

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
TELECONFERENCED – VARIOUS LOCATIONS
5:00 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 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; Commissioners Daphne Anneet, Keegan Gibbs, Brian Merrick, and Joshua Spiegel; and Ex Officio Member Brent Woodworth

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director; Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison; Gabe Etcheverry, Fire Safety Liaison; Brad Yocum, Fire Safety Liaison; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Lieutenant Dustin Carr, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Merrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Spiegel moved, and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on January 26, 2023

ITEM 1 CEREMONIAL / PRESENTATIONS

A. Administer Oath of Office to New Commissioner

Executive Assistant Linden administered the oath of office to Commissioner Merrick.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Spiegel nominated Chris Frost for Chair. There were no further nominations.

The question was called, and Chris Frost was elected Chair unanimously.

Chair Frost nominated Commissioner Spiegel as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.

The question was called, and Joshua Spiegel was elected Vice Chair unanimously.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Embree requested speed radar signs on Civic Center Way. He suggested they be placed eastbound between Malibu Canyon Road and the crest of the hill, and westbound before the top of the hill. He suggested having the traffic engineer determine the best locations.

ITEM 2.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated recruitment for Emergency Services Coordinator was going well. She stated she conducted interviews today for a Fire Safety Liaison. She discussed a small brush fire in the Tuna Canyon area. She stated the City was pursuing a summary abatement for the property, which was being addressed as a nuisance site. She discussed an encampment by Malibu Creek cleared by State Parks. She stated Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (Beaches and Harbors) cleared the encampment at Surfrider Beach. She stated the CERT Team tested satellite internet capabilities at Zuma Beach. She stated the school district gave the go-ahead for a tow yard site at the high school. She stated she received a phone call from the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) immediately following a 4.2 earthquake last week off Malibu. She stated the Sheriff's Department would have notified the City Manager if it had been a large quake.

Public Safety Liaison Flores discussed the encampment clearings. He stated the homeless count last week went smoothly. He stated numbers should be reported this summer but were preliminarily anticipated to be lower than last year. He stated he would work with Malibu High School about the temporary tow yard. He discussed the status of automatic license plate reader (ALPR) cameras.

Fire Safety Liaison Yocum discussed the fire in Tuna Canyon.

Fire Safety Liaison Etcheverry stated there were no new live fuel moisture (LFM) readings due to the rain. In response to Chair Frost, Fire Safety Liaison Yocum explained how LFM was measured.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian discussed the City's response to recent storms. He stated Beaches and Harbors was still working on Westward Beach Road repairs. He reported bids were received for the PCH Signal Synchronization Project, and a contract would go to the City Council on February 27. In response to Mr. Embree, he stated he would discuss speed radar signs on Civic Center Way with Public Works Director DuBoux. He stated the signs were not in the scope of the Civic Center Way project. He noted the speed limit on Civic Center Way was reduced last year from 45 to 35 miles per hour.

ITEM 2.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ex Officio Member Woodworth thanked staff for details about the fire. He commended Fire Assistant Chief Smith for the Fire Department's quick response. He thanked Public Safety Director Dueñas for an excellent tabletop exercise. He discussed rockslides during earthquakes. He stated he hoped the January 25 earthquake was a good reminder for homeowners to have emergency supplies ready. In response to written correspondence received, he commended the Sheriff's and Fire Departments for their monthly activity reports. He stated reporting related costs could be helpful. He discussed equipment ordered by the community brigade. He stated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Fire Department was pending. He announced he was going to Washington, DC next week regarding relieving the tax burden on disaster victims.

Commissioner Merrick discussed his background with the City, including his service on the Public Works Commission for the past six years. He stated he was on the steering committee for advance notice sirens.

Commissioner Gibbs commended Commissioner Merrick for his work for the community. He discussed the Westward Beach Road rock revetment project. He expressed frustration with Beaches and Harbors' destruction of the dunes. He expressed displeasure with debris from the Trancas Bridge project flowing into the ocean during recent storms. He discussed a documentary entitled "21 Miles in Malibu" produced by the Emily Shane Foundation. He stated he hoped to speak with Mr. Shane about what the City could do to improve safety on PCH.

In response to written communication received, Commissioner Anneet acknowledged general community concern about how public dollars were being spent related to public safety. She suggested looking at contracts and reports received to communicate how the resources were being used.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Vice Chair Spiegel stated the debris flow from Trancas was a public safety issue. He stated the rock revetment project was changing the shape of the beach.

Chair Frost stated he was seeing a larger number of semi-trucks on the highway. He stated mapping service apps may send them through Malibu without knowing the restriction. In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Liaison Flores stated the

tow company thought the lower lot at Malibu High School was easier for trucks to maneuver. Chair Frost reported Sierra Towing was out of business. In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Liaison Flores confirmed the ALPR cameras were waiting for power. He discussed permitting for the camera installation. Chair Frost discussed the response to the fire. He agreed with Commissioner Gibbs and Vice Chair Spiegel about problems with the rock revetment project.

In response to Chair Frost, Commissioner Merrick stated destruction of the dune was unnecessary.

Commissioner Gibbs stated Beaches and Harbors claimed the dune was partly destroyed by the storm.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated he and the City Manager were scheduled to meet with Beaches and Harbors on February 16. He stated damage to the dunes would be repaired by Beaches and Harbors.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved, and Chair Frost seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.
- B. New Items
 - 1. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2023
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of January 4, 2023.

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Multi-Agency Earthquake Exercise
Recommended Action: Receive and file a report on a multi-agency earthquake exercise that was held on January 19, 2023.

Public Safety Director Dueñas presented the report.

Chair Frost stated he and Ex Officio Member Woodworth attended the exercise. He discussed what community brigades could do to help neighborhoods following an earthquake. He discussed handheld communication options used by the brigades and CERT.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth agreed with Chair Frost. He stated it was important to identify resources within the community to bridge gaps. He suggested the City consider an MOU with the various groups.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated the City would need people trained in damage assessment. She discussed the possibility of the City sponsoring individuals with related experience to be certified.

Commissioner Gibbs asked if other cities had a similar program. In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Safety Director Dueñas discussed requirements to be certified to conduct damage assessment. She stated she would investigate the prerequisites for taking the course.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated most of those certified in the City of Los Angeles were already structural engineers.

Vice Chair Spiegel stated most people would not want to return to their homes with no water, utilities, or other services. He discussed the possible impact an earthquake could have on getting in and out of Malibu. He asked if the City had the ability and equipment to clear roads.

In response to Vice Chair Spiegel, Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian stated the City's maintenance contractor had major equipment staged in the Malibu civic center area. He stated Los Angeles County Public Works and Caltrans also had heavy equipment staged in Malibu.

Vice Chair Spiegel suggested the City mandate installation of gas shutoff tools for all real estate sales. He discussed the need to continue pushing the community to be prepared.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated people tended to not prepare until after a disaster happened. She discussed the City's emergency preparedness outreach.

Vice Chair Spiegel asked how the City could make it easier.

Commissioner Gibbs stated public agencies provided good messaging, but it needed to include that residents should not depend on those agencies following worst case scenarios.

Public Safety Director Dueñas agreed with Commissioner Gibbs that people often tuned out the public agency messages. She stated community partners might be able to get the messages out to neighborhoods and groups.

Vice Chair Spiegel stated human nature was to want easy access to exactly what was needed. Public Safety Director Dueñas stated a government agency could not do that, but community leaders could.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated each individual or family had different needs.

Vice Chair Spiegel requested a listing of water resources by neighborhood. He asked if there were backflow devices on Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29 pipes. Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated he would have to check and report back.

In response to Chair Frost, Commissioner Merrick stated the Public Works Commission did not discuss water resources from an emergency preparedness standpoint.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated there would be serious security issues after a major earthquake due to not enough Sheriff's deputies being available.

Commissioner Merrick stated the reality would be block by block rather than by entire neighborhoods. Public Safety Director Dueñas agreed.

Ryan Embree discussed a water main failure in 1999. He stated the neighborhood network concept was created in the early 1990s. He requested an update on the Disaster Communication Service (DCS). He stated mobilehome parks were regulated by the State. He questioned which agency would oversee response to damages after a disaster. He discussed issues related to restoring natural gas service.

In response to Mr. Embree, Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated DCS was still very active. He stated the radio room at the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station would be a unified checkpoint for Arson Watch, DCS, community brigades, and the Fire Department. He discussed how the brigades could help communicate preparedness needs to neighborhoods. He suggested working with the schools to help communicate with families.

In response to Mr. Embree, Chair Frost stated the California Department of Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) regulated mobilehome parks.

B. 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.

Lieutenant Carr discussed the Tuna Canyon fire. He stated deputies had inspected homeless encampments there last summer and may need to do so again. He discussed an unpermitted car show held on January 22. He stated 11 moving violation and 10 parking citations were issued. He stated he was meeting tomorrow with Santa Monica College regarding a partnership for campus safety.

In response to Chair Frost, Lieutenant Carr stated the deceased person found today on Broad Beach was being handled by the Coroner's office and Homicide Bureau.

He reported the ALPR car was going to be marked for use in Malibu only.

Chair Frost suggested Malibu decals also be added to the two other vehicles paid for by the City.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated all cars working in Malibu would be marked as such once the new substation opened.

Chair Frost stated the car show venue had advertised the show but did not have a permit. Public Safety Director Dueñas stated the venue was cited by Code Enforcement. Chair Frost stated the venue advised the City it would not have car shows in the future.

In response to Vice Chair Spiegel, Lieutenant Carr discussed a recent incident involving a firearm that resulted in a large response, including helicopters.

In response to Vice Chair Spiegel, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated there were 48 citations issued by deputies with TicketPro in January, including 20 for oversized vehicles.

Ryan Embree asked why the number of speeding tickets issued was down. He discussed a dead body found in March 2022. He asked why it took so long to get details. He discussed difficulties responding to a fire on Rock Point Way.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:01 p.m., Commissioner Gibbs moved and Vice Chair Spiegel 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 March 1, 2023.



CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:



MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant