

DRAFT

PIEDMONT PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes for Thursday, December 8, 2011

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Public Safety Committee was held December 8, 2011, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on December 5, 2011.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Marshall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee Present: Ray Marshall, Anne-Marie Lamarche, Greg Young, Michael Gardner, Police Chief John Hunt and Fire Chief Edward Tubbs

Committee Absent: Kurtland Peria

Liaisons: City Councilmember Margaret Fujioka
School Board Member June Monach

Staff: City Clerk John Tulloch and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

REGULAR CALENDAR

The Committee considered the following items of regular business:

Minutes

The Public Safety Committee, by consensus, approves as submitted its meeting minutes of October 13, 2011.

Update Reports

E-Mail Alert Program -- a copy of the November 24, 2011, *Daily Training Bulletin* was distributed as one example of the E-Mail Alert Program training methods employed to instruct police officers and dispatchers on the types of situations when the E-Mail Alert Program should be utilized. Most recently, E-Mail Alerts were issued in advance of the DEA's prescription drug drop-off program (Oct. 29) and the *Turkey Trot* footrace (Nov. 24). E-Mails regarding these events were also provided to *The Piedmonter* and *Patch*. Neither the police or fire department received any feedback from residents regarding these alerts. Staff is still in the process of incorporating approximately 1,437 residents who have been automatically enrolled in the program via school registration and it is anticipated that if a few "bugs" in the system, as well as security and privacy issues, can be successfully resolved, this update should be completed by the end of the year. Currently, there are approximately 600 residents enrolled in the program.

Outreach Program -- Police Officer Todd Mather described the "door knock" process by which officers are visiting each residence within the pilot program's four reporting districts with follow-up questions and summarized the typical types of conversations that are held. Feedback from these visits are provided to the Chief. Approximately one-third of the households within the pilot program have been individually contacted. Officer Mather noted that the "door knock" process is very time consuming and because of short staffing levels, only a limited number of visits can be made per day. He felt that Neighborhood Safety Meetings, routine officer patrols and Annual District Meetings, are much more effective and productive communication methods for reaching out to residents to obtain feedback related to police services.

Neighborhood Safety Meetings -- Six meetings have been held this year, with one more pending before the end of the year. Seven meetings were held in 2010. One meeting has already been scheduled for late January in 2012. The Middle School Parents Club has been contacted with regard to scheduling a presentation at an upcoming Club meeting regarding the safety meeting program and providing residents with an opportunity to sign-up to host a meeting. The meetings involve both police and fire personnel, address crime prevention and disaster preparedness issues and typically last one to two hours. Both residents and police/fire personnel have found these meetings to be very worthwhile. Ms. Lamarche suggested that Piedmont garden clubs and boy scouts be contacted re their interest in having a presentation made at one of their gatherings.

Crime Rate -- as an informational item, Chief Hunt reviewed Piedmont's crime rate statistics for 2011. A similar report was provided to the City Council on November 7, 2011. In response to the report, the Committee agreed that efforts should be focused on encouraging residents to hold more Neighborhood Safety Meetings, especially in those areas experiencing the highest incidents of crime. The Chief noted his intention prior to the next Citywide District Meeting to specifically notify residents in the areas wherein crime rates are the highest of this fact and to expressly encourage residents in these areas to attend.

Eagle Scout Project

Drake Palmer, an Eagle Scout candidate, requested Committee sponsorship of his proposal to undertake an earthquake preparedness campaign next summer by distributing natural gas shut-off information and tools to residents. He has already received the educational pamphlets from PG&E and is exploring options for obtaining shut-off tools. The Committee supported the effort, requesting the Fire Chief to be the primary liaison between the Committee and Mr. Palmer and to assist Mr. Palmer in his efforts. The Committee requested that Mr. Palmer and the Chief report on the status of the project at Committee meetings. During discussion, the Committee suggested that Mr. Palmer consider asking Piedmont Ace Hardware if it would provide discount coupons for residents to purchase the shut-off tools, take advantage of the earthquake preparedness information/kits available at the Fire Department and contact the City Clerk to verify that under the City Charter, the Committee can indeed sponsor Mr. Palmer's project. On a motion by Ms. Lamarche, seconded by Mr. Gardner and carried, the Committee agreed to sponsor Mr. Palmer's Eagle Scout project.

Year-End Report

Chairman Marshall referenced the draft of the Committee's 2011 year-end report he prepared and previously distributed to the Committee, agreeing to update the report to reflect tonight's action and e-mail a revised draft to the Committee for review and feedback. He noted his intention to submit the Committee-approved Final Report to the City Council in February 2012.

Future Status

The Committee acknowledged that its term of service is set to expire February 29, 2012, and discussed whether or not it should recommend to the City Council that its term and charge be extended. During the discussion, there was general consensus that the Committee is worthwhile and should be continued. However, if it is renewed, its (1) membership should be expanded and the terms of service staggered; and (2) its role and charge should be redefined since the tasks under its original charge have been completed. School Board Member Monach relayed Ms. Jones' suggestion that if the Committee is continued (1) it establish specific goals and recruit Committee membership accordingly; and (2) general community representation on the Committee be increased, suggesting that an "at large" community member be substituted for the School Liaison position. The Chairman requested Committee members to include specific suggestions on this

topic in their e-mail response to the draft Final Report so that these comments can be incorporated into the report. Ultimately, the Committee acknowledged that it is up to the City Council to determine whether the Committee's efforts should be continued and under what specific role and charge.

Next Meeting

No future meeting was scheduled. The Committee shall review and approve its 2011 Final Report via e-mail to the Chairman.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Marshall adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m., wishing everyone a very happy holiday season.