

**CITY OF LOMPOC
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Meeting of Wednesday, July 20, 2022
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza,
Council Chambers**

Open Session called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chairperson Skinner

Commission Members Present: Brittany Skinner, Lillian Street, Roberta Badertscher

Commission Members Absent: Johnny Hudson

Staff Present: Lompoc Police Department (LPD) Chief Joseph Mariani, Captain Kevin Martin, Lompoc Fire Department (LFD) Fire Marshal/Battalion Chief Dena Paschke

Others Present: None

Public Comment on Consent Calendar Items: No Public Comment.

Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of Public Safety Commission March 2022 Minutes

ACTION: Motion/Second: Street/Badertscher. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved the Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of March 2022.

Presentations: Presentation on body cams by Captain Martin. Axon video displaying the capabilities and pricing packages of the proposed body cams.

New Business:

2. Discussion Regarding the Funding of a Joint Fire and Police Station for City Council.

Commissioner Street is drafting a letter recommending a joint fire and police station that will go before the City Council. Commissioner Street requests Commission feedback and suggestions for the letter. Commissioner Street reads her first draft of the letter for the Commission. Would like to create short term, mid-term, long-term goals. Commissioner Skinner requests that the Commission receives feedback from LPD and LFD and make sure they list what they need. Commissioner Skinner requests Commission attends a Council meeting to share this letter. There are multiple Commissions that would be involved in a project like this and a letter would have to be shared with those entities as well. Commissioner Skinner asks if Commission can request other entities (City Attorney, Planning Commission, etc.) attend Public Safety Commission for feedback and guidance. This is possible if a motion is made and approved. Then must request someone from

department attend. Commissioner Skinner suggest PSC move this item to old business so it stays on agenda and allows Commissioner Street to research next steps and talk with the City Clerk, as well her City Council member.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Skinner/Badertscher. By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approves to put the letter recommending a joint Police and Fire station in Old Business.

3. Discussion Regarding the Homeless Situation in the City of Lompoc and how the Lompoc Police Department is Assisting.

Commissioner Skinner requesting an open conversation about the homeless issue. Commissioner Skinner asks LPD personnel, what is the process when encountering someone who is homeless and/or has mental health issues? Also, how do you distinguish them separately? Captain Martin speaks on the subject. Public places homelessness in one bucket, but homelessness has multiple buckets within it. Mental health, drug/alcohol, true homeless, and the percentage of people that prefer living that lifestyle. True homeless, those down on their luck, in between financial opportunities, will work hard to get out of the environment. They will seek services and work to establish themselves. Mental health and alcohol/drug addiction are a lot more difficult. The trend to deal with homelessness in current times is to remove law enforcement from the equation. The reason for this tactic is due to the subject seeing the badge and prefer to engage violently in response. What LPD prefers for a strategy moving forward is a hybrid model of a Clinician with an Officer. Create a full-time position that works with a Clinician. When mental health issue occurs, no matter if homeless or not, that team responds and takes over, from short term to long term. LPD is not suited, funded, or staffed to currently address a situation that can last 6-7 hours. Co-response team could establish a caseload and track the person through treatment. LPD finding individuals experiencing homeless/mental illness are being sent here from around the county. Homeless problem is a social problem that calls for multiple entities to address and to be a part of since it is a long-term resolution. Chief Mariani states a lot more resources are needed to address the problem properly. Need a lot more nonprofits to get involved. We have worked recently with Bridge House, New Beginnings, and City Net to help find aid. LPD has to also respect individual's rights, even if members of public are not comfortable with the individual. The burden of a homeless person's property is also resource problem. Presence in the riverbed has improved. Captain Martin states that when someone wants help, LPD is able to connect. LPD uses a phone app to log contacts, photos of environment, GPS information, etc. This app shows the services they received in the past, as well as what services can be offered right then and there. The goal is to have one of the entities with LPD when responding to riverbed. LPD does not create a caseload, but services they work with do. LPD running into problem where services are only open during typical business hours, not the 24 hours emergency services work. Local churches have helped with feeding and providing aid to homeless population.

Chief Paschke of LFD shares how the homeless issue effects her department. When LFD receives a call, it is usually a 911 call and a crisis intervention. Some of the common calls are assaults, displaced people, substance abuse and psychosis from the narcotics. Drug overdoses have increased. Fentanyl use has increased immensely. The need for Narcan has also increased. LFD and LPD have been exposed to fentanyl and it is a real danger.

In addition, when dealing with homeless population, multiple versions of fires have been caused (cooking, warming, vehicle fire, etc.). Lompoc winds cause fire to spread quickly. LFD has asked private property owners to post "No Trespassing" signs to help with the homeless population building camps on private property.

Commissioner Badertscher asks LPD and LFD if they have any stats on overdoses. Chief Mariani is part of "Project Opioid". In 2021, 100,000+ deaths from narcotics. Stats this year show an increase on that number. Chief Paschke states the calls come in as a medical/overdose, and LFD and AMR will respond. LPD does not always respond, unless there for a safety concern. Not all overdoses result in a death. Many times, there is an overdose a week in Lompoc. Many will wake up from experience, usually with aid of Narcan, deny taking any narcotics, and against medical authority/recommendations, refuse transport to hospital, and LFD has to let them go. Sometimes, the Narcan wears off, and LFD will have to respond again to provide aid.

Commissioner Skinner thanks LPD and LFD for their input on this agenda item.

4. Update on Body Cameras for the LPD (Information from the Axon presentation by Captain Martin, as well as further conversation during agenda item).

Axon is the industry standard for law enforcement when it comes to body cam technology. Quote from Axon includes body cams and "Fleet 3" level of service for Officer, patrol unit, and desktop. Year 1, we receive all technology, Year 2.5, they replace all the body cams, Year 5, they replace all the body cams. Evidence.com included in the level of service. Body camera footage automatically uploaded when connection established. Cellular and Wi-Fi connection available with this technology. Saved in a cloud server and only supervisors have access to footage. Able to watch real time. The quote is based on an annual contribution from the City of Lompoc, once they agree to this contract, and only have to pay a portion (\$99,440) in Year 1. Similar charge over next five years with contract. Body cam also has GPS capabilities. Due to backlog, soonest LPD could start is February 2023. Requesting Bluetooth and holster activation of body cam. If Officer unholsters weapon, body cam instantly initiates. This will happen with Tasers too. Bluetooth connection also allows for surrounding devices to initiate when weapon/Taser unholstered. Current system/hardware is out of date. Proposed paying for routers now and have them installed in vehicles, in preparation of pending approval from City of Lompoc. Also plan to replace 17 rugged laptops (in-car computers), at the cost of \$47,840.47. All technology replaced over six days. Video redaction software is included and important. We expect to receive a high amount of requests for this footage. We are required to provide the video, but must include the redaction of uninvolved parties and their information. Tested the time it took to process a 15-minute traffic stop and it took around four hours to process. To be effective, need the rugged laptops and routers as soon as possible. Quote includes 50 body cams (Officers and Community Service Officers). This technology allows for instant download of footage through cloud service. Currently, if a vehicle is involved in an incident. Must return to station to get footage, which is difficult if it cannot leave the scene. LPD IT person will manage the technology.

5. Lompoc Community Benefit Foundation introduction and how this can be used to our benefit in Public Safety.

Council has created a nonprofit to receive money and funnel to nonprofits that benefits the community of Lompoc. LPD and LFD could be beneficiaries of these funds. Commissioner Skinner is on the Board. Commissioner Skinner is focused on helping LPD and LFD. Bylaws are being completed. Hoping to hire a full-time grant writer. Can also apply for grants on the behalf of LPD and LFD.

Old Business:

6. Continued Discussion on Possible Letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Badertscher has been holding onto the draft until appropriate time. Commissioner Badertscher requesting what LPD would like in letter before sending to City Council. Captain Martin stated due to where LPD was at with the pandemic. Inmates are being released with serious charges and put under Santa Barbara County Probation Department supervision. The jail system is currently being capped at half capacity. Originally, the Commission decided to hold off on submitting the letter, due to having a new City Manager. Captain Martin encourages Commissioners speak with their appointed Council Members to discuss this problem and ask what are their concerns, and what is Probation doing to supervise these individuals.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Badertscher/Street: By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approves to remove this item from old business.

Staff Comments/Announcements/Updates:

Captain Martin states LPD is moving forward with hiring process. After training, LPD Jail is fully staffed. Currently have five in the FTO Program. We continue our efforts with diversity. Currently have a female in the Police Academy. LPD is still down ten spots, but have the five Officers in the FTO program. LPD down a Dispatcher and Community Services Officer. All Sergeant Positions full. LPD helping organize the 18th Annual Car Show & Cruise Night. Working on re-establishing the volunteer program.

Chief Paschke states LFD is starting a Fire Academy next week and have three new recruits for Firefighter. Fortunate to have them start at the same time. They will be an additional second Firefighter on an engine. Take part in 12-hour shifts; take calls, cleaning the engine and facility, living with other Firefighters, etc. Fire Camp took place for 8-10-year-olds last month. Kids were repelling out of the hose tower, learning to use the fire hose, and learning the dynamics of leadership. This program is in conjunction with Lompoc Parks & Recs. Some of the kids from Santa Barbara County Fire participated here. They brought an engine from Vandenberg Village and participated with us. A group went to Pierce (Wisconsin) to take part in the mid-build of the new fire truck. Currently in the production phase. This is to help in customizing the new truck to LFD's specifications. LFD sent an engine out to Vandenberg Space Force Base, two days in a row. One for a fire caused by downed power lines. Next day, they had a missile anomaly that caused a

fire with the rocket fuel. LFD tests for UHF/VHF signal. Research has found that while in buildings, Firefighters are not always able to transmit out of the buildings. Installing boosters helps this. There is only one building in Lompoc that presents this problem. LFD was able to install a booster to fix this. LFD will look to install repeaters/boosters as Lompoc grows and builds bigger buildings.

Oral Communications:

No oral communications.

Commission Comments and Requests:

Commissioner Skinner extends a thank you to the LPD. Commissioner Skinner lives in District 4 and there were shots fired near her house. 10-13 rounds heard. LPD arrived on scene in approximately two minutes. Commissioner Skinner appreciates the efforts of the LPD.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Skinner adjourned the Lompoc City Public Safety Commission at 8:53 P.M. to a Regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., in the City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Respectfully, submitted for Commission review on September 8, 2022, by:

// Joseph Mariani//

Joseph Mariani, Chief of Police
Public Safety Commission Secretary