

DRAFT

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 31, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Public Safety Committee was held January 31, 2019, in the City Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue, Piedmont. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on January 28, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lynne Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Lynne Wright and Committee Members: Police Chief Jeremy Bowers (arrived late), Fire Chief Bret Black, Lori Elefant, Jeffrey Horner, Chris Houlder, Garrett Keating, Amal Smith

Absent: Committee Member Gina Jurva

Also Present: Councilmember Jen Cavanaugh, Council Liaison

PUBLIC FORUM

Rui Jiang, resident of Trestle Glen Road, relayed his experience with crime in his neighborhood and asked the City to do more to address it in the Trestle Glen Road area.

Robert Berger of Valent Place urged the City to install Automated License Plate Readers which would cover the Trestle Glen Road neighborhood.

Joseph Gold, resident of Trestle Glen Road, voiced support of license plate readers as a method to deter crime.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Committee considered these regular business items as follows:

Minutes

Mr. Keating referred to the November 29th minutes and requested the item of "Crime Prevention and Community Outreach" be removed, stating he questioned whether these comments were provided by the Chief. Chair Wright suggested checking with the Chief to acknowledge his comments.

RESOLVED, that the Public Safety Committee approves its meeting minutes for September 27, 2018, as submitted and the November 29, 2018, as amended.

Moved by Keating, Seconded by Elefant

Ayes: Black, Elefant, Horner, Houlder, Keating, Smith and Wright

Noes: None

Absent: Bowers and Jurva

**Wildfire Response
Presentation**

Fire Chief Bret Black introduced a presentation about the mutual aid response given by the Piedmont Fire Department to the Camp Fire in 2018. He indicated that the presentation will put into context what happens when fire personnel are called to such incidents throughout the State. Chief Black discussed the governance of mutual aid requests and responses in California.

He indicated that the City provides adequate equipment and training for firefighters, but actual experience is invaluable to stay proficient, fluent and safe when responding to these incidents.

Firefighter Sandor Lengyel provided the Committee information on wildfires over the previous ten years. He gave details on the Camp Fire, which destroyed almost 15,000 homes within a few hours. He then presented photographs showing the Department's response to the incident. He discussed the new norms for wildland fires and other major incidents. He also provided information on how to best prepare properties to minimize damage. Fire Chief Black noted that the Police Department also sent responders to help address the massive animal problems, and he recognized them as well.

Chair Wright asked if Piedmont self-dispatched, and Firefighter Sandor Lengyel stated Alameda County alerts them after they assess their resources, noting that the City is never uncovered. Fire Chief Black added that there is also an approval process by the County before they can request Piedmont for funding and reimbursement.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

**Public Safety
Cameras**

Mr. Houlder provided an update on activities of the Public Safety Camera Subcommittee. He indicated that the subcommittee has met three times in December. He stated that the Subcommittee had visited the San Pablo Police Department, which makes extensive use of Public Safety Cameras.

Mr. Houlder indicated that the Subcommittee has discussed the public engagement strategy would be to gather resident input on the proposal. He said that the subcommittee has finalized the plan, which includes information on the City's web site, social media outreach, a Town Hall meeting in March, and Neighborhood Watch meetings in late March and early April.

Mr. Houlder indicated that the Subcommittee was working on the options for a survey as well as the participation of the full committee. He presented a printout of the FAQ document which has been prepared and asked for members to email him for input and any additional questions no later than February 8th.

The Committee discussed how its participation in the process would be governed by the Brown Act. Chair Wright confirmed Chief Bowers and Fire Chief Brown were voting members and said she will obtain clarification from the City Clerk regarding noticing requirements and member participation per the Brown Act.

Public Testimony was received from:

An unnamed speaker stated that, at times these programs get pushback outside of the community. He suggested the City be prepared to deal with this type of pushback.

Mr. Keating asked whether the Subcommittee had performed any data analysis on the proposal. Chief Bowers explained that he showed the subcommittee incident data from PPD's Computer Aided Dispatch system over a period of time as well as data from the City's ALPR system. This data was used to determine the locations cameras would be proposed for.

Mr. Keating asked and received answers to questions about camera technology, the proposed survey, and the City's Public Safety Camera Policy.

Ms. Elefant said it might be interesting to also utilize feedback from San Pablo. Chief Bowers spoke of the presentation they provided which gave anecdotal stories of their use of their system.

**School Resource
Officer Proposal**

Police Chief Bowers gave a status report, indicating that Piedmont Unified School District Superintendent Randall Booker, Captain Chris Monahan, and he have conducted public outreach on the proposed School Resource Officer (SRO) program. He stated that the City and PUSD are providing information to and receiving feedback from parent groups, PUSD teachers and staff, students, as well as other community-based organizations regarding the proposed program.

Chief Bowers indicated that the initial public outreach would be concluded by the end of February. He indicated that the Board of Education would discuss and consider the proposal at that meeting. Chief Bowers indicated that he will present at the meeting and that he hopes to bring officials from another agency which has a similar program to present.

Chair Wright asked if the City has been awarded a grant. Chief Bowers indicated that a grant in the amount of \$391,000 was awarded by the state Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Fund. He stated that, if accepted, the grant would fund the first three years of the program.

Ms. Smith clarified there will be a survey, but she did not believe it has been yet sent to students, parents or to the community and the school district is working with parent clubs to do this.

Mr. Keating asked whether the role of the SRO had been defined, specifically what they would be empowered to do on school grounds. Chief Bowers indicated that the SRO would handle criminal issues and would not be involved in school discipline issues. He also indicated that specific guidelines regarding SRO functions exist and would be followed.

There was no **Public Testimony** given.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.