

MINUTES  
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 7, 2021  
TELECONFERENCED – VARIOUS LOCATIONS  
5:00 P.M.

**The following meeting was held pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders N-08-21 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Chair Chris Frost; Vice Chair Doug Stewart; Commissioners Daphne Anneet, Keegan Gibbs, and Joshua Spiegel; and Ex Officio Member Brent Woodworth

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Chris Brossard, Fire Safety Liaison; Arthur Aladjajian, Public Works Superintendent; Brandie Ayala, Senior Administrative Assistant; Parker Davis, Media Technician; Lieutenant James Braden, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Vice Chair Stewart 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 July 2, 2021.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Graeme Clifford was not present at the time of the hearing.

ITEM 1.B. STAFF UPDATES

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced the annual multi-agency tabletop exercise would be held at the end of August. She stated she was working with the City Attorney's office regarding the nuisance code update, which would include the Commission's recommendations. She stated staff was working on an emergency plan so people could be legally removed from brush areas. She stated she hoped to have a Councilmember present the plan to the City Council on August 12.

Fire Safety Liaison Brossard stated the national fire preparedness level reached PL4 in July for only the fourth time in 20 years. He stated Northern California was at PL4 due to several large fires currently burning. He reported there were no fires locally over the July 4 weekend. He stated he was conducting approximately four to six Ignition Zone Home Assessments per week. He stated the final Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was received from the consultant last night. He stated a Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) was drafted to select a vendor for the hazard tree abatement project using Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) grant funds.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated he was continuing to work with Planning on parking restrictions as a solution for Trancas Canyon Road. He stated they were researching a County ordinance used at Surfrider Beach as a starting point.

In response to Chair Frost, Fire Safety Liaison Brossard stated live fuel moistures were at 70% as of July 1, which was a drop of 5% between June 15 and July 1. He stated critical levels were expected by the first week of August. He stated Ventura County was at 51%. He discussed an upcoming heat wave and possible fire weather watch in coming weeks.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas announced the City Council approved the half-time Fire Safety Liaison position with the adoption of the budget. She stated Gabriel Etcheverry, a retired Los Angeles County Fire Chief, accepted the position and would start July 20.

ITEM 1.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated fire exposure from encampments was very significant. He commended Public Safety Manager Dueñas for her work on that issue. He suggested using any means to reduce risks from overnight camping.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the new Fire Safety Liaison would provide critical backup to Fire Safety Liaison

Brossard during emergency fire response. She stated the new position would also help with home assessments, tree removal and other projects.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Public Works Director DuBoux stated Caltrans had not provided any further information about improvements to the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) intersections at Las Flores Canyon Road and Rambla Pacifico. He stated he would request an update at an upcoming meeting with Caltrans.

Commissioner Spiegel commended the Sheriff's Beach Team. He stated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday was relatively quiet. He requested the signal at PCH and Trancas Canyon Road be adjusted to protect pedestrian crossing. Public Works Director DuBoux stated Caltrans was notified and responded to him that they were looking into the signal timing. He stated would bring this up at his meeting with Caltrans and impress on them the urgency for it to be addressed.

Commissioner Anneet stated she met with Public Safety Specialist Kaplan about the Public Safety Expo, which was scheduled to be held on September 25. She stated there would be educational and promotional booths and training classes, such as crisis first aid. She stated they were working with the Sheriff's and Fire Departments and Caltrans to bring large vehicles for children to explore. She stated they were working with third parties on promotional booths. She requested Commissioners share ideas or connections for anyone who might want to participate. She stated they were planning it to be a family-friendly event.

Commissioner Gibbs thanked Commissioner Anneet for her work on the Expo. Public Works Director DuBoux stated he would contact some City contractors about bringing equipment for the event.

Vice Chair Stewart commended Chair Frost and Public Works Director DuBoux. He commended the City Council for approving additional Sheriff personnel. He requested updates on LexisNexis and Flock cameras. Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated LexisNexis was approved by Council and was in progress. She stated Flock cameras were pushed to the second meeting in August. Vice Chair Stewart thanked staff who worked so hard to get a difficult budget adopted.

Chair Frost thanked the City Council for passing the budget with additional safety resources recommended by the Commission. He stated he was disturbed by the live fuel moisture level in Ventura County. He discussed response to a sailboat beached west of Paradise Cove on Saturday night. He stated the first month of towing in Malibu was successful. He stated residents appreciated keeping vehicles off neighborhood streets. He suggested a CPR class be offered at the Public Safety Expo. He thanked the Commissioners and staff for keeping the Commission's meetings going virtually during the pandemic.

ITEM 2      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 unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A.      Previously Discussed Items

None.

B.      New Items

1.      Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2021

Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of June 2, 2021.

ITEM 3      OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4      NEW BUSINESS

A.      Indoor Emergency Warning System

Recommended Action: Provide a recommendation to the City Council concerning the consultant's report on options for indoor emergency warning systems.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas provided a history of emergency warning systems. She introduced Pat McFeely, Mission Critical Partners.

Mr. McFeely introduced Gordon Vanauken and Andy Nielsen. Mr. Vanauken provided the presentation. He stated indoor warnings were more difficult since homes and other buildings were constructed to reduce indoor noise. He described five options considered, including Tone Alert Radios, Frequency Modulation (FM) Alerting, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radios using Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), and National Weather Radio (NWR) Transmission Interrupt. He discussed the benefits and disadvantages of each option and combinations of options.

Mr. McFeely stated one approved vendor for FM Alerting Systems would blanket the area with multiple radio stations. Mr. Vanauken stated that vendor was also licensed to provide shake alerts.

Hans Laetz was not available at the time of the hearing.

Vice Chair Stewart asked if the consultant was aware of systems used by other beach cities, such as Manhattan Beach. Mr. McFeely stated most beach cities utilized outdoor alarms and sirens, but Malibu's concern was alerting people inside homes. Vice Chair Stewart stated FM Alert and Tone Alert Systems seemed most feasible at low cost, broad coverage and minimal extra efforts. He asked how those systems connected with earthquake alerting systems.

Mr. McFeely discussed earthquake alerts and notifications. He stated FM Alerts could share ShakeOut alerts. He stated Tone Alerts required someone to manually send the alert.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth discussed his work with a successful program in Alaska that implemented Radio in a Box using NOAA radios. In response to Ex Officio Member Woodworth, Mr. McFeely stated NOAA radios ranged from \$15 to a few hundred dollars depending on the features. He stated NOAA radios could provide good coverage as long as infrastructure was maintained.

Mr. Vanauken stated Tone Alert and Alert FM were off-the-shelf systems immediately available. He stated the City already had IPAWS capability. He stated coordination for National Weather Service (NWS) options could take time.

In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Mr. Vanauken stated NOAA radios needed to include SAME in the features. In response to Commissioner Gibbs, Mr. Vanauken stated the City would need permission from Los Angeles County to function as a single zone and from NWS to interrupt its broadcast. He stated the City would need to coordinate with the County and FCC to broadcast using their transmitters.

Hans Laetz commended the consultant for an excellent report. He stated UHF radios worked great but only to fixed units in the home, not in cars, and they required antennas. He stated the City has several excellent sites, and BlackJack on Catalina could be used. He stated the State's Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan had never been activated in Los Angeles County.

Vice Chair Stewart stated his weather radio remained silent until an alert was sent. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Mr. McFeely discussed agreements made with FM radio stations that had coverage in Malibu. Vice Chair Stewart agreed with Mr. Laetz that the alert needed to be followed by voice communication with more information.

Mr. Vanauken stated the radios had a small screen to display alert text, plus a strobe and small, loud siren. He stated the radios were pre-programmed with all the available stations.

Mr. Laetz discussed difficulty working with area radio stations. He stated the two EAS stations included in the report had some of the weaker signals in Malibu. He suggested using signals from Mount Wilson, a South Bay radio station, and KBUU. He suggested approaching KCRW in Santa Monica to add boosters in Malibu. He stated Los Angeles County was the only agency permitted to transmit EAS warnings.

Chair Frost requested Mr. Laetz provide a written summary of his comments and recommendations.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested forming a working group to review the information and come back with a summary and potential recommendation to be presented to the City Council.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated educating the community was critical. He stated the City needed to identify how to alert them and how to get the right information to as many people as possible.

Chair Frost agreed with Vice Chair Stewart on forming a task force.

Executive Assistant Linden explained the Commission could form an ad hoc committee to work with staff. She stated the item would be continued and brought back with a report from the ad hoc committee after which the Commission would provide a recommendation to the City Council.

Commissioner Gibbs left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Vice Chair Stewart suggested including Mr. Laetz and Richard Garvey on the task force.

MOTION Vice Chair Stewart moved and Chair Frost seconded a motion to: 1) Form an Indoor Emergency Warning System Ad Hoc Committee to analyze the consultant's report on options for indoor emergency warning systems with City staff and one or more members of the public; and 2) Continue the item to the August 4, 2021 Regular meeting when the Ad Hoc Committee would provide its report with a proposed recommendation to be presented to the City Council. The question was called, and the motion carried 4-0, Commissioner Gibbs absent.

B. Evacuation Zone Signage

Recommended Action: 1) Receive a report on the City's Evacuation Zones; and 2) provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding installing signs on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) indicating Zone boundaries, if appropriate.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She explained all emergency messages would include zone numbers and parameters. She explained signs would require a Caltrans encroachment permit and may require a coastal development permit (CDP).

Commissioner Gibbs returned to the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Vice Chair Stewart stated a description of the zones would be helpful to residents, and visitors might not be familiar with City streets.

In response to Ex Officio Member Woodworth, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she was unaware if tsunami warning signs required the same considerations. Ex Officio Member Woodworth stated signs would also help educate residents by visually reminding them of their zones.

In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Manager Dueñas confirmed signs were included in the CWPP as an action item to consider.

Public Works Director DuBoux stated Caltrans was likely to approve the signs on PCH. In response to Chair Frost, he stated the Coastal Commission would probably not be opposed since the signs did not impact parking.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas explained the signs were not on the City Work Plan or in the adopted budget. She stated adding it to the Work Plan might cause delays. In response to Chair Frost, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated double-sided signs for leaving or entering a zone would be posted on both sides of the street.

Commissioner Spiegel suggested getting additional signs to place on City streets. In response to Commissioner Spiegel, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the City could not provide signs for private roads but could advise those homeowners where the signs could be purchased.

Chair Frost agreed with Commissioner Spiegel about installing signs in neighborhoods. Public Safety Manager Dueñas agreed it might be more helpful than signs on PCH.

**MOTION** Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Spiegel seconded a motion to provide a recommendation to the City Council to pursue the installation of signs on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and other City streets identifying Evacuation Zone boundaries. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

Recommended Action: Review Public Safety Commission Ad Hoc Committees, dissolve those which have completed the assigned task, and affirm those that are still active, and make appointments, as necessary.

Executive Assistant Linden presented the report. She discussed the current three ad hoc committees. She stated staff suggested dissolving the Temporary Tow Yard Ad Hoc Committee. She stated the Commission could review the goals of the other two and make changes, if applicable.

Vice Chair Stewart stated there was no budget to print a newsletter, and The Malibu Times had expressed interest but could not publish articles. He stated a formal newsletter was not practical at this time.

Commissioner Gibbs agreed with Vice Chair Stewart. He stated a newsletter was redundant and the City's social media activity was more effective.

MOTION Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Gibbs seconded a motion to dissolve the Public Safety Newsletter Ad Hoc Committee and the Temporary Tow Yard Ad Hoc Committee. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Safety Agency Activity

Recommended Action: Discuss recent Public Safety Agency activities and receive and file monthly activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and Lifeguards.

Lieutenant Braden discussed trends in statistics. He discussed Sheriff's Department activity related to homeless encampments. He stated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July went smoothly and was lighter than expected. In response to Vice Chair Stewart, Lieutenant Braden discussed scheduling for the new Crime Suppression car.

Lieutenant Braden commended the Commission for recommending and the Council for approving additional Sheriff's vehicles in Malibu. He stated he, Captain Becerra, Mayor Pro Tem Silverstein and Councilmember Uhring met with Sheriff Villanueva regarding how to address homeless issues in Malibu.

Ex Officio Member Woodworth asked if Sheriff Villanueva provided a timeframe for finding temporary housing for homeless. Lieutenant Braden stated it was a work in progress. He stated there just needed to be a place to relocate them. He stated it was most important to remove individuals from the canyons.

Chair Frost reopened Item No. 4.A.

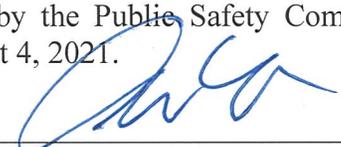
A. Indoor Emergency Warning System (continued)

MOTION Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Anneet seconded a motion to appoint Vice Chair Stewart and Commissioner Gibbs to the newly formed Indoor Emergency Warning System Ad Hoc Committee. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 7:43 p.m., Chair Frost moved and Commissioner Anneet 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 August 4, 2021.

  
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CHRIS FROST, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant