

DRAFT

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting Minutes for Thursday, July 25, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Public Safety Committee was held July 25, 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 July 22, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Pro Tempore Chris Houlder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Committee Members Jeffrey Horner, Chris Houlder, Garret Keating, Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, and Fire Chief Bret Black.

Absent: Chair Lynn Wright, Committee Members Shanti Brien, Lori Elefant, and Amal Smith

PUBLIC FORUM There were no public speakers for **Public Forum**.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Pro Tempore By acclamation, Committee member Chris Houlder was selected to serve as Chair Pro Tempore for this meeting.

Minutes RESOLVED, that the Public Safety Committee approves its meeting minutes for March 5, 2019, March 28, 2019 and May 30, 2019, as submitted.

Moved by Black, Seconded by Horner
Ayes: Black, Bowers, Horner, Houlder, Keating
Noes: None
Absent: Brien, Elefant, Smith, Wright

ALPR & Public Safety Cameras Police Chief Jeremy Bowers reported that at its regular meeting on July 1, 2019, the City Council approved five new Automated License Plate Recognition cameras and related equipment at a cost of \$113,358.31. He indicated that staff is currently working to get these new locations and associated upgrades operational. Chief Bowers indicated that neighborhood outreach would be conducted. He also reported that the project included upgrade of two existing sites whose cameras had outlived their useful life.

With regard to public safety cameras, Mr. Houlder reported that the subcommittee is preparing the survey which will go out to residents after the beginning of the new school year. He indicated that this will naturally delay the preparation and release of the report.

Chief Bowers indicated that survey questions are being reviewed, discussing best practices for surveys. He also discussed the process for City Council consideration of a proposed public safety camera policy.

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

PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff Fire Chief Bret Black indicated that Pacific Gas & Electric company has tried to be very proactive in meeting with local agencies regarding their plans for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) during this fall's wildfire season. He reported that

PG&E's messaging was being refined based upon feedback from local agencies and that PG&E's plan is still a work in progress.

Chief Black indicated that PG&E is now proposing the shut down of both transmission and distribution lines, leading to the possibility of a much larger impact. He reported that PG&E plans to provide 48 hours' notice of possible PSPS, but that weather conditions might prevent this. PG&E has committed to getting the message out to the community, but it will be a struggle. Chief Black noted that the likelihood of shutdowns will be significant to the entire City. He also reported that the City is examining an update to its Emergency Operations Plan, which doesn't currently cover this eventuality.

Chief Black noted that local agencies are working to be prepared for PSPS, referring Committee members to an interesting article on EBMUD's website regarding water supply which is a real concern, given water is pumped by electricity.

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

The Committee discussed the possibility of Public Safety Power Shutoffs, how Piedmont will be affected and what residents can do to prepare themselves for this eventuality. Commissioners urged residents to be prepared given the risk of wildfires, level of supplies for residents, and the items on tonight's agenda to discuss these opportunities.

**Police Department
Social Media**

Chief Bowers stated on May 3, 2018 the department established a NextDoor account. 74% of the 4,280 households are on NextDoor with 8 neighborhoods and 6,049 members. On June 21, 2018 the department initiated its Facebook page and they are up to 380 followers. A full year later, they began their Instagram page and are at 272 followers. He indicated that they have increased outreach and they have found utilization of their social media platform has been in concert with its intent to keep the public better informed.

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

National Night Out

Chief Bowers announced that National Night Out will be held August 6, 2019 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., marking Piedmont's 3rd year of participating in this program. He noted that there are six different neighborhoods which will participate in the program this year. He announced that public safety personnel will visit the participating neighborhoods on the night of the event.

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

**Get Ready, Piedmont
Guide / Map Your
Neighborhood**

Chief Black reported that Lyman Shaffer, who has been spearheading the preparation and updating of the Get Ready, Piedmont Guide as well as the Map Your Neighborhood program will be leaving the program. He reported on his discussions on how to keep the guide and checklist updated and to keep the production of the guide ongoing. Chief Black indicated that he has interviewed resident Chuck Wolf, who is interested in taking on some of the roles.

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

Members discussed the need to determine and record which neighborhoods have gone through the Map Your Neighborhood training.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Black announced that Fire Prevention Week and the Great Shake-Out will

be held in October and provided details on both programs. He also announced that the Fire Department will have a booth at the Harvest Festival to provide information to residents and recruit new firefighters.

Chief Bowers announced that on September 21st the Police Department will hold a Coffee, Cops and Cars event at the Community Hall area, with vintage cars.

Committee members discussed the earthquake warning system being tested now that is moving towards going public. Chief Black noted this is a citizen-based tracking system and anybody can sign up for it.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Pro Tempore Houlder adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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