

CLAREMONT POLICE COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

"We are a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community dedicated to quality services, safety, financial strength, sustainability, preservation, and progress with equal representation for our community."

City Council Chamber
225 Second Street
Claremont, CA 91711



Thursday
November 07, 2019
7:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS

FRANK BEDOYA
CHAIR

JOHN PEREZ

CALEB MASON

JON STRASH

ROLONDO TALBOTT

JONATHAN HUANG

FRANK DELEO

CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commission has set aside this time for persons in the audience who wish to comment on items that ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA, but are within the jurisdiction of the Police Commission. Members of the audience will later have the opportunity to address the Police Commission regarding ALL OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA at the time the Commission considers those items.

At this time the Commission will take public comment for 30 minutes. Public Comment will resume later in the meeting if there are speakers who did not get an opportunity to speak because of the 30-minute time limit.

The Brown Act prohibits the Commission from taking action on oral requests relating to items that are not on the agenda. The Commission may engage in a brief discussion, refer the matter to staff, and/or schedule requests for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

The Commission requests, but does not require, speakers to identify themselves. When you come up to speak, please state your name unless you wish to remain anonymous. Each speaker will be allowed four (4) continuous minutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine. The Police Commission or one or more Commissions and/or Committees have previously considered most of the items on the consent calendar. The Commission may act on these items by one motion following public comment.

Only Commissioners may pull an item from the consent calendar for discussion.

Now is the time for those in the audience to comment on the consent calendar. Each speaker will be allowed four (4) continuous minutes to comment on items on the consent calendar.

1. POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission approve and file the regular Police Commission meeting minutes of September 5, 2019.

Attachment(s): Draft Police Commission Meeting Minutes 09-05-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES (ORAL REPORT)

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission receive and comment on the Police Department's response to mental health emergencies.

3. REVIEW OF CRITICAL INCIDENT AND ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission receive and comment on the Review of Critical Incident and Active Shooter Training.

REPORTS

Chief's Report

Mayor/Chair Meeting

Commissioner Comments

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLAREMONT POLICE COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 225 SECOND STREET.

MATERIALS RELATED TO AN ITEM ON THIS AGENDA, AND SUBMITTED TO THE POLICE COMMISSION AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA, ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 207 HARVARD AVENUE, CLAREMONT, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 7 AM – 6 PM. SUBJECT MATERIALS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - www.ci.claremont.ca.us. For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 909-399-5461.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES A MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 909-399-5461 "VOICE" OR 1-800-735-2929 "TT/TTY" AT LEAST THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.

I, LISA AMAYA, SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CLAREMONT CITY HALL, 207 HARVARD AVENUE, ON OCTOBER 31, 2019, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2.

ANY ITEMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN INITIATED BY 10:00 P.M. WILL BE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED POLICE COMMISSION MEETING. FURTHER, ANY ITEM INITIATED BEFORE 10:00 P.M. ON WHICH A CONCLUSION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BY 10:15 P.M. WILL BE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION.

POST THROUGH: November 8, 2019



Claremont Police Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 3119

Item No: 1.

TO: POLICE COMMISSION
FROM: SHELLY VANDER VEEN, POLICE CHIEF
DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Reviewed by:
Finance Director: N/A

SUBJECT:

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Police Commission approve and file the regular Police Commission meeting minutes of September 5, 2019.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies are available at the City Hall public counter, the Youth Activity Center, the Alexander Hughes Community Center, and the City website.

Submitted by:

Shelly Vander Veen
Police Chief

Attachment:

Draft Police Commission meeting minutes of September 5, 2019

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 5, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber
225 W. Second Street, Claremont, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Strash called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Bedoya, Perez, Talbott, Strash, Huang, Mason, De Leo

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Aaron Fate, Captain; Lisa Amaya, Sr. Administrative Assistant

CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Police Commission, Chair Strash extended his thanks to former Police Commissioner Brooks for her years of service.

1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission nominate and select a Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Strash introduced and welcomed Commissioner Rolondo Talbott.

Police Commission Secretary Amaya called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Commissioner Strash nominated Commissioner Bedoya to serve as Chair of the Commission. There were no other nominations.

Police Commission Secretary Amaya invited public comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed.

Commissioner Mason moved that Commissioner Bedoya be selected as Chair of the Police Commission, seconded by Commissioner Huang, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Bedoya, Perez, Talbott, Strash, Huang, Mason, De Leo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Chair Bedoya thanked Commissioners for the honor of selecting him as Chair of the Police Commission. He extended his thanks to Chair Strash for his leadership and for guiding the Commission during his term as Chair.

Chair Bedoya called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Strash nominated Commissioner Perez to serve as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

Chair Bedoya invited public comment. Seeing no one wishing to speak, public comment was closed.

Commissioner De Leo moved that Commissioner Perez be selected as Vice Chair of the Police Commission, seconded by Commissioner Mason, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Bedoya, Perez, Talbott, Strash, Huang, Mason, De Leo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Chair Bedoya welcomed Rolondo Talbott to the Police Commission. He called for a recess at 7:09 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

2. Liaison Assignment to the Committee on Human Relations

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission Chair appoint a Commissioner as a liaison to the Committee on Human Relations.

Chair Bedoya noted that former Commissioner Tina Brooks was the liaison. He asked for any volunteers.

Captain Fate provided some background information on the Committee on Human Relations for Commissioners and said they meet on a quarterly basis. He also sits in as a liaison on the Committee and answers any police related questions they may have or will sometimes give a presentation.

Commissioner Talbott volunteered to be the liaison to the Committee on Human Relations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bedoya invited public comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Bedoya invited public comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed. Seeing only two members in the audience, he acknowledged Jack Caseles from the League of Women Voters and Jim Keith, Police Station Citizens Advisory Committee Member and member of the Committee for Safe & Healthy Housing.

ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

3. Approval of Police Commission Minutes of July 11, 2019

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission approve and file the regular Police Commission meeting minutes of July 11, 2019.

Commissioner Mason moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Perez, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: *Commissioners Bedoya, Perez, Talbott, Strash, Huang, Mason, De Leo*
NOES: *None*
ABSTAIN: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

4. Police Commission Meeting Dates for 2019-20

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission affirm the scheduled meeting dates for 2019-20.

Chair Bedoya listed the scheduled meeting dates and opened the floor for comments from Commissioners.

Chair Bedoya commented on the option to call a special meeting, if needed, and on the agenda setting meetings with Chief Vander Veen. If it's determined at that meeting that there isn't a full agenda, they have the option to cancel a meeting; however, they try to avoid that.

Commissioners affirmed the scheduled meeting dates for 2019-20.

5. Update to the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Police Commission receive and file the update to the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

Captain Fate gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Crime Free Multi Housing program and provided a historical perspective for the new commissioners. Captain Fate expressed his appreciation to the Committee for Safe & Healthy Housing for their efforts, as well as to Bob Kern for the work that he does as the Volunteer Coordinator.

Vice-Chair Perez expressed his appreciation to Captain Fate and the volunteers for how well the evidence-based program is working for the City of Claremont. He believed the program doesn't get the credit it deserves and appreciates the interaction with staff, volunteers, and the residents.

Commissioner Mason echoed his comments and thanked him for the presentation. The program is very inspiring.

Commissioner De Leo expressed his thanks and said he appreciates that the Committee and staff are proactive with the program.

Commissioner Huang said in light of the 2011 Realignment, it's a pleasant surprise to see a steady decrease in statistics for 2012, 2013, and 2014. He thanked him for the presentation.

Chair Bedoya echoed those comments and added that as he's watched the work of the Committee over the years, it's been incredible to see what they've accomplished. To echo Vice Chair Perez's comments, this program is an excellent example of community-based policing to improve the living environment for residents and reduce crime. In looking at the stats, all but two complexes are well below the 0.25 threshold.

Captain Fate responded to questions related to whether there was any rationale for the fluctuations throughout the years. He stated any number of factors could cause a fluctuation in the statistics, from State legislature to apartment managers under-reporting incidents so it's difficult to pinpoint a specific reason. When you talk about Part 1 crimes, he said it's important to remember not to use those statistics to compare two different communities because there are so many variables. There could be a rash of incidents in one large complex that would put them over the threshold. He also said the Committee encourages apartment managers to report incidents.

Chair Bedoya invited public comment.

Jim Keith, shared that Captain Fate has been the liaison from the very beginning of the program and is great at reaching out to the residents, encouraging them to report issues and trying to be pragmatic at resolving problems. He commented on the expectations the Committee has for the complexes.

Mr. Keith commented on the overall average of crime data and how the stats can work in their favor when talking with managers/owners. He believed the numbers could get better if they could deter individuals from breaking into cars and the Committee is working on having cameras installed at the complexes. In the meantime, Mr. Kern drives through the back alley on San Jose Avenue and notices vehicles that shouldn't be there and advises the managers. Lastly, he added that things have improved on San Jose Avenue and he's proud of all the efforts made. He thanked Captain Fate and the Department for treating these things seriously.

Chair Bedoya extended his thanks to Mr. Keith and the Committee for Safe & Healthy Housing, they've made a remarkable difference.

REPORTS - Commission

Chief's Report

Captain Fate sends Chief Vander Veen's regrets; she had to attend to an urgent family matter.

Captain Fate reported the Department received 20 commendations since the last meeting and one complaint, which is currently assigned to an investigator. Once the investigation has been completed it will go to the PRAH.

Personnel Update

Captain Fate stated at the last meeting Commissioners were informed that a Jailer candidate was in backgrounds. That applicant did not pass backgrounds and is no longer being considered for that position. However, the recruitment was reopened within the City and staff has another candidate in backgrounds. The Officer position is still open because no viable candidates came out of the last recruitment process. There were over one hundred applicants.

Captain Fate shared that the Police Officers are still working without a contract as well as other bargaining groups, and the City is currently negotiating with all of the groups. He shared that he has heard at least eight Police Department employees have applied to other agencies and he confirmed one very experienced officer has applied elsewhere. Captain Fate commented on being fortunate to have very qualified Police Officers, who can go to whatever agency they want, so it's very concerning to Chief Vander Veen and him that employees have applied to other agencies. The reality is that other agencies are looking for qualified candidates and that's what we have.

Outreach Events

The Department will participate in the Chamber of Commerce's Homeless Symposium on Thursday, October 3 at 6 p.m. in the Padua Room. It'll be a good mix of businesspeople and residents talking about homeless issues. Human Services Director Anne Turner will be one of the presenters that night. She made the presentation at a previous Police Commission meeting.

Chair Bedoya invited Commissioners' comments.

Commissioner Strash expressed concern that possibly eight employees are applying elsewhere when it's so difficult to fill one position.

Vice Chair Perez said the Police Commission's responsibility is to be the voice of the people in the community and maybe at times to be the voice of the Police Department employees, who they support. It's difficult to hear there may be that many employees leaving. As a resident, having experienced officers is very valuable to him and he wondered how best to send a message to the City Council, besides having a discussion tonight. He made it clear that the budget is not their concern and not up for discussion. However, he wanted to find a way for Department employees to stick around a little longer and to somehow ensure that officers know the Commission supports them. He also expressed concern of losing that many employees. He commented on his family's interaction with officers during the weekends in the Village and on the work that officers are doing in the community. He believed the loss of eight officers would be detrimental to this community. It would take at least two years before new officers are ready to patrol on their own.

Commissioner Strash added that officers are trained in the Claremont way and we'd like to keep them here because they're doing a good job.

Vice Chair Perez commented on the measurement of their work, such as the commendations and the burglary arrests – it's fantastic police work! He said it's not luck but rather experience that gets those results. He also brought up the commendations and the lack of complaints that come in. He believed they'd all be impacted with the loss of officers and it worries him. The Department has great leadership, but not having enough personnel is a problem.

Captain Fate shared that he and Chief Vander Veen have asked what they can do to keep officers here and they were told, "You're doing it now; that isn't the problem." They're willing to put up with hardships because of the high level of camaraderie here. What concerns him is when you lose that camaraderie because people are leaving, you don't have that component to keep people here and once it starts it'll be a hard process to reverse. Captain Fate commented on the high expectations of the Department and how officers who have left for other agencies have excelled there. He doesn't want to lose employees to another community.

Chair Bedoya asked if the lack of a contract was a City or City Council issue, or both.

As reported last time, Captain Fate said officers were without a contract, then one was imposed on them. Currently, no bargaining group has a contract right now. It's a crisis; it's bigger than a new police station and will be more difficult to recover from. Referring to some residents expressing an interest in contracting with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Captain Fate said that decision may be made for the community, based on how many officers we lose. Having been with the Department for many years, he said he does not want to see that happen.

Vice Chair Perez shared that in some nearby cities, the Sheriff's Department was very close to taking over their police departments and it could be a possibility here as well. He agreed that it would be difficult to reverse that perfect storm. Although the budget crisis is not within the Commission's purview, he believed Commissioners could express their support somehow for the Department.

Chair Bedoya believed Commissioners could put pressure on the City Council to recognize what the potential outcome could be if they lost officers. Commissioners could reach out to the City Council to encourage them to truly listen and recognize the impact of not having a contract, for the Department and the other bargaining groups.

Commissioner De Leo agreed that something should be done collectively. He'd like to be more proactive in making things happen in the City and said this could actually be a crisis situation. He commented on how the Committee on Safe & Healthy Housing was able to get ahead of the problem, and wondered what they could do to get ahead of this issue.

Commissioner Huang believed the officers' actions of applying to other agencies is a last resort for them. He wondered about having police officers speak at Police Commission meetings so that commissioners could hear their concerns; however, he didn't know if it was appropriate for them to speak at one of the meetings.

There was further discussion on the timing of the next Police Commission meeting and the election date for Measure CR, as well as whether to hold a special meeting.

Commissioner Mason suggested creating an ad hoc committee so that the members could meet with the bargaining unit. Committee members could express their support to the Department employees, listen to their concerns and relay information to the City Council, and do whatever is in their power to keep them here. He asked Captain Fate about the timeline in terms of when employees would potentially leave.

Captain Fate responded it's possible it could be as early as a few weeks. He shared that the City of Menifee is establishing its own police department, which is one of the components in this discussion, and they need qualified and experienced employees, and they have hiring incentives in place. He also said that larger agencies, such as Ontario Police Department are able to offer the same PERS retirement rate for employees leaving one agency for another. Menifee's police department is scheduled to open in July 2020.

Commissioner Mason said, in his view, this is a crisis and would destroy the Police Department quickly if a large number left at once. If there's anything they can do to delay employees from leaving, giving the officers a sense that the City does have their back to some degree, he felt comfortable putting pressure on the City Council, as an individual and as a part of a group. He believed the Commissioners' job is to speak for the community about the role of the Police Department in our City and one of those roles is having one the way it does now.

Commissioner Mason requested that an ad hoc committee be created, with three Commissioners, and that they be charged with communicating with the bargaining units and any other officers who want to talk to them and address their concerns.

Chair Bedoya asked for clarification on the number of Commissioners on the ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Strash stated that three members are allowed and could be appointed at this meeting. The Chair would task the ad hoc committee with a specific purpose.

There was discussion on the timeline for the ad hoc committee to allow them time to speak with officers and employees for their report back to the Commission. Additionally, Commissioners discussed whether they would have a special meeting.

Chair Bedoya restated the motion and then withdrew the motion.

Chair Bedoya asked for three volunteers for the ad hoc committee. Commissioners De Leo, Perez, and Strash volunteered and Chair Bedoya appointed them to the ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Huang asked if they could speak individually to members of the Police Department.

Chair Bedoya reminded the ad hoc committee members to be mindful of the Brown Act. He also asked that they keep Police Commission Secretary Amaya, Captain Fate and Chief Vander Veen aware of the meeting dates. He believed the ad hoc committee is a way to make their voices heard.

Chair Bedoya asked that they contact Police Commission Secretary Amaya as soon as possible if they need a special meeting in September, if not, their report will be on the November agenda. He expressed appreciation for Commissioner Mason's comments.

Chair Bedoya invited Commissioners' comments.

Mayor/Chair Meeting – Oral Report

Commissioner Strash reported the last Mayor/Chair meeting was in July. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23 at 5 p.m. He did share that City Manager Schultz passed on to the Department and the Commission, her compliments on Claremont being the 85th safest City in the State of California. Congratulations to the Police Department and the City of Claremont.

Commissioner Strash said at the next Mayor/Chair meeting there will be a discussion on commissioner attendance. Commissioners are allowed to miss one meeting every six months.

Chair Bedoya invited commissioner comments.

Commissioner Strash reminded new commissions of their requirement to attend ride-alongs.

Commissioner Talbott thanked everyone for welcoming him to the Police Commission and said he's excited to be a member. He thanked Captain Fate for the presentation

Vice Chair Perez commented on the great job officers have done the last couple of months and asked Captain Fate to pass along his thanks to the officers for them.

Commissioner Mason stated, as always, they'll do what they can to support the Department.

Commissioner Huang thanked Captain Fate for the presentation.

Commissioner De Leo echoed Vice Chair Perez's comments and commended the Department. They're the reason the City is 85th in the State.

Chair Bedoya extended his thanks for tonight's presentation and for National Night Out. He commented on the Pink Patch booth and what a fun evening it was. Lastly, he thanked

Commissioners for the Chair nomination and said he hopes to represent the Commission and citizens the best he can. He encouraged Commissioners to engage with officers to understand why they're leaving. He said they all know it's an incredible department and he asked Captain Fate to relay their heartfelt thanks to the employees. He holds the same appreciation as a citizen as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bedoya adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Police Commission will be held on November 7, 2019.

Frank Bedoya, Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Amaya, Sr. Administrative Assistant



Claremont Police Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 3120

Item No: 2.

TO: POLICE COMMISSION

FROM: SHELLY VANDER VEEN, POLICE CHIEF

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Reviewed by:

Finance Director: N/A

SUBJECT:

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES (ORAL REPORT)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Police Commission receive and comment on the Police Department's response to mental health emergencies.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies are available at the City Hall public counter, the Youth Activity Center, the Alexander Hughes Community Center, and the City website.

Submitted by:

Shelly Vander Veen
Police Chief



Claremont Police Commission

Agenda Report

File #: 3121

Item No: 3.

TO: POLICE COMMISSION

FROM: SHELLY VANDER VEEN, POLICE CHIEF

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Reviewed by:

Finance Director: N/A

SUBJECT:

REVIEW OF CRITICAL INCIDENT AND ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Police Commission receive and comment on the Review of Critical Incident and Active Shooter Training.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies are available at the City Hall public counter, the Youth Activity Center, the Alexander Hughes Community Center, and the City website.

Submitted by:

Shelly Vander Veen
Police Chief