

MINUTES
MALIBU HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2023
TELECONFERENCED – VARIOUS LOCATIONS
2:00 P.M.

The following meeting was held pursuant to AB 361 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roven called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Chair Ian Roven; Vice Chair Bill Winokur; and Task Force Members Wayne Cohen, Terry Davis, Scott Dittrich, Chris Frost, Kelly Pessis, and Bill Sampson

ABSENT: Commissioners Deborah Benton and Joshua Spiegel

ALSO PRESENT: Steve McClary, City Manager; Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director; Trevor Rusin, Interim City Attorney; Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison; Captain Jennifer Seetoo, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Parker Davis, Media Technician; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Roven led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Task Force Member Davis moved and Task Force Member Frost seconded a motion to approve the agenda with Item No. 5.A. to be heard at 3:00 p.m. The question was called, and the motion carried 8-0, Task Force Members Benton and Spiegel absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on January 10, 2023.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated item No 5.A. would be heard at 3:00 p.m. and any unfinished items would be heard after that.

ITEM 1 CEREMONIAL/PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation by City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department, Environmental Services Department, and Police Department

Public Safety Liaison Flores introduced Elizabeth Stotts, Homelessness Programs Analyst for the City of Santa Barbara

Ms. Stotts introduced her homeless team colleagues Chris Clark, Environmental Services Specialist, and Sergeant Chris Payne, Santa Barbara Police Department (SBPD) Street Crimes Unit and Homelessness Liaison. Ms. Stotts provided a presentation on the Santa Barbara homelessness program with Mr. Clark discussing the Santa Barbara Encampment Response Programs and Sergeant Payne discussing the SBPD's co-response program.

Chair Roven thanked the presenters and commended them for their programs.

Task Force Member Dittrich stated Santa Barbara's population was approximately nine times the size of Malibu. He asked what the total expenditure was for homeless programs. He asked the homeless count in Santa Barbara in the past several years. He asked how many people had been placed in permanent housing.

Ms. Stotts stated Santa Barbara budgeted \$6 million in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. She stated grants totaled approximately \$1 million per year. She stated the homeless total had fluctuated to 822 most recently from 914 in 2020. She stated approximately 70 percent were unsheltered and 103 were placed in permanent housing in 2022. In response to Task Force Member Dittrich, Ms. Stotts stated there was some tracking after individuals were placed in housing to provide needed support services. She stated funding for support services was a struggle. In response to Task Force Member Dittrich, Ms. Stotts discussed what was provided and funded by the County of Santa Barbara.

In response to Task Force Member Sampson, Sergeant Payne stated there were approximately 120 sworn officers and would be at 140 with full staffing. He discussed the impact of colleges and tourism on the Santa Barbara population.

In response to Task Force Member Cohen, Sergeant Payne stated SBPD was part of the City of Santa Barbara. He stated Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department provided contract law enforcement for some neighboring communities. In response to Task Force Member Cohen, Sergeant Payne stated SBPD enforced only City's municipal code, not County Code, which included Section 24-5.1. He discussed enforcement of sleeping in vehicles only when beds were available. He stated SBPD started first with outreach, and enforcement was implemented only when a situation became more serious. He discussed housing resources available. In

response to Task Force Member Cohen, Ms. Stotts stated the contract cost with PATH was approximately \$75 per bed per night, including full services.

In response to Task Force Member Dittrich, Ms. Stotts stated approximately 14% of housed individuals returned to the streets, which was down from 22%.

In response to Task Force Member Pessis, Sergeant Payne stated four officers were assigned to his team. He stated approximately nine officers were in the field at any given time, with up to 18 officers on duty during peak days. He stated additional officers and detectives working in the office were also available. Task Force Member Pessis asked what the budget was for policing and how much was dedicated to the homeless operations. Sergeant Payne stated his unit's budget was about \$100,000 per officer per year. Task Force Member Pessis asked if there had been any noticeable differences in the makeup of the homeless population in Santa Barbara. Sergeant Payne stated there was little change. Ms. Stotts discussed their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database that documented interactions with the homeless. She stated 70% of those in HMIS had a previous local address in the system. She stated the vehicular homeless count had grown, including families and elderly individuals. She discussed the various reasons why someone might decline services.

Task Force Member Pessis stated a centralized response was valuable. Mr. Clark discussed Santa Barbara's centralized resource management (CRM) system. He discussed systems being considered for the future.

Vice Chair Winokur asked how individuals were transported to and from an alternative sleeping location (ASL). He asked how the \$6 million budget was funded. In response to Vice Chair Winokur, Ms. Stotts stated City Net provided transportation wherever they needed to go. Sergeant Payne stated the police department also provided transportation when possible. In response to Vice Chair Winokur, Ms. Stotts stated homeless services was part of the General Fund budget. She discussed how the various departments communicated with each other. She stated HomeKey funding provided by the State of California was not sufficient based on Santa Barbara housing costs. She discussed upcoming monthly meetings with neighboring cities and the County to collaborate efforts.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated any further questions could be submitted to Public Safety Liaison Flores who would forward them to the Santa Barbara representatives for answers.

Task Force Member Davis commended the City of Santa Barbara for being a leader in this matter. In response to Task Force Member Davis, Ms. Stotts confirmed their available beds were usually all filled. Task Force Member Davis asked if there was resistance in any neighboring communities to what Santa Barbara offered. Ms.

Stotts stated most resistance was misunderstanding. She stated the City's job was to help people understand the complexities of the problem and what was needed to address the issues.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Homelessness Task Force Charter

Recommended Action: 1) Review City Council Resolution No. 21-43, which established the Homelessness Task Force; and 2) Receive a report from City staff, the Interim City Attorney, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Lost Hills Station Captain regarding roles and responsibilities.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated this item was intended to answer questions and concerns expressed at the November 2022 meeting. She discussed the motion made at the October 2022 meeting that was not included in the November agenda.

Captain Seetoo stated an ordinance was presented to the County Counsel. She discussed enforcement of Section 8 housing in Palmdale and Lancaster that cost the County millions of dollars. She stated the strategy would be similar to what was provided in Calabasas.

In response to Captain Seetoo, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated the City was waiting for the contract to be in place for the three interim beds. She confirmed The People Concern (TPC) outreach team would provide transportation. Captain Seetoo stated the Sheriff's Department would not take control of pets or property. She stated when beds were full, LASD could no longer enforce.

In response to Task Force Member Cohen, Captain Seetoo confirmed the no camping ordinance (Ordinance No. 492) (MMC 9.08.090) was being reviewed by County Counsel. In response to Task Force Member Cohen, Captain Seetoo discussed when beds would be offered and enforcement implemented.

In response to Task Force Member Cohen, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated the ordinance included individuals living in vehicles.

Captain Seetoo discussed how it was determined that someone was living in their vehicles.

Task Force Member Cohen stated Santa Barbara defined "sleeping" in its municipal code. He asked about the enforcement procedure for checking on the availability of beds. Captain Seetoo stated LASD would collaborate with City staff and TPC about bed availability. Task Force Member Cohen asked if LASD's first approach would be education.

Captain Seetoo stated LASD would always educate. She stated enforcement would be used if someone who was causing problems refused a bed or services.

Task Force Member Cohen asked what changed to now allow enforcement. He expressed frustration with how long it took.

Interim City Attorney Rusin stated finding beds was the main change. He stated the City always worked to address homelessness through LASD and TPC.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated enforcement was implemented to remove encampments prior to the camping ordinance update and acquisition of beds using other ordinances. Captain Seetoo discussed progress made in removing encampments and reducing the number of oversized vehicles.

Vice Chair Winokur stated expanding the number of beds would have to be considered by the Task Force and the Council in the future. He discussed long-time oversized vehicles were an indication of permanency. He stated he observed more appearing recently in the Civic Center area and the land side of PCH. He asked what LASD could do to move encampments from public locations.

Captain Seetoo discussed encampments on Surfrider Beach. She stated LASD was working with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Task Force Member Pessis stated there were other issues to discuss not included in the November agenda. She discussed an increase in camping in smaller vehicles. She asked if more citations could be issued. She discussed crimes conducted in vehicles. She requested Santa Barbara codes be reviewed.

Captain Seetoo stated the electronic ticket writers were crucial to increasing citations of illegal parking on PCH. She requested Task Force Members

Task Force Member Pessis requested LASD provide a centralized system. Captain Seetoo stated Lieutenant Carr developed a spreadsheet for tracking where people were.

At 3:43 p.m., Task Force Member Pessis left the meeting.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated volunteers were still needed for next week's homeless count.

ITEM 2.C. TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Winokur announced he would be resigning from the Homelessness Task Force effective at the end of this meeting. He thanked everyone for their dedicated time and commended them for the Task Force's accomplishments.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Task Force Member Davis moved and Task Force Member Frost seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called, and the motion carried 7-0, Task Force Members Benton, Pessis, and Spiegel absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.
- B. New Items
 - 1. Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2022
Recommended Action: Approve minutes for the Homelessness Task Force Regular meeting of October 18, 2022.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2022
Recommended Action: Approve minutes for the Homelessness Task Force Regular meeting of November 15, 2022.

ITEM 5A REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE CHARTER (continued)

Task Force Member Frost discussed problems with the ticket writers resulting in some citations for multiple offenses not recognizing prior citations issued. He stated enforcement of illegal parking in western Malibu needed to be increased. He asked what had to happen to get some vehicles towed after numerous citations.

Captain Seetoo stated another midnight operation might be helpful.

Task Force Member Frost discussed overnight Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) operations He suggested overnight deputies utilize VOP processes.

In response to an earlier question from Task Force Member Cohen, City Manager McClary discussed changes within the City structure that have helped, including

using LASD's Mental Evaluation Team (MET), adding the Public Safety Liaison position, Council approval of the camping ordinance and acquisition of beds, as well as Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (COG) actions. He stated the process needed to continue.

Task Force Member Cohen stated it was a complex issue and he appreciated everyone's efforts. He stated the members of the Task Force had worked hard to find common ground.

In response to Task Force Member Dittrich, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated there were four beds available that may or not allow pets. She discussed options for people with pets. Task Force Member Dittrich agreed with Task Force Member Pessis that more people seem to be living in their smaller vehicles and camping along the beach. He stated those in cars were more likely to drive to another location rather than accepting a bed.

ITEM 2C TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS (continued)

Task Force Member Dittrich reported he spoke at the January 9, 2023 City Council meeting to recommend the dissolution of the Homelessness Task Force since the Task Force had accomplished most of its assignments. He stated he believed the Council should provide a clear set of guidelines detailing what it wanted next. He discussed a new program introduced by the Governor to require people with mental health issues to accept services.

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS

- A. Public Engagement and Outreach Plan (continued from October 18, 2022)
Recommended Action: 1) Discuss the development of a Public Engagement and Outreach Plan; 2) either appoint no more than five Task Force Members to serve on the Public Engagement and Outreach Plan Ad Hoc Committee or dissolve the Committee; and 3) make a recommendation to the City Council on the Public Engagement and Outreach Plan, if appropriate.

MOTION Vice Chair Winokur moved and Task Force Member Davis seconded a motion to continue Item Nos. 4.A., 4.B., and 5.B. to the February meeting. The question was called, and the motion carried 7-0, Task Force Members Benton, Pessis, and Spiegel absent.

MOTION Vice Chair Winokur moved and Task Force Member Dittrich seconded a motion to reopen Item No. 4.B.

Task Force Member Cohen stated much had changed with today's discussion. He stated he was not confident the report was current.

Task Force Member Davis agreed with Task Force Member Cohen.

Vice Chair Winokur withdrew the motion.

B. Fire, Health, and Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee Report

Recommended Action: Determine whether to submit to the City Council the revised Fire, Health, and Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee report presented at the October 18, 2022 Homelessness Task Force Regular meeting.

This item was continued to the February meeting.

Task Force Member Davis expressed concern about presenting the report without the Task Force approving what would go to Council.

In response to Task Force Member Davis, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated she could include the report and the presentation with her Council agenda report.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Future Agenda Items

Recommended Action: Review items tentatively scheduled for upcoming meeting agendas and provide feedback to staff.

This item was continued to the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 4:24 p.m., Chair Roven adjourned the meeting.

Approved and adopted by the Homelessness Task Force of the City of Malibu on February 21, 2023.



IAN ROVEN, Chair

ATTEST:



MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant