

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in Room 400, City Hall, #1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, at 6:11 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Sparks, Marshall, Campos, DeJesus, Mazzucco, Veronese

ABSENT: Commissioner Lee

(Commissioner DeJesus arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

PRESENTATION RE: THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ALLIED CITY AGENCIES' OPERATIONS PLAN FOR HALLOWEEN NIGHT, OCTOBER 31, 2007

Commissioner Sparks thanked Supervisor Dufty for joining the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sparks explained that representatives from the city, including the Chief of Police, will be making a presentation initially to talk about what the plans are for Halloween evening. Then there will be an open public comment period for the public to ask questions about the presentations and then speakers will be asked to come back to the podium to answer questions that have been asked. After this hearing, the Commission will go on to the regular agenda.

Commissioner Sparks stated that the decision not to hold Halloween in the Castro has already been made and it is not the intent of this Commission nor this hearing to discuss or to debate whether or not that was a good or a bad decision. The purpose of this hearing is to hear from the city what the city's plans are as far as how the event will be managed and to hear input as to any questions, concerns, or suggestions relative to dealing with that event.

Commissioner Sparks also stated that the management of Halloween is an event that's being organized and overseen by the entire City family and not just the Police Department. Commissioner Sparks stated that what will be talked about tonight is a coordinated effort among all the city agencies, all are represented tonight, on how the events will be managed, not only in the Castro but citywide.

Ms. Martha Cohen, Mayor's Office, addressed the Commission and stated that there is no event in the Castro on Halloween this year and introduced Mr. David Perry who has been contracted by the San Francisco Convention Visitors' Bureau to communicate the public safety and other outreach plans for no Halloween in the Castro.

Mr. David Perry stated that he lives in the Castro and that it is a privilege to work on behalf of this citywide effort on behalf of the Convention Business Bureau and the City working with all city officials to keep his home and all homes in San Francisco safe on Halloween. He stated that the theme of this effort is called Home for Halloween and they have put together a comprehensive website, homeforhalloween.com, and on that site are listed as many events that are actually happening on that night outside of the Castro and other parts of the bay area. This is to encourage people to look within their own home communities and areas of the bay area to find events on Halloween. Mr. Perry also talked about public service announcements sponsored by Kron Channel 4 with three bay area residents delivering the message that the party in the Castro has been cancelled and to please stay home for Halloween. Mr. Perry showed the video of the public service announcements.

Deputy Chief Shinn presented the department's plan for overall policing for Halloween. Chief Shinn stated that days off are cancelled and have asked the Sheriff's Department and Department of Park and Traffic for a number of their resources. There will be more personnel present than last year. With the assistance of the Muni and the MTA in providing a number of buses and drivers to not only transport police personnel but other personnel such as Department of Parking and Traffic. Chief Shinn stated that there will be aggressive enforcement and if you plan on coming to the Castro to create trouble, you will be arrested. There will be strong enforcement of no drinking on the street and officers will be out there to be a visible presence there and to let people know that there are other events that are occurring in the city.

Captain John Goldberg, Mission Station, stated the planning has been going on for some period of months and that this is a coordinated effort of many many city departments and outreach efforts have been done.

Mr. Pete House, Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the SF Fire Department, stated that they are going to have supportive command presence in each of the command posts that the Police Department is putting up. They have additional staffing dedicated to this event and contingencies for holding personnel over and stated that after months of planning, he is confident that they will be able to work together as a city family to provide appropriate fire and EMS response throughout the city.

Mr. Mohammed Nuru, Deputy Chief of Operations for DPW, stated that they have been part of the planning and that they will be supporting the Police Department in making sure that the barricades are at the right locations if streets need to be closed. They will also be putting trash receptacles and staff will be coming in as early as 4 a.m. on Thursday morning to make sure the city is clean.

Deputy Chief Parra, MTA Security & Enforcement, stated that MTA's parking control officers will be deployed in squads throughout the Castro District. They will ensure the safe flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and transit in the neighborhood throughout the evening. There will also be strict enforcement of all parking regulations throughout the evening. Responses to driveways and other types of complaints that require tows will be expedited with predeployed tow trucks in the area. At midnight, MTA will continue to handle calls for service for driveway complaints and tows. Chief Parra stated that there will be squads of fare inspectors in the Metro System to ensure that all who are riding the metro system have paid their fares and if there are any safety issues in the system, they can be readily handled without taking away police services from above ground.

Mr. Kenneth McDonald, Chief Operating Officer of SFMTA, stated that they have, for the last 21 months, have been performing overhead maintenance on the overhead lines and have been motorizing part of the subway during this activity. Mr. McDonald stated that they will continue that during this period and provide service through the event with motorized buses. He stated that the N and J Line will be until 1:30 as normal and continue with the K, L, and M Line turning around at Van Ness Station and taking people on buses from Van Ness to West Portal and then from West Portal on the K, L, and M Line. There will be buses for the police for any emergency movements around the city and they will provide standby buses for any overflow of people in the area.

Mr. Allan Nance, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Juvenile Probation Department, stated that their plan is to have probation officers present in the Castro District and they will be working closely with SFPD personnel to response to any juveniles who are identified in the area who are problematic or are engaging in illegal activities. Mr. Nance also stated that they have initiated

a process to provide notice to stay away from the Castro to each and every probationer and those notices are also provided to the court as part of the progress report for those juveniles. They are also directing probationers to adhere to the curfew citywide on Halloween evening.

Supervisor Dufty addressed the audience and the Commission regarding Halloween at the Castro. Supervisor Dufty also stated that the California Highway Patrol will have a DUI Checkpoint System and information about that will be made available. He stated that the State's ABC is going to be deploying with SFPD and is working with the Fire Department to have a plan to address those serving alcohol serving outlet that remain open. Supervisor Dufty thanked Captain Goldberg for an excellent job in organizing everyone and bringing them together. He also thanked Martha Cohen for her work and experience. Supervisor Dufty thanked that 20 businesses that have agreed to close so far. Supervisor Dufty stated that he hopes to depress the numbers of people that come to the city with a respectful message and that any number of people that are removed from coming to this venue are going to make it easier for the City to do its job of protecting people that are there.

Chief Fong stated that the Department is taking Halloween evening very seriously and the responsibility is not just to who comes or doesn't come to the Castro community and stated that Deputy Chief Shinn will be overseeing the citywide command and each of the district stations in the City will have personnel on duty to make sure that each of the districts are monitored consistently and that there will be resources available that can be moved anywhere around the city.

Commissioner Veronese asked if he wants to go down to the Castro and have a drink, how do you prevent people from doing that without declaring marshal law and what are the plans for public bathrooms. Chief Fong explained that if people go to the Castro or if they go to any part of the city, there is nothing wrong in going into a venue. That is not a problem. But if people think that they are going to walk down the sidewalk and popping open cans of beer or opening bottles of alcohol and drinking on the street, those are violations of the law and officers will enforce the law. As far a bathrooms, that decision will be made collectively by the city team as the event gets closer.

Commissioner Campos stated that it is not just part of the Castro but other parts of the city that come to this event and his concern is reaching out to the limited English speaking communities in the city. Mr. Perry stated that graphic messages are done in English and Spanish and the PSA announcement will also be rendered in Spanish and as far as the other communities outreach will be through the media, through the public service campaign, through flyers and posters that are going to be distributed extensively 10 days prior to Halloween and it will be distributed throughout the East Bay and South Bay. Faxes and emails will be sent out to schools on a one-to-one basis to make sure schools are notified directly.

Commissioner Sparks asked Deputy Chief Shinn to be more specific. Chief Shinn explained that the Department is not shutting down the sidewalks or the streets so the Department will be facilitating traffic and pedestrian flow. Chief Shinn stated that it is the actions and not what someone looks like that the Department will be addressing out there. Chief Shinn explained that what the officers will be looking for, as in the past, people who come to the Castro to create problems, to commit crimes. The officers will be looking for public drunkenness and he stated that he is going to be asking the officers to aggressively enforce those provisions of the law that is enforced on a daily basis.

Commissioner Sparks asked about communication between the Department and the different city agencies involved. Chief Shinn stated that

the Department of Emergency Management will have dispatchers at various command posts. Chief Shinn stated that the staffing will be consistent throughout the district stations and the reason there is staffing is because days off were cancelled.

Commissioner Sparks asked about parking. Deputy Chief Parra explained that he wants to reduce the response time it takes for dispatch to receive a complaint about a driveway in the area and to get that tow truck and the Parking Control Officer to the scene much more expeditiously.

Commissioner Marshall asked about CHPs and are they going to be available if and when the Department needs help. Deputy Chief Shinn stated that their main role is for the DUI checkpoints but in the event that the Department may need them for something else, the Department can make that request.

Commissioner Campos asked if patrol special officers are involved. Captain Goldberg stated that in the past when there's been an organized event, event organizers have hired patrol specials. Since there is no event there, there's no organization and there's no specific function that the city has contracted with them. Captain Goldberg stated that she spoke with Jane Warner today and she stated that she is developing a plan to create a presence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified asked about weapons screening, 911 calls through cell phones, and parking on high density areas and people feeling that they are trapped by large numbers of people and is there a plan for community volunteers. He also asked about traffic controllers and the closing of some stations.

Ted Strassers stated that what he heard tonight is the opposite of everything that he had hoped to hear. His concern is that the process is not acceptable.

Patrick Bath, former president of Merchants of Market & Castro, stated that he's been involved in planning for Halloween going back years and has attended a meeting with former Mayor Willie Brown where Martha Cohen made the first suggestion that there be no alcohol on the streets of Castro during Halloween. He stated that the problem this year is that there was an announcement of a Task Force but the City decided not to have a Task Force. He stated that the reason there is frustration and anger is because of lack of leadership and direction expressed by the Supervisor and the Mayor and asked why is there no Task Force and why has the community not been involved in the process.

Michael Staley stated that he is the one who applied for a porta-potty permit from the DPW and stated that is his main concern.

Dan Kisseck, Manager of Castro Country Club, stated that what he believes is going to happen is that there is going to be a largest non-event in the history of the City and nothing is done to address it.

Alex Rosenthal, Citizens for Halloween, stated that she is glad for some answers but disappointed in a lot of them because Halloween in the Castro is a spontaneous gathering of people and it is not the City's to cancel and stated that a \$40,000 P.R. budget implemented two weeks before the event is going to convince people to stay away. She stated that it should not be cancelled but it should be managed and made safe first. She also discussed concerns regarding portable toilets.

Michael Petralis stated that based on what he heard he feels like he should go to the Castro and discuss concerns regarding the Department not showing up to community meetings and asked if there will be a meeting on the Wednesday after Halloween.

Dennis Johns, Castro resident, asked if there was any arrests on last year's incident at the Castro. He discussed concerns regarding residents of the

Castro not being involved in the planning of this non event and his question is why there is no communication between the City and the residents of the Castro.

Michael Cohen, Sanchez Street resident, stated that he is organizing the people of his building to sit in front of their building to stop people from blocking their driveway and also to protect from graffiti and discussed concerns about the shut down of Church Street and Castro Street Stations. He also asked as to what the policy is on huge street gatherings.

Gary Virginia, Castro resident, stated that he applied to the Mayor to be on the Task Force and didn't even get an acknowledgment that his letter was received. He requested that the City light up the Castro and discussed concerns about intimidation of merchants to close and asked why the SFPD does not have enough man power to handle a party in a small neighborhood. He also requested a Commission meeting after Halloween.

Susan Scan stated that she never goes out on Halloween because it is a mess and stated that if the flyers says "Home for Halloween" slogan should be changed.

Gilbert Christwell stated that enough is enough of poor planning and poor management and asked to let the community and the people speak and asked for portable toilets and have barricades for emergency vehicles.

Mark Dryer, Castro resident, stated that for the 13 years he has lived in the Castro, there has not been one year where there was no problem. He stated that this is no longer a gay event and discussed concerns regarding harassment during Halloween and asked about enforcement and when will it start.

Scott Shiff stated he loves going to the Castro for Halloween and stated that a lot of planning needs to be considered.

Commissioner Veronese asked if there are any alternatives out there and stated that selective enforcement is something that the Department needs to be careful and hopes that this works out.

Commissioner Sparks stated that the other city agencies as well as the Department need to plan on people being there. There's no stage in the Castro and there's no food vendors in the Castro but there are going to be people in the Castro and it is being naive in thinking that they are not going to show up. Chief Fong stated that the difference between this year and prior years is that in prior years there have been stages and music and activities plan for people who come to the Castro specifically for Halloween evening. This year, there are no activities planned but the neighborhood is not shut down. It is still an open neighborhood and the Department will have the resources to be deployed either there or elsewhere in the city as necessary to insure that there is a safe neighborhood.

Commissioner Campos asked what has the Department done to communicate with the community about this non event. Chief Fong stated that she, Deputy Chief Shinn, Captain Goldberg, and other city representatives were asked to attend the meeting several months ago along with Supervisor Dufty and Martha Cohen. Chief Fong stated that they were there because they wanted to share the fact that the Department was going to be planning for deployment of resources in the Castro and throughout the city on Halloween. Chief Fong stated that is a meeting that she attended and the Deputy Chief and Commander have attended other meetings. The Chief stated that they did not attend a meeting several weeks ago because her understanding was that they were going as a body to explain as all the different agencies did. Chief Fong stated that in terms of working with the community, there are things that the Department can continue to do and that it is never too late to involve the community.

Commissioner Marshall stated that safety should be the main concern and should be the main focus.

Ms. Cohen stated that she was taking notes and that most of the concerns are about public safety.

Captain Goldberg responded to some of the question. He stated that as far as weapons are concern, there were checkpoints last year. There is no intended checkpoints this year because it is not a formal event or street closure at this time. Captain Goldberg stated that even though there were checkpoints, the crowds of people that came last year and as diligent as the Sheriff's Department attempted to be at the checkpoints, they were just very quick visual screenings.

Commissioner Marshall asked if weapons checkpoints can be done. Captain Goldberg stated that not on a public street.

Captain Goldberg stated as far as cell phones if a cell site is close to a freeway, it picks up and automatically routed to the CHP. Elsewhere in the city, it should go to Emergency Communications and stated that there is a number that you can call that goes directly to Communications and he will pass that number on to Mr. Perry so that he can put it out to the public.

Captain Goldberg talked about parking. He stated that there will be parking restrictions in the Castro. The parking lots behind the Castro Theater and behind the Walgreen's on 18th Street will be closed that night. Signs will be posted 72 hours in advance. Captain Goldberg stated that just in case the crowds do come, parking will be restricted on two blocks of Market Street and two blocks of Castro Street.

Commissioner Sparks asked Mr. Perry to do a little bit of public relations inside the city to let the people in the Castro know about parking. Captain Goldberg stated that they are trying to communicate to the city as these plans are developed and stated that it is a non event and the contingency plans are to say no there is no organized event and yes, the City is realistic that some people will still show up there and because of that certain things need to be in place so that the City is prepared for public safety and with the work of David Perry and associates, the City, and the community to accept this policy decision, the Department will work its way through it. Captain Goldberg stated the Department will prioritize based on the seriousness of crime and focus on crimes of violence to a degree that problems can be abated before they start.

Commissioner Veronese expressed concern in that the community is not included in the planning of this non event.

Commissioner Sparks stated that she and the Chief have talked about this and had asked her if she would set up, either through Public Affairs or through the Captains, a district liaison for two or three weeks that people can call and actually get answers from or be told where they can call if they can't answer that question and the Chief has agreed to appoint that person and David Perry can advertise that liaison so that there is someone that people can call and get some human responses.

Commissioner Sparks asked that the Commission get an update on the following two meetings of the Commission from the Chief regarding the planning for Halloween. She also stated that the Commission will not meet on Halloween night but would like a follow-up meeting on the 7th of November and talk about how it worked. She also asked Ms. Cohen if she can be available on the 7th to talk about the city's perspective on how it went.

Mr. Ken McDonald addressed the question of notification for closure of the muni stations. He stated that the shut down of muni stations have been ongoing for the last nine months from Sunday to Thursday night every week

and they run buses from Van Ness Station all the way out to West Portal. Mr. McDonald stated that it will be closing an hour early and there will be notification.

Commissioner Sparks asked if COP, Castro on Patrol, will be involved. Captain Goldberg stated that the community can be involve by being the eyes and ears for the Department. Commissioner Sparks asked that the phone number to call be put out there.

Commissioner Sparks asked how is the Department going to deal with cars that are trapped. Captain Goldberg stated that that is why there is parking restrictions along the two blocks of Market Street and Castro Street because if there is an impact, historically, that's where the greatest impact has been.

Commissioner Sparks asked about cab stands. Captain Goldberg stated that as plans are firmed up, the Department will contact the Taxi Commission to distribute the information to the cab drivers.

Ms. Cohen talked about the issue of portable toilets and stated that decision is very much under consideration but she is not prepared to answer questions as to when and where. She also stated that DPW is aware of the situation and DPW personnel will be out before, during, and after the event.

Commissioner Sparks thank the representatives of the different City agencies and the community for their attendance and their input in this matter.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- a. Update on significant policing efforts by Department members**
- b. Review of Recent Activities**

Chief Fong stated that with regards to the liaison, the Department will give out the Field Operations Bureau number and have Mr. Perry put that out as well and the Department will take questions and make a list of FAQs.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Review of Recent Activities**

Commissioner Sparks stated that there will be a new Director, Ms. Joyce Hicks, who will be starting in a couple of weeks. Commissioner Sparks thanked Ms. Jean Field for taking charge of the OCC during a difficult time.

Ms. Field thanked the Commission for taking their time and effort in finding a new OCC Director.

Ms. Field stated that there is another delay in the move which is now scheduled for October 29th.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- a. Commission President's Report**
- b. Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Sparks stated that Commissioners DeJesus and Mazzucco met with Gary Delagnes, POA, to help establish a better working relationship and a better line of communication between the Commission and the POA. Commissioners Sparks also stated that she and Commissioner Marshall met with Gary Delagnes today for the same purpose and they talked about that a Commissioner will attempt to attend the POA Board of Director's Meeting on a monthly basis and will be given a time to address the entire POA Board of Directors. Also, the Commission will try to address the Police Employee Group meetings. Commissioner Sparks stated that she and Mr. Delagnes have made a mutual commitment to meet at least twice a month

individually to talk about issues so as to avoid future misunderstandings. Commissioner Sparks also stated they have agreed to open up communications when issues do arise and that they will work with one another and Commission with the POA to address those issues. The Commission will also establish a new mode of communications directly to the rank and file in a form of a Commission Bulletin to go out to district stations similar to a Department Bulletin.

Commissioner Mazzucco stated that yesterday's meeting was a great meeting with the POA. He stated that they had a great conversation and the lines of communications are open. He stated that they can agree to disagree on some issues but the bottom line is they have to work together on behalf of the officers and on behalf of the citizens of the city.

Commissioner Marshall stated that he appreciates the POA's candidness about their position and the willingness to move forward and that it was a very good meeting and is looking forward to moving forward.

Commissioner DeJesus stated that one of the focus in yesterday's meeting was a better way to do the subcommittee meeting and she stated that everybody learned from the first meeting and that it was a learning experience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sergeant Reilly announced that on the 24th of October the Commission will be meeting at Sheridan Elementary School in the Ingleside, 431 Capitol Avenue at 6:00 p.m.

Sergeant Reilly also announced that next week's calendar will include the Language DGO and that it is posted on the Department and the OCC's websites.

SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Veronese would like to discuss the Patrol Special issue and that there are 10 applicants waiting to clear background and would like to put on the agenda the item that allows Patrol Specials to appeal to the Commission and decisions regarding patrol specials.

Commissioner Campos would like a report on the 10 applicants waiting to clear background.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Campos, second by Commissioner DeJesus. Approved 6-0.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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