MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
August 5, 2026
MALIBU CITY HALL – City Council Chambers
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Vice Chair Brian Merrick; Commissioners Alexis Aria, Richard Garvey, Meril May

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director; Sarah Flores, Emergency Services Manager; Luis Flores, Public Safety Manager; Carrie Rios, Code Enforcement Manager; Bradley Yocum, Fire Safety Liaison; Sergeant Christopher Soderlund, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Mark Russo, VOP Team Leader; Austin Anderson, Senior Management Analyst; and Carole Myers, Administrative Assistant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Luis Flores led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Commission moved to approve the agenda, hearing Item No. 5.A. after Item No. 2.A.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Administrative Assistant Myers reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on July 23, 2026.

ITEM 1 CEREMONIAL / PRESENTATIONS

None.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Works Commission Chair Kevin Keegan provided comments on three items not on the agenda:

- Joint Commission Work: Mr. Keegan expressed appreciation for the Public Safety Commission's engagement on public safety issues, including safety on PCH, and encouraged continued collaboration between the commissions.
- Evacuation Planning: Mr. Keegan reported that, following the interagency tabletop exercise conducted by the Public Safety Department in March, the Malibu School Safety Committee requested a similar exercise for local public schools. School

Staff further reported that an additional Management Analyst will be joining the Public Safety team to assist with the day-to-day administration of the automated safety camera program, including financial management and data-related responsibilities.
Regarding parking enforcement, staff reported that the department experienced some staff turnover during the summer, resulting in a temporary reduction in citations during June. Staff stated that the team is now fully staffed and that parking enforcement operations have returned to normal throughout the City. Staff also noted that issues affecting citation activity have been addressed.

Staff provided updates on upcoming City Council matters, including the school crossing guard contract, which is scheduled for presentation to the City Council on August 10, 2026. Staff also reported that amendments to the oversized vehicle ordinance are scheduled for discussion on August 24, 2026. The proposed amendments are intended to provide an additional enforcement tool for addressing ongoing food truck-related issues throughout the City. Staff further noted that a new ordinance will be proposed to address homelessness-related concerns in the library parking lot.

Fire Safety Liaison Brad Yocum reported that they continue to monitor live fuel moisture conditions, which are currently near critical levels at approximately 67 percent. Staff noted that recent coastal fog and cooler conditions have helped maintain moisture levels; however, Santa Ana winds and other dry conditions could significantly reduce fuel moisture and increase fire risk. Staff emphasized that vegetation remains receptive to firebrands and that significant fire advancement and substantial fires can still occur at current moisture levels. Staff will continue to closely monitor conditions, particularly as drier winds develop.

Staff also reported that the City is in the process of hiring an additional Fire Safety Liaison to provide additional support, with interviews anticipated to take place soon.

Commissioner Merrick asked a follow-up question regarding the number of residents utilizing the City's home wildfire assessment services. Staff reported that participation has been relatively low and stated that staff are working to increase awareness and participation in the program. Staff noted that approximately 750 assessments have been completed to date and emphasized the goal of having the entire City assessed. Staff reported that the City currently has 15 Firewise Communities, with two additional communities, including a community associated with Pepperdine University and the Point Dume Club, working toward participation. Staff explained that home wildfire assessments are being incorporated into the communities' three-year action plans.

Commissioner Merrick suggested that staff provide Firewise Communities and homeowners' associations with informational materials promoting the assessment program. Staff agreed and stated that increasing outreach will be a priority, particularly with the addition of a new Fire Safety Liaison. Staff also discussed expanding outreach through local schools by providing informational flyers for students to take home to their families. Staff noted that highlighting successful outcomes from previous wildfires, including properties in Big Rock and other areas that survived, could help demonstrate the value of wildfire preparedness and encourage residents to participate in assessments.

however, staff clarified that enforcement activities are conducted during regular work hours, with weekend issues coordinated with the Sheriff's Department.

Staff further reported that Code Enforcement continues to address community complaints and concerns involving unpermitted construction, construction occurring on Sundays, short-term rentals, property maintenance, and other code-related matters. Staff stated that the division remains very active following its transition to Public Safety and encouraged residents to contact Code Enforcement with questions or concerns so that staff can investigate and address reported issues.

ITEM 2.C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Aria reported that several parents in the Point Dume area had expressed concerns regarding traffic enforcement and the issuance of speeding citations near schools. She noted that law enforcement presence and traffic controls in the area are intended to enhance the safety of children and pedestrians. She also relayed concerns from female employees of Ralph's store who reportedly feel unsafe walking to their vehicles late at night due to inadequate lighting in the parking lot. She stated that residents have requested the City explore opportunities to improve lighting conditions in the area to enhance public safety. She further reported receiving correspondence regarding several incidents of insurance fraud and noted concerns that such activity may negatively affect individuals who rely on insurance coverage during times of need. She stated that she had also received complaints regarding littering at local gas stations, specifically that motorists are leaving trash on the ground rather than disposing of it in trash cans and has encouraged enforcement of the littering law. Additionally, she expressed concerns regarding brush clearance around the Smith property, located near Civic Center and Webb Way, noting that dry conditions, accumulated vegetation, and large tumbleweeds in the area present a potential fire hazard due to the property being so close to surrounding buildings. She stated previous fire activity in the area and emphasized the importance of continued maintenance efforts. She stated that she had received correspondence from residents suggesting the City explore additional measures to deter and penalize unethical conduct related to post-disaster recovery efforts. She noted that the matter would require further legal review and policy consideration.

A Commissioner asked a follow-up question regarding recent community emails concerning fire hazards, including overgrown vegetation and brush, and whether such concerns should be directed to Code Enforcement. Staff confirmed that community members may contact Code Enforcement to report these concerns. Staff explained that Code Enforcement and the Fire Safety Liaison are working together to establish a coordinated process for receiving and addressing fire-related complaints. Staff noted that the process will include an initial notice to property owners and, when necessary, referral to Code Enforcement for further action if the issue is not corrected. Staff stated that the two divisions are working collaboratively to ensure that community concerns regarding fire hazards are appropriately addressed.

Commissioner Comments

Include:

- Westward Beach Road update/question
- Surveillance cameras, privacy, cybersecurity, and data concerns
- Emergency Operations Center training/Fire Safety Liaison hiring questions

Ms. Camarillo expressed concerns regarding the City's consideration of Zone Zero requirements and encouraged the Commission to consider broader wildfire preparedness measures, including local emergency resources, community fire brigades, and the availability of firefighting equipment during major wildfire events.

As there were no additional speakers, Chair Merrick closed public comment and returned the matter to the Commission for discussion.

The Commission discussed the proposed Zone Zero requirements and nuisance abatement amendments. Staff explained that Zone Zero is intended to reduce combustible materials immediately adjacent to structures and is separate from defensible space requirements. Staff further explained that the proposed measures are primarily intended to address existing structures and would be implemented with an emphasis on education, voluntary compliance, and phased implementation. Staff noted that the State was continuing to develop its Zone Zero regulations and that the City could adopt requirements that are more restrictive than State standards.

The Commission discussed the relationship between Zone Zero, defensible space, and home hardening and emphasized the importance of addressing ember intrusion through measures such as appropriate vents and other home-hardening improvements. The Commission also discussed the potential costs to property owners and the possibility of grants, financial assistance, incentives, or phased compliance to assist residents with wildfire mitigation improvements.

Staff explained that the existing nuisance abatement provisions provide some authority to address hazardous vegetation but are broad and may be difficult to apply in certain circumstances. Staff stated that more specific language addressing hazardous, dead, or dying vegetation could provide additional enforcement tools when voluntary compliance is unsuccessful. Staff emphasized that abatement would remain a last resort and that the City's primary approach would continue to focus on education and voluntary compliance.

The Commission discussed potential definitions, compliance timeframes, and whether hazardous vegetation should be categorized according to the level of urgency. The Commission also requested that staff research and provide examples of Zone Zero and nuisance abatement regulations adopted or being considered by other jurisdictions, including communities affected by catastrophic wildfires, for consideration before developing City-specific requirements.

The Commission discussed the timing of the proposed Zone Zero requirements in relation to pending State regulations. A motion was made and seconded to continue consideration of Zone Zero requirements until the State's regulations are finalized, with staff to return with additional information and examples from other jurisdictions. The motion carried.

The Commission further discussed potential amendments to the nuisance abatement ordinance and requested additional research and examples of language used by other jurisdictions before taking further action. No additional action was taken on the proposed nuisance abatement amendments.

B. Public Safety Agency Monthly Activity Report

The Commission did not receive or file the monthly report for July 2026 from the LAZ Parking Enforcement Team.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Merrick, adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on September 5, 2026.

Brian Merrick, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Carole Myers, Recording Secretary