018 statistics, including 6.2 million beach visitors, more than 4,000 ocean rescues with no drownings, over 258,000 preventions, 1,572 agency assists, and 77 boat warnings.

In response to Commissioner Cohen, Battalion Chief Smith stated services, including the helicopter and paramedics, were not billed by the County.

Chair Randall expressed concerns regarding increased public access openings, including one near Moonshadows, where there are no lifeguards on duty. Captain Grigsby stated the Lifeguards receive and respond to calls at all beaches, including pocket beaches. He stated they send all resources they believe will be required and either release unneeded services or request additional assistance.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Battalion Chief Smith stated there is one truck company at Station 125 on Las Virgenes Road. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Battalion Chief Smith stated Station 88 is the busiest in Malibu, followed closely by Station 71 at PCH and Kanan. Battalion Chief Smith stated Fire Station 70 is busiest first-in station, covering the largest area. He explained services and special equipment at the different stations.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Battalion Chief Smith explained how the Fire Department responds to a brush fire.

In response to Vice Chair Frost, Battalion Chief Smith discussed augmented resources during red flag warning days. He stated the Incident Commander makes the decision to request mutual aid. He stated the Los Angeles County Fire Department is regional coordinator for nearby organizational areas. He stated the agreements are already in place for providing mutual aid between areas.

Commissioner Roberts commended the Fire Department for its response to recent fires and for how the department implemented its resources. Vice Chair Frost stated Los Angeles County Fire Department has the best brush firefighting capabilities in the world.

In response to Chair Randall, Battalion Chief Smith discussed how the department works with call firefighters, such as in Corral Canyon and Topanga Canyon. He discussed problems with insurance companies placing people and vehicles at customers' homes in danger zones during wildfires.

Commissioner Roberts asked about Southern California Edison (SCE) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program. Battalion Chief Smith stated he was unaware of how it would affect vital infrastructure, such as pump systems, reverse 911, internet-based phones and cell service. He stated the Fire Department has expressed its concerns with the proposed program. Commissioner Roberts discussed the SCE presentation to the Commission at its August 1, 2018 meeting. He stated SCE stated that it would take some time to restore service after it had been shut down.

Chair Randall announced the SCE PSPS community meeting scheduled on October 9, 2018 at King Gillette Ranch. Battalion Chief Smith stated the Fire Department would have representation at the meeting.

In response to Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian, Captain Grigsby stated boats were permitted to come within 300 yards of the shore.

In response to Chair Randall, Captain Grigsby stated the apparent increase in stingrays was due partly to warmer waters and partly as a result of the water being cleaner. He stated there were greater problems with stingrays at flatter, calmer beaches, such as Santa Monica and Venice.

Public Safety Manager Duenas introduced Mark Russo, Team Leader for Malibu VOP. Mr. Russo presented the VOP report. He stated membership has increased to 17 members plus four more currently in training. He discussed scheduling of VOP patrols. He stated the VOP issued 8,864 citations in 2017, and 8,400 so far in 2018. He commended the City for its support and the Sheriff's Department for excellent training. He confirmed one VOP vehicle was back in service and one was expected to be available next week. He discussed VOP service at the Nautica Malibu Triathlon and the City's Public Safety Expo. He stated the team is highly motivated and eager to serve the community. In response to Vice Chair Frost, he explained team scheduling. He stated the team worked approximately 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. He stated the VOP issued red tags warning that vehicles parked for more than 72 hours have to be moved or would be towed. He stated a log of red tags were submitted electronically to the Sheriff's Department for follow-up.

Chair Randall asked how residents who need to park on the highway can avoid being towed. Lieutenant Royal stated resident vehicles were not usually towed unless a complaint was filed. He discussed how other cities limit the size of vehicles

and hours of parking. He stated it was difficult in Malibu, partly due to the involvement of the Coastal Commission and its requirements related to providing parking for public access.

In response to Commissioner Cohen, Lieutenant Royal confirmed the VOP team provides great assistance to the Sheriff's Department. He commended their commitment and level of engagement.

Commissioner Cohen asked if having more VOPs on the road was better for the Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Royal stated management of the program could be an issue. He stated it was important to remember they do not have the full training of a Sheriff's Deputy. He stated a small, highly trained, trustworthy group can be extremely helpful and manageable. Mr. Russo stated trainees were required to ride with active VOPs for six months.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian explained problems that caused the VOP vehicles to be out of service. He stated City staff coordinated necessary repairs of the vehicles with VOP management. Lieutenant Royal stated he worked with the City and VOP team leaders to determine what VOP team members would do while vehicles were out of service.

Vice Chair Frost stated the VOP presence acts as a deterrent to crime and violations.

B. 2018 Summer Beach Enforcement Operation Summary

Recommended Action: Receive and file summary report of the 2018 Summer Beach Enforcement Operation.

Lieutenant Royal presented the Beach Team report. He stated one of the primary objectives of the Beach Team is to act as a deterrent to drinking on the beach, which reduces the number of DUIs on PCH and in the canyons. He stated the Beach Team worked closely with Lifeguards as mutual back-ups. He stated the angled parking proposed for Westward Beach will be a big help. He discussed cooperative efforts with Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors and Lifeguards to keep traffic flowing in and out of parking lots. In response to Chair Randall, Lieutenant Royal stated the Beach Team cost was approximately \$650,000 to \$700,000 for the summer. He explained the cost was partly funded through parking revenues. He stated Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office provided the air support at no cost to the City.

Acting Public Works Director DuBoux discussed proposed parking meters for beach parking.

C. 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.

Lieutenant Royal discussed year-to-date statistic comparisons between August 2017 and August 2018. He discussed deputies who received commendations from the City for arresting gang members committing crimes in Malibu. He stated homeless-related crimes were down, possibly due in part to increased services provided to the homeless population.

At 6:30 p.m., Vice Chair Frost left the dais. He returned to the dais at 6:34 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Captain Grigsby stated 6.1 million visitors to the beaches was an estimate. Lieutenant Royal discussed the impact of the internet and social media on increasing the number of visitors. He stated the changes at El Matador Beach were a microcosm for the changes throughout Malibu.

Lieutenant Royal stated as the speeds go down due to a larger number of vehicles on the road, the number of serious accidents was also reduced.

Chair Randall stated she noted an increase in accidents involving motorcycles and/or bicycles. She stated it may be an indicator that PCH is becoming more of a recreational highway.

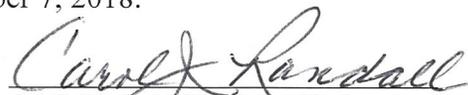
In response to Chair Randall, Lieutenant Royal stated there has not been an increase in crime at City parks at night.

At 6:40 p.m., Commissioner Roberts left the dais.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 6:43 p.m., Vice Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Cohen seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried 3-0, Commissioners Roberts and Wright absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on November 7, 2018.


CAROL RANDALL, Chair

ATTEST:


MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant