

CITY OF PASADENA
Public Safety Committee and City Council Minutes
April 18, 2016 – 7:15 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

OPENING:

Chair Kennedy called the special joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and City Council to order at 9:20 p.m. (Absent: None)

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Chair, Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Mayor Terry Tornek
Vice Mayor Gene Masuda
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Andy Wilson

Staff:

Interim City Manager Steve Mermell
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky
Chief of Police Phillip Sanchez
Recording Secretary Valerie Flores

**ANALYSIS OF POLICE OVERSIGHT MODELS AND SURVEY OF
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF POLICING IN PASADENA (To be
heard at 7:15 p.m., or thereafter)**

Recommendation:

- (1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- (2) Receive the report on Analysis of Police Oversight Models, prepared by Change Integration Consulting, LLC; and
- (3) Provide direction to staff as may be appropriate.

Chair Kennedy called to order the joint Public Safety Committee and City Council meeting and provided the following statement for the record:

Good evening ladies and gentleman, this is the time and place for the joint meeting of the Pasadena City Council and Public Safety Committee (PSC).

As many of you are aware, on June 22nd this City Council unanimously approved an allocation of \$50,000 and assigned the same to the PSC for the purpose of hiring a vendor to produce a report detailing Police Oversight models for the City of Pasadena. A scope of work was produced and staff awarded a contract to Kathryn Olson of Change Integration Consulting, LLC and Barbara Attard of Accountability Associates. The biographies of both of these professionals were published by staff and are abbreviated in tonight's report.

The Consultants have recommended both a citizens commission and an independent auditor. It is important for the City Council to hear again from our residents, business owners and civic leaders interested in this important public policy matter. Democracy and public debate is not always pretty, but it is the best our society offers where all can come together to speak freely and the elected officials can then deliberate to help reach consensus.

It is not an "either" "or" issue of police oversight verses more resources for the police to combat crime and violence. Our community needs and deserves both. We need to analyze if the City needs to hire more police officers. Whether that answer is "yes" or "no", I believe all Councilmembers want to make sure that our officers receive the right resources and support not only to begin their careers in Pasadena, but complete their careers in our fine City.

A discussion of oversight and accountability must not be taken as a negative reflection on how any particular officer handles his or her job, nor as a lack of appreciation for the difficult and dangerous job that our officers do. We all appreciate that the work can be difficult and dangerous.

Oversight and accountability are a part of the territory and come with the honor of accepting a badge and a gun. It is commonly understood that police must be held accountable with appropriate oversight mechanisms. That first step of accountability is the responsibility of the administration of the police department. The community needs to believe, and have reason to believe, that the police are accountable to its administration which in turn provides oversight to assure that they are here to protect and serve, and make certain that there is no place for those few who abuse their authority.

In our system of government, just as the military is accountable to a civilian commander in chief, so is our police administration accountable to a civilian control, from the City Council down to the City Manager, to whom the Police Chief is a direct report.

Oversight is nothing strange or new, and is a needed mechanism to provide all stakeholders – the community, elected officials, business owners, visitors, the police, and the media – with the assurance that the police are doing their jobs well and within the confines of the law, and to affirm that the department is appropriately and professionally managed. This discussion about additional models for oversight and ultimately accountability is necessary for the ongoing health and vitality of our City. Wherever the particular decision on oversight mechanisms ends up, Pasadena is turning a corner where the public expectations have been heightened for more transparency and accountability. I look forward to a serious, respectful, and vigorous discussion.

Steve Mermell, Interim City Manager introduced the agenda item and responded to questions.

In response to the Consultant's report on oversight models, Councilmember Gordo urged the City Council to instead focus and direct resources to address the recent shootings and violence that have occurred within the last 12 months in Pasadena rather than on potential oversight models of the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). He requested that the City Council agendize recent shootings in the

City, and the necessary budget required to fully staff the Pasadena Police Department. He also requested a report from the Chief of Police on the Department's plans to address the shootings.

Kathryn Olsen, Change Integration Consulting, LLC and Barbara Attard, Accountability Associates (Consultants), provided a PowerPoint presentation on the agenda item, and responded to questions.

Chief Sanchez responded to questions on statistical data and analysis regarding complaints on police officer conduct received by the Department, Pasadena Police Officer salaries, and recent retention issues of police officers leaving for other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Wilson voiced his concerns with the lack of metrics supporting the analysis and recommendations in the report, and the inability to measure performance improvements for Police Departments with various types of oversight models.

Vice Mayor Masuda expressed his concerns with the consultant's process and stated his opposition to the recommended oversight models of the PPD.

Councilmember Madison expressed concerns with the insufficient number of Pasadena police officers currently employed by the City, and the vague metrics used by the consultants for the recommended oversight models for the PPD.

The following individuals spoke in support of oversight for the Pasadena Police Department, and/or provided comments and suggestions on various aspects of the Consultant's report:

Kris Ockershauser, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Tamara Haywood, ACLU
Joanna Amador, ACLU
Miguel Guillemos, residence not stated
Jasmine Abdullah, Black Lives Matter-Pasadena
Larry D'Addario, ACLU
Dale Gronemeier, Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight for the Pasadena Police (CICOPP)
Ed Washatka, Pasadena resident
Inman Moore, Pasadena resident
Hilda Boulware, All Saints parishioner
Jeannette Miyamoto, Altadena resident
J. Donald Thamos, Pasadena resident
Richard Smoak, ACT, Neighborhood Church
Gary L. Moody, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Pasadena branch
Karen Wingard, Democrats of Pasadena Foothills
Jon Fuhrman, Pasadena resident
Mary Elizabeth Perry, Pasadena resident
James McQuarrie, Pasadena resident

The following individuals spoke in support of the Pasadena Police Department, expressed concerns and/or provided suggestions regarding police oversight and public safety:

Cindy Schnuelle, Pasadena resident
Rob Brugge, Pasadena resident
Roger Roldan, Pasadena Police Officers Association (PPOA)
Reverend Quintero Carlos, residence not stated
Joe Feinblatt, Washington Square Neighborhood Association

Councilmember Hampton suggested reallocating funds to the PPD to address the current police officer vacancies within the Police Department, as well as voicing support for a police oversight model.

Mayor Tornek suggested that an independent oversight model will enhance community confidence, communication, and cooperation with the PPD, and suggested that staff be directed to report to the PSC with a detailed proposal on an independent review model that includes budgetary requirements.

Councilmember Gordo requested that the City Council agendaize a discussion on recent shootings and violence that have occurred within the last 12 months in Pasadena (to be agendaized at the PSC first and then the City Council), and direct staff to provide a report on police officer staffing issues, and strategies to address problem properties and poorly managed properties. In addition, he stated his opposition in allocating the City's limited resources to fund a police oversight model prior to allocating funds to ensure full staffing of police officers to address public safety and gun violence in the City.

Councilmember Wilson stated that the City Council has approved a number of initiatives that require funding (citing homelessness and the minimum wage ordinance enforcement), and expressed concerns with the City's ability to allocate funds for an independent oversight model.

Councilmember McAustin stated the need to enhance community confidence in, and communication with, the PPD, and address the lack of community confidence regarding safety in neighborhoods. In addition, Councilmember McAustin expressed her concerns with focusing on oversight models rather than on public safety.

Councilmember Madison voiced his opposition to the consultant's recommendation of an independent oversight model and expressed support in hiring more Pasadena police officers to address public safety issues in the City.

Chair Kennedy requested empirical data related to Pasadena Police Officer salaries in comparison with various other cities.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council and Committee, and by order the Chair, the information was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Public Safety Committee Chair, the special joint meeting of the Public Safety City Committee and City Council was adjourned at 1:13 a.m.

John J. Kennedy, Councilmember
Chair, Public Safety Committee

ATTEST:

Valerie Flores
Recording Secretary