

**DRAFT**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 30, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Public Safety Committee was held May 30, 2019, at City Council Chambers, 120 Vista Avenue, Piedmont, CA. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on May 24, 2019.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lynne Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Lynne Wright and Committee Members: Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, Fire Chief Bret Black, Shanti Brien, Chris Houlder, Garrett Keating (arrived at 7:08 p.m.) and Amal Smith

Absent: Committee Members Lori Elefant, Jeffrey Horner

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Winston Street commended the Police Department's investigative work in regard to the home invasion of which he was a victim last year. He asked if the Committee could provide a letter for the sentencing hearing of one of the suspects of the robbery.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

The Committee considered the following items of regular business:

**Election of Chair Pro-Tempore**

Chair Wright indicated that as she was present, this item would not be necessary.

**Tobacco Grant Funding-Juvenile Officer**

Police Chief Bowers reported that the School Board and City Council reviewed and approved acceptance of \$391,000 in grant funding to fund a Juvenile Officer position for three fiscal years FY 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. He indicated that funds from the previous year would be able to be carried over. He announced the application process and interviews will be held next week which will then follow with hiring and juvenile and school-related training.

Chair Wright asked and confirmed with Chief Bowers that a portion of the grant will be used for health education in the form of programs and part-time people hired by the school district focusing on anti-tobacco and other school issues.

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

**Fire Season Preparation**

Fire Chief Bret Black reported the fire season is already under way, with three active fires being fought at this time. He cited challenges from increased rain and density of vegetation. He announced that the Fire Department's annual vegetation management and inspection program has begun. He reported that the Department is asking that residents be more proactive than in the past. They are also updating their annual wildfire training and will be bringing goats to Piedmont to weed around the Corporation Yard and below Coaches Field, addressing approximately 7.5 acres.

Committee members then discussed targeted high risk fire areas, contacting the fire department with complaints, ideas for making an informational video with KCOM, formulation of a resource database, and suggestions to post flyers on Nextdoor.com and the Police Department's Facebook page.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Robert Berger indicated his belief that a Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan for the City was incomplete without addressing eucalyptus trees and asked for a targeted approach to mitigate the problem.

**Public Safety  
Camera Subcommittee**

Committee member Chris Houlder indicated that the results of the public safety camera survey would be presented to the City Council at its September 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Chief Bowers indicated that he is working with a consultant on creating questions for the survey. He indicated that the intent is to post the survey on NextDoor, which can reach an audience of approximately 70% of the households in Piedmont, assuming it has the technology to conduct the survey.

Chief Bowers indicated that he plans to post the survey on August 5<sup>th</sup>, allowing approximately one month for responses. He indicated that themes which stand out will be identified and brought to the Public Safety Committee at its July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Committee members indicated concern with the turnaround time for the survey, but Chief Bowers indicated he was confident the task could be completed in the allotted time.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Robert Berger asked how tightly the survey on Nextdoor.com could be controlled to just Piedmont residents, stating at times the discussions get out of hand especially in areas with inherent controversy.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee Member Keating announced an emergency preparedness event sponsored by the Great Shake-Out on June 4<sup>th</sup> in Oakland.

Chief Bowers announced the he would be making a presentation to the City Council at its June 17, 2019 meeting regarding an overview of the ALPR program and recommendation to consider equipment replacement and Phase 2 of the program. He announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual National Night Out in Piedmont will be on August 6<sup>th</sup> and that there are currently six neighborhoods confirmed to participate.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to the next regular Public Safety Committee meeting on July 25, 2019.