

**CITY OF LOMPOC  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Meeting of Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza,  
Council Chambers**

**Open Session called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairperson Skinner**

**Commission Members Present:** Brittany Skinner, Lillian Street, Johnny Hudson

**Commission Members Absent:** Roberta Badertscher

**Staff Present:** Lompoc Police Department (LPD) Captain Kevin Martin, Lompoc Fire Department (LFD) Battalion Chief Scott Nunez

**Others Present:** None

**Public Comment on Consent Calendar Items:** No Public Comment.

**Consent Calendar:**

**1. Approval of Public Safety Commission January 2022 Minutes**

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

**Presentations:** None

**New Business:**

**2. Bi-Monthly Public Safety Commission Meetings.**

Commissioner Skinner feels Commission can consolidate meetings back to original format. Switched to a monthly format to get Commission up-to-speed and comfortable conducting meetings. Request LPD maintain monthly posting of crime statistics on the Public Safety Commission webpage. Commissioner Street reminded Commission that if there is an issue, they can request a meeting with Council and members.

**ACTION: Motion/Second: Skinner/Street.** By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approves to switch format to bi-monthly (proposed next meeting: May 18, 2022). **This is pending approval of City Council. Forwarded to Stacey Haddon on March 17, 2022.**

**Old Business:**

**3. Continued Discussion on Possible Letter to the Board of Supervisors.**

Commissioner Skinner requests this stay on agenda. This letter has been pending due to the transition with the new City Manager. Will await Commissioner Badertscher's draft. Captain Martin requests each Commissioner speak with their appropriate Council Member to see if they have an appetite for sending a letter to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors since Council will have to approve.

**ACTION: Motion/Second: Skinner/Street:** By a 3-0-0 vote, the Commission approved to add this item to Old Business for next meeting.

### **Staff Comments/Announcements/Updates:**

Captain Martin introduces LPD's two new Lieutenants: Allen Chisholm and Agustin Arias. One of Chief Mariani's priorities was reorganization. Part of reorganization was to create the Lieutenant position. This allows for an easier transition to the management roles. It has been 60 years since this rank has been utilized. LPD is now aligned with industry standards for Police Departments and promotional ranks, allowing for an opportunity of an Officer to promote to Chief. Chief Mariani and Captain Martin maintained the workload of two Captains and a Chief until the Lieutenant role was approved by City Council and Human Resources.

Lieutenant Chisholm introduced himself. He has been with the Department since 1980. Prior assignment was Professional Standards, now Lieutenant of Support Services. He is in charge of Records, Dispatch, Property, and Jail.

Lieutenant Arias introduced himself. He has been with the Department since 1999. Started as Police Reserve, then went through Academy. Lieutenant Arias has worked in the following rolls: Patrol, Gang Detective, Narcotics, and Promoted to Patrol Sergeant, Major Crimes, Narcotics Supervisor, Gangs & Narcotics, and Detective Sergeant. He has also been an Instructor, as well as a SWAT Team member & leader. He was born in Lompoc and has lived in the city his whole life. Lieutenant Arias is in charge of Operations, which is Patrol & Investigations.

Captain Martin maintains his position as Division Commander, with both Lieutenants reporting to him.

The goal is to not hire outside candidates for Chief going forward and to look towards our own sworn staff.

Currently have four trainees in the Police Academy, with everyone performing well and hopefully graduating in June. With those four, assuming they pass their Field Training Officer program, three open position will be open for hire. Another trainee may be returning from another agency. This would leave two positions. Two candidates in backgrounds for July academy. If successful, LPD would be fully staffed. There are four Officers on temporary disability, and with others not yet joining the line, currently 11 positions that can't be deployed. All in all, LPD has made huge gains in recruitment, hiring, and retention. December of 2022, could be fully staffed. There are two Jailer positions open and in hiring process with candidates. One Dispatch position is open. LPD is

maintaining their high standards and hiring candidates the LPD is fully confident in. Starting the new hires as soon as possible, even before the academy, allowing them to get to know the Department and its background has benefited the retention efforts.

Upcoming event on National Police Week, LPD will host the Police Officer Memorial food truck event at the front of City Hall on May 18, 2022. All local law enforcement agencies will be invited. We already have commitments from multiple food trucks. Allows the community to meet the LPD and get to know the staff.

LFD Battalion Chief Scott Nunez gives an update on the Fire Department. Battalion Chief Nunez congratulates the Lieutenants. LFD has some vacancies. In the process of hiring an entry-level Firefighter. Two more open positions by the end of the year. Still have a Battalion Chief vacancy, as well as a Captain vacancy. Projecting to fill all roles by the fall.

LFD completed a course, along with Santa Maria Fire Department, called Trench Rescue. This is when individuals service pipes underground (8-10 feet down). Certification must be achieved to conduct these rescues. Whole department was either recertified or certified.

LFD conducted Peer Support training, as part of the At Ease program. Three individuals were sent to Peer Support training, with a total of four certified for LFD. These individual can provide guidance to their fellow partners. Five individuals participating in a pilot program for diversity, equity, and inclusion, through the International Association of Fire Chiefs. They are working with Chief Welch. 1-805 helped secure funding for vehicle extrication struts. Allows to stabilize a vehicle and access the patient faster. A video or demonstration will be conducted to show the Commission.

Fire season started early with fire in Hollister Ranch. Lompoc Fire Department sent a truck for mutual aid.

Commissioner Skinner asked if there was a reason Lompoc Fire Department was not able to help with the Alisal Fire. Battalion Chief Nunez stated they had two Brush Trucks, but one was decommissioned and the other was in the shop during this fire. The Brush Truck, as well as the Rescue trucks can double as mini-Brush Trucks. These can be used around town, as well automatic aid areas, which is Vandenberg Village, Highway 1, Route 246, etc.

### **Oral Communications:**

Patricia Elsy: March 28, 2021, her grandson, Krys Brandon Ruiz, was shot and killed in an incident with LPD Officers. The contact lasted 10-12 minutes, according to Patricia. At the time of the shooting, Officers were not equipped with body cameras. Body cameras could have shown whole contact for all the parties involved. Patricia is here tonight to express appreciation and thanks for the progress made by the Public Safety Commission for forwarding the request for body cameras to the Mayor and City Council members. Patricia is hopeful that equipping Officers with body cameras will be expedited. Patricia showed a picture of Krys.

## **Commission Comments and Requests:**

Commissioner Street requests the Commission discuss how to fund plans that are already in place for a new joint Fire and Police station. Due to all the under-funding, Police and Fire don't have updated radios, body cameras, etc. Would like to discuss plans on how to fund a joint Fire and Police station that would increase staffing and give much needed updates to both departments. Commissioner Street requests the item be added to the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner Street toured the Lompoc Police Department last month, and Commissioner Skinner will tour this month.

Commissioner Street will draft a recommendation letter and will bring that document to the next meeting. Commission can then discuss more in-depth.

Commissioner Skinner requests Lompoc Police Department Staff, Phil Carpenter, follow-up with Commissioners Badertscher and Hudson to setup a tour (if interested). Phil confirms he will follow-up.

**ACTION: Motion/Second/: Street/Skinner.** By a 3-0-0 vote, Commission to discuss a recommendation for City Council to fund plans for a joint Fire and Police station. This item will be added to the New Business section of the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Hudson would like to add a discussion of the homeless situation in the City of Lompoc. Commissioner Hudson would like to hear from the Lompoc Police Department on how they are assisting the homeless situation.

Commissioner Skinner requests her fellow Commissioners bring any suggestions and recommendations regarding this topic to the next meeting.

**ACTION: Motion/Second/: Hudson/Skinner.** By a 3-0-0 vote, Commission to discuss the homeless situation and how the Lompoc Police Department is assisting within the City. This item will be added to the New Business section of the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Hudson would like to add have an update on body cameras for Lompoc Police Department.

**ACTION: Motion/Second/: Hudson/Street.** By a 3-0-0 vote, Commission to receive an update on body cameras. This item will be added to the New Business section of the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Skinner informed the Commission that City Council has approved a non-profit to help with grants and other city projects. Commissioner Skinner is a member of the Board of Directors for that committee. Lompoc Community Benefit Foundation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairperson Skinner adjourned the Lompoc City Public Safety Commission at 7:09 P.M.to a Regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6:30 P.M.(unless format is changed by City Council approval of bi-monthly meetings. If so, May 18, 2022), in the City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Respectfully, submitted for Commission review on April 1, 2022, by:

          // Joseph Mariani//  
Joseph Mariani, Chief of Police  
Public Safety Commission Secretary