

MARCH 30, 2005

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Tenderloin District Community Meeting Room, 201 Turk Street, San Francisco, at 6:09 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Orr-Smith, Chan, Keane, Marshall, Sparks,
Veronese

ABSENT: Commissioner Renne

Commissioner Orr-Smith welcomed the audience. She also announced that as of March 16th, the Commission meetings are back on the air on Channel 26. The Commission introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Chief Fong introduced the Command Staff. Present are Deputy Chief Parra, Commander Puccinelli, Commander Craig, Commander Shinn, Deputy Chief Tabak, and Deputy Chief Suhr.

Chief Fong announced that yesterday she received a copy of a Civil Grand Jury Report. She explained that the areas that are highlighted are the accrual of compensatory time that has occurred over quite a few years. The second area of concern is the ability of command personnel, those holding the rank of Captain and above, to receive either overtime in pay or compensatory time and how that eventually should be changed because management in many jurisdictions do not receive extra compensation. The third area of concern is the number of department vehicles that are on-call vehicles that are allowed to go home with assigned personnel. Chief Fong stated that the Commission will be briefed at future meetings with more details as to what the recommendations are.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Report on the function of the Office of City Complaints

Director Allen introduced himself and gave a brief description of the functions of the Office of Citizen Complaints.

APPROVAL OF POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 13, 2004 AND DECEMBER 15, 2004

Motion by Commissioner Marshall to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner Keane. Approved 6-0.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sergeant Reilly announced that the Civil Grand Jury is accepting applications to serve on the Civil Grand Jury for the term beginning July 11, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006. Applications are due by April 11th.

CAPTAIN KATHRYN BROWN, COMMANDING OFFICER OF TENDERLOIN STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT

Captain Brown welcomed the Commission and went over the booklet that was given to the Commission. Captain Brown gave a brief history and description of the Tenderloin Station. She went over the station's organizational chart and described the demographics of the station's personnel. She commended the officers of the Tenderloin. She also thanked Commissioner Sparks for attending the monthly community meeting for the

Tenderloin District. Captain Brown then described the police activities in the Tenderloin District.

Commissioner Sparks asked how Captain Brown works with Southern Station. Captain Brown stated that she talks to Captain O'Leary all the time. She stated they work together all the time on Market Street and they even implemented bringing in the Mounted Police on the weekends. She stated that both of them are concerned about the selling of stolen properties at UN Plaza and they are talking about putting up a surveillance operation to try to abate that issue.

Commissioner Chan asked about arson incidents in the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that she didn't know what the arsons are about. She stated that she's not aware of any significant damage in relationship to arson so she stated she doesn't know what that particular rise in arson is about.

Commissioner Chan asked about shoplifting. Captain Brown explained that most shoplifters have priors and what the Burglary Unit does is they wait until the individual shoplifts more and then they take those cases, put them together, and charge him with petty theft with a prior.

Commissioner Veronese asked what other agencies are operating in the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that she works with DPW all the time. She stated that DPW had the "Clean the Streets" Program. She stated that it sent a message to the community that the City cares about the community. She also talked about the Tenderloin Sidewalk Improvement Group. This is a group from the community who goes out and cleans the sidewalks of the Tenderloin and makes sure that the sidewalks are in good shape.

Commissioner Veronese asked how involved is the ABC with the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that the main contact she's had with the ABC is when somebody is applying for a liquor license. They ask for recommendations from the station.

Commissioner Sparks asked about statistics on prostitution. Captain Brown explained that there are no statistics on prostitution in her report because she only has Part 1 crimes but she stated that prostitution in the Tenderloin has declined significantly. She stated that she doesn't see much of it at all except for a few problem areas but very few numbers.

Commissioner Sparks asked how enforcement work on Larkin Street since that is border between Northern and the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that the Tenderloin handles anything up to Larkin Street. Northern Station is responsible for both sides of Larkin Street.

Commissioner Marshall asked about when things began to change. Captain Brown stated that she did see the Tenderloin begin to change while she was there. She stated it had a lot to do with the Tenderloin Task Force being there and with the station moving to where it is now, that had a huge impact. She also stated the influx of families. Families that have kids and that are very hard working people and a lot of the negative element moved out.

Commissioner Orr-Smith asked about life for the teenagers in the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that they don't have a large percentage of crimes involving teenagers but the problem is for teenagers and for young people between the ages of 19 and 24, there isn't a lot for them to do in the Tenderloin. She stated that she has talked to Dan at the Tenderloin Rec Center and they've talked about basketball games or some activity for them because at night time there is nothing for them to do at the Tenderloin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Edward Evans, organizer for Community Resources Action Project, discussed concerns regarding bicyclist, drugs, and quality of life for seniors in the Tenderloin.

Ms. Marsha Casillas, Union Square Business Improvement District, read a letter regarding the SFPD Tenderloin Station praising Captain Brown and the entire Tenderloin Police Station's officers for their dedication and tireless commitment to the Tenderloin District .

Mr. Alan White commended Dr. Marshall, Commissioner Orr-Smith, and Commissioner Sparks and asked the Commission to go out there in the Tenderloin and see what's going on out there. He commended Captain Brown and the officers of the Tenderloin Station.

Mr. Calasre, business owner, stated that he appreciates Captain Brown's daily emails and commended the officers for quick response time.

Mr. David Villalobos, Director of Community Leadership Alliance, commended Commissioners Sparks and Veronese. He discussed concerns regarding cooperation from the Tenderloin Station and Captain Brown.

Mr. Sam Lacosta, known as "Shorty" in the Tenderloin, thanked Captain Brown and her officers for doing a good job. He discussed concerns regarding the area of Jones and Eddy and would like to see more officers around that area.

Ms. Jackie Spencer Davis, Associate Director of Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, commended Captain Brown and the officers of Tenderloin. She stated there is still a lot of narcotic problems in the area and commended Captain Brown for her help and for working with them. She also thanked the Task Force for participating in their toy program during the Christmas season.

Ms. Lauren Berg, Coordinator for Children's Program at a Family Shelter on Turk and Taylor, thanked Captain Brown and would like to see everyone work together to clean up the Tenderloin District.

Unidentified, Turk Street resident, stated that she wanted to tell the Commission how scary it is to walk by herself because of narcotic sales.

Brother Robert Brady, Guardian of Franciscan Community at St. Boniface, thanked Captain Brown and the officers of the Tenderloin. He also read a letter from the Executive Director of St. Anthony's thanking Captain Brown.

Mr. Phillip Andrews, resident, discussed concerns regarding terrorism.

Mr. Michael Nolte, District 6, discussed concerns about the turnover of Captains in the Tenderloin. He stated he would like things that worked in the past to be brought back because they worked.

Ms. Jan Rasmussen, SF Neighborhood Safety Partnership, showed the Commission thank you cards from youth in the neighborhood. She stated that Captain Brown and the officers of Tenderloin has made her job a lot easier by participating in the youth programs.

Ms. Susan Brown, resident, thanked the Captain and the officers of the Tenderloin and discussed concerns regarding war veterans.

SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Sparks stated that Captain Brown is doing a wonderful job but believes that she is under staff and needs more officers to do the job and encouraged Captain Brown to spend more time with the community groups because that's where the answer is and the families in these groups that could make a difference and could drive the drug dealers out of the community.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Veronese. Approved 6-0.

Thereafter the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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