

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 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 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Chair Chris Frost; Vice Chair Joshua Spiegel; Commissioners Keegan Gibbs, and Brian Merrick; and Ex Officio Member Brent Woodworth

ABSENT: Commissioner Daphne Anneet

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director; Travis Hart, Public Works Superintendent; Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison; Gabe Etcheverry, Fire Safety Liaison; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Alicia Tang, Graphic Artist; Sergeant Christopher Soderlund, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Works Superintendent Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Gibbs moved, and Vice Chair Spiegel seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called, and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Anneet absent.

Chair Frost requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Michael Treinen who passed away one year ago.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on March 29, 2023

ITEM 1 CEREMONIAL / PRESENTATIONS

None.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meril May discussed correspondence he submitted regarding communication with the County of Los Angeles, the City, and Caltrans. He stated he continues to work to improve safety on the roads, particularly for cyclists. He stated it was important to optimize the shoulders, including roadside brush clearance.

ITEM 2.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Director Dueñas announced the Malibu Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) team was recognized by the California Emergency Services Association. She discussed an active shooter exercise held at Pepperdine University. She announced new Emergency Services Coordinator Sarah Flores would start next Monday.

Public Safety Liaison Flores stated he continued to work with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) on an agreement for the temporary impound yard at the high school this summer. He stated he was working with Caltrans on encroachment permits for automatic license plate reader (ALPR) camera installation sites. He discussed actions being taken to remove a homeless encampment on Civic Center Way near the connection to Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). He discussed an update to the homelessness webpage on the City website.

Fire Safety Liaison Etcheverry stated the City's Fire Safety Liaisons were focusing on the Public Safety Expo scheduled for June 10. He stated hazard tree removal and beacon box installation had been delayed by recent rain activity.

Public Works Superintendent Hart discussed storm debris cleanup. He stated there was an emergency declaration issued for the storms that would help with cost reimbursement. He stated 60 percent of the debris had been removed and cleared. He discussed striping work and other street maintenance scheduled throughout the City.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian provided an update on Caltrans road repairs on PCH from Cross Creek Road to Corral Canyon Road. He discussed street sweeping scheduled for the upcoming holiday weekend.

In response to Chair Frost, Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated Caltrans advised that power backup was in place for all traffic signals. He stated generators were available when needed.

Public Works Superintendent Hart stated there were enough generators to provide temporary power in the event of a public safety power shutoff (PSPS) power outage. He stated he understood that the generators were not intended for various power outages.

ITEM 2.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gibbs discussed a conference he and Ex Officio Member Woodworth attended related to wildfire response. He stated he attended a virtual meeting with Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (Beaches and Harbors), California Coastal Commission, the Bay Foundation, and Supervisor Horvath's office regarding the rock revetment project at Point Dume State Beach. He expressed frustration with how Beaches and Harbors operated in Malibu. He stated the damage to the dune restoration project was unnecessary.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth commended Caltrans for a good job clearing rockslides after recent storms. He discussed the conference he and Commissioner Gibbs attended. He stated there was valuable discussion about home protection now and in the future. He stated Los Angeles County Fire Chief Maroni approved moving ahead with the agreement with the County for the fire brigades. He discussed a recent Los Angeles County Fire Department meeting where new fire regulations were discussed.

Commissioner Merrick stated he was pleasantly surprised at how well the City held up during recent rainstorms.

Vice Chair Spiegel thanked Commissioner Gibbs for his update about the Point Dume State Beach project. He thanked Mr. May for his efforts. He stated he noticed more big rigs on PCH, mainly coming from east of the city limits. He commended the motor deputies for pulling them over. He suggested better signage about truck restrictions be placed on both ends of the City. He requested it be discussed on a future agenda. He commended Public Safety Liaison Flores and Deputy Espinosa for their work with homeless issues.

In response to Vice Chair Spiegel, Public Safety Liaison Flores stated he did not have specific numbers on how many homeowners associations (HOA) had signed up for Knox Boxes. He stated he would reach out again since contact information for the HOAs may not always be current. He stated he would contact the Lost Hills station and report back.

Vice Chair Spiegel stated he would like to reach out to Ms. Smit, who submitted correspondence by email, regarding her concerns. He stated it was important to remind the community to be vigilant during holidays and the summer.

Chair Frost agreed with Vice Chair Spiegel that there were more big rigs on the highway. He stated there was a sign in Oxnard advising truckers that they could not proceed past Decker Canyon. He suggested that be corrected to identify a point where the trucks could turn around or exit PCH. He commended the Public Safety Department for all of their efforts. He thanked Commissioner Gibbs and Ex Officio Member Woodworth for their reports and their work with the Brigades.

In response to Chair Frost, Commissioner Gibbs stated the conference he attended showed him that agencies were starting to refocus on home ignition. He stated it was announced that budgets would likely change to spend more on education and mitigation.

Chair Frost reopened Public Comment.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS (continued)

Ryan Embree discussed the homeless encampment near the Civic Center Water Treatment Facility. He stated it was a known person. He discussed the hazards of a potential fire near that facility. He stated there needed to be a plan in place for possible recurrences.

In response to Mr. Embree, Sergeant Soderlund stated the Sheriff's Department was working to have the individual reunited with her family in Chicago.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called, and the motion carried 3-0-1, Vice Chair Spiegel abstaining, and Commissioner Anneet absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

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

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS

- A. Point Dume Headlands (continued from March 1, 2023)
Recommended Action: 1) Review actions taken by California State Parks (State' Parks), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's

Department), and Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) to address public safety concerns in the Point Dume headlands area; and 2) Identity solutions to be executed in coordination with public safety agencies.

Public Safety Liaison Flores presented the report.

Public Works Superintendent Hart stated delineators would be delivered and installed next week. In response to Chair Frost, Public Works Superintendent Hart stated they would install 18-inch candlesticks.

California State Parks Chief Ranger Darrell Readyhoff reported that 107 citations were issued since March 7. He stated numerous infraction citations were also issued on the headlands. He stated a sign was installed with assistance from Commissioner Merrick. He stated all officers were taking part in the patrols.

Chair Frost stated tickets only might not solve the problem. He stated moving vehicles to the lower parking lot would be more impactful. He asked if third party websites could be requested to direct visitors to the parking lot.

Chief Ranger Readyhoff stated he was working to encourage social media sites to list the lot for parking. In response to Chair Frost, Chief Ranger Readyhoff stated revenue from citations went to State Parks.

Commissioner Merrick stated he noticed an increased presence by State Parks and the Sheriff's Department. He thanked Chief Ranger Readyhoff for that. He stated there was less parking on the sidewalk. He asked if a docent program could be instituted to provide information, including parking directions. In response to Commissioner Merrick, Chief Ranger Readyhoff stated State Parks could tow vehicles, but motorists often returned to their vehicles while waiting for the tow truck. Commissioner Merrick stated most of the vehicles were parked very briefly. In response to the emailed correspondence, he stated the No Parking signs predated the Coastal Commission.

Sergeant Soderlund stated the temporary tow yard should help reduce some of the illegal parking.

Chair Frost stated part of the problem was the logjam created when people stopped to wait for a parking spot. He agreed with the benefits of a docent program. In response to Chair Frost, Commissioner Merrick stated he recalled that a docent was included in the agreement along with the shuttle bus, a ranger and six parking spots.

Ryan Embree expressed frustration that the Commission began discussing the item before hearing public comment. In response to Mr. Embree, Chief Ranger Readyhoff stated parking ended at sunset but there was no closure of the beach. He discussed the ranger patrols on beaches and campgrounds. Mr. Embree suggested adding a sign with a QR code to provide hours and other information. He stated there needed to be a coordinated schedule of enforcement between the agencies. He discussed the settlement agreement.

In response to Mr. Embree's comment, Commissioner Frost discussed the purpose of public comment on agenda items.

Mr. Embree expressed concern that the Commission was conducting business improperly.

Commissioner Frost reminded the speaker that his time was up.

Vice Chair Spiegel discussed traffic and parking problems at Westward Beach Road and Birdview Avenue. He suggested the first step should be signage to make it easier to get into the parking lot. He requested a discussion of potential solutions be on an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Merrick agreed with Vice Chair Spiegel. He suggested including representatives from the affected agencies, including State Parks and Beaches and Harbors. He stated Westward Beach was more of a summer issue, but the headlands parking problems were year-round.

In response to Vice Chair Spiegel, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated she would try to coordinate with Public Works staff and the other agencies to have someone attend a meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Hart stated enforcement was the key issue, but the volume of towing could be continuous.

Commissioner Merrick stated it was important to invite Sunset Restaurant for any discussion about parking along Westward Beach. He agreed with Public Works Superintendent Hart that just seeing a tow truck was a deterrent. He asked if a Sheriff's operation could be conducted on a weekend with extra tow trucks.

Chair Frost stated VOP could not write a towing citation. He stated enforcement involving towing would require deputies.

Sergeant Soderlund stated special assignment deputies could be deployed. He stated most visitors were tourists, which would strand them in the neighborhood if their vehicles were towed. He stated enforcement will be easier when the tow yard is in place.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

A. Sheriff's Substation

Recommended Action: Review staffing options for the new Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Malibu Substation and make a recommendation to the City Council.

Public Safety Director Dueñas presented the report. She requested the Commission provide priorities for services to present to the City Council.

Ryan Embree stated the benefits of the substation were to be for the City and the deputies serving Malibu. He discussed the public benefit of a local Sheriff's station. He stated there needed to be a cost sharing agreement between the City and Santa Monica College.

Vice Chair Spiegel stated he wanted to see the substation be a force multiplier for Malibu. He stated VOP should have space in the substation.

Chair Frost recommended Commissioners tour the substation. He stated it was well put together. He stated he would suggest including a Lieutenant and Sergeant, a Mental Evaluation Team (MET) or two. He suggested having Parking Control Officers (PCO) rather than Community Services Assistants (CSA).

In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated PCOs were not available. Sergeant Soderlund stated PCOs were only available to unincorporated County areas, but CSAs were available.

In response to Chair Frost, Sergeant Soderlund stated CSAs would be dedicated to Malibu if included in the contract. He stated he recommended two CSAs to provide parking enforcement, including a vehicle.

In response to Chair Frost, Sergeant Soderlund discussed staffing requirements for the jail.

Public Safety Director Dueñas explained what was included in part-time jail service.

Chair Frost stated he supported part-time counter hours but not jail service.

Commissioner Gibbs stated he was excited for the substation.

Commissioner Merrick asked if the services could be flexible. Public Safety Director Dueñas stated there was some flexibility in what the City could request and when it was needed.

Sergeant Soderlund stated staffing level contracts were based on minutes of coverage.

In response to Ex Officio Member Woodworth, Public Safety Director Dueñas stated Captain Seetoo had suggested having a service area Lieutenant and a MET team. She stated staff planned to recommend to the Council that the City start small and add more services later.

Sergeant Soderlund stated Captain Seetoo had advised him a high priority was a MET deputy to work with homeless and motor deputies to address PCH traffic issues.

Commissioner Merrick suggested looking at crime and traffic statistics to match services with those needs.

Chair Frost stated he agreed with Captain Seetoo about adding motor deputies, particularly on the weekends.

Commissioner Gibbs, Commissioner Merrick, and Ex Officio Member Woodworth indicated support for including a MET presence.

MOTION

Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to recommend that the Council prioritize the following services for the new Malibu Sheriff's Substation: Service Area Lieutenant and Sergeant, Mental Evaluation Team (MET), two Community Services Assistants (CSA), part-time counter deputies, and two additional motor deputies. The question was called, and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Anneet absent.

B. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Recommended Assignments

Recommended Action: Review Public Safety Commission assignments from FY 2022-2023, remove completed assignments, add new topics for consideration, and provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Commission's task list for assignment in FY 2023-2024.

Public Safety Director Dueñas presented the report.

Ryan Embree suggested a utility interruption tabletop emergency exercise be added.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated a tabletop exercise was recently conducted with Chair Frost participating. She stated results were being folded into the Emergency Plan.

In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Director Dueñas explained what the Commission could provide by staffing a booth at the Public Safety Expo. She stated Commissioners were welcome to attend this year's expo in June, but the recommendation was for the FY 2023-24 work plan.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth suggested bringing together groups such as Arson Watch, Search and Rescue, and Fire Brigades. Public Safety Director Dueñas stated that was on the Public Safety Department general plan. She stated she could request that the various groups attend meetings to provide presentations to the Commission about what they do.

MOTION

Chair Frost moved, and Commissioner Merrick seconded a motion to submit the recommended assignments to the Council for approval. The question was called, and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Anneet absent.

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 Lifeguard Division.

Sergeant Soderlund discussed the crime statistics report.

In response to Commissioner Merrick, Sergeant Soderlund stated rain may have had an impact on reducing crime statistics.

Vice Chair Spiegel welcomed Sergeant Soderlund.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth asked Sergeant Soderlund what concerns he had moving forward. Sergeant Soderlund stated most crimes were committed by non-residents. He stated having a full-time MET deputy would help mitigate homelessness issues. He stated the substation would tremendously help response times.

Chair Frost stated big rigs and car carriers were a major problem. He stated the deputies were doing a good job, but improved signage was needed.

Sergeant Soderlund stated he would contact the California Highway Patrol stations in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties about enforcement of those vehicles before they get to Malibu.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:20 p.m., Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting in memory of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Michael Treinen. The question was called, and the motion carried, Commissioner Anneet absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on June 7, 2023.



CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:



MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant