

JANUARY 11, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

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 5:30 p.m., in Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Renne, Campos, Chan, DeJesus, Marshall, Sparks, Veronese

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stipman discussed concerns regarding towing of his vehicle.

Kathy Perry brought a request for information regarding Commission Resolution 29-02 and request for copies of various Department documents.

Elizabeth Prantes discussed concerns regarding medical marijuana.

Unidentified discussed concerns regarding Taraval Station in not responding to an emergency call.

Ace Washington discussed concerns regarding abuse by the police and stated that all charges were dropped against him and stated that he will file a complaint with the OCC and with the City.

HEARING ON MOTION TO DISMISS DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

- a. **Discussion and possible action to grant or deny motion to dismiss disciplinary charges in Case No. C04-126 JWA under Government Code 3304(d).**
- b. **Discussion and possible action to grant or deny motion to dismiss disciplinary charges filed in Case Nos. C04-113 JWA & C04-126 JWA) on the grounds that the alleged charges are unconstitutional and filed as a pretext for unlawful race-based employment discrimination.**

(The entire Lankford proceedings were taken in shorthand form by Ms. Anna Greenley, CSR, Roomian & Associates.)

Ms. Eileen Burke, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of the officer.

Mr. Robert Tronnes, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of the San Francisco Police Department.

The Commission decided to consider this item on closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1) and S.F. Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, second by Commissioner Sparks to hold closed session. Approved 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Currier, Outer Mission Residence Association, commended Lt. Lankford on his work with the community in the Ingleside District.

Marylon Boyd had some questions in regards to the Gomes case and questions in regards to the statute of limitations.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

- I. **Possible report on action taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code section 54757.1 and S.F. Administrative Code section 67.12(b).**
- ii. **Vote whether to disclose any or all of the discussion held in Closed**

Session pursuant to S.F. Administrative Code section 67.12(a)

Commissioner Renne announced that the Commission has met in Closed Session and had unanimously denied both of the motions that have been made.

Motion by Commissioner Chan, second by Commissioner Marshall for non disclosure of discussion held in Closed Session. Approved 7-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO TAKE OFF CALENDAR INDEFINITELY THE DISCIPLINARY CHARGES FILED IN CASE NO. C05-109 JCT. THE OFFICER RESIGNED FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JANUARY 5, 2006. SAID DISCIPLINARY CHARGES WILL BE PLACED BACK ON CALENDAR SHOULD THE OFFICER BE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE POLICE COMMISSION IN THE FUTURE

(Resolution No. 3-06)

Motion by Commissioner Chan, second by Commissioner Marshall take off calendar indefinitely the disciplinary charges filed in Case No. C05-109 JCT. Approved 7-0.

CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Update on significant policing efforts by Department members

Chief Fong introduced Lieutenant Dave Lazar, FOB, to make the presentation on homeless outreach by the Department.

Lieutenant Lazar presented the SFPD Operation Outreach. Operation Outreach includes 31 officers involved in the focus of dealing with the homeless. There are designated officers throughout the different district stations whose job is to work with other agencies to get homeless people into services. There are approximately 5,600 homeless people in San Francisco.

The mission of Operation Outreach is to determine the places most frequented by the homeless, contact the homeless, determine their needs, and work collaboratively with various City agencies resulting in the administering of homeless services for those in need.

The officers who participate in Operation Outreach must go through the 40-hour Police Crisis Intervention Training that's held at the Presidio.

Mr. Darius Kahan, Human Services Director, spoke about the relationship between the Department and the Human Services Agency. He stated that it almost as though they have more social workers on the street through the Police Department, engaging in homeless people's lives and then connecting them to services.

Dr. Raj Parekh, Director of Homeless Outreach Team, talked about the Homeless Outreach Team. He stated the team is composed of staff members from the Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, and a non-profit cast. He stated that the officers of Operation Outreach serves as their eyes and ears in the community. The officers have been successful in identifying people who have extreme need and these are the people that are referred to the team. Dr. Parekh stated that this has resulted in San Francisco streets becoming safer, not only for the homeless, but for the public in general. Dr. Parekh also stated that he thought that the Chronicle article was unfair in that it did not address a lot of the things that the Outreach Detail is doing and that that should be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Veronese stated that it is essential that San Francisco Police Officers understand homelessness and that all SFPD officers should understand homelessness. Commissioner Veronese stated that his concern is staffing. He stated that there are 31 officers that are part of this program and Commissioner Veronese asked if a better department better qualified to do this. He stated that the Department should take a close look at where assets are being placed and if there are people that are more qualified to do certain jobs, those qualified people should be put in to do those jobs.

Chief Fong clarified that there are more than 59 people assigned to the Investigations Bureau. Chief Fong stated that there are 59 vacant requisitions for inspectors. Chief Fong explained that the officers assigned to Operation Outreach, they are assigned throughout the city and they are not focused just on Operation Outreach. They are uniformed police officers in radio cars and they do respond to calls for service. They also have received additional training so that they can do some of the outreach that all officers should do. Chief Fong stated that she does agree with Commissioner Veronese in that there are other resources that if they had the staff and resources available to go out and to do the outreach work, then the Department will continue to support and will pull back a little bit but when the Department do get calls about concerns of homeless individuals on the street, about people who are having a difficult time, and people are calling for help, police and fire are generally the first to respond. So that is why this model of working with those agencies, of getting those professional caretakers who can go out and offer those other services are very important but it has to be a cooperative.

Commissioner Chan asked, at any given watch, how many officers can be reasonably expected to be available, who have the training and who can respond, in this team-oriented approach. Lieutenant Lazar stated that he doesn't have the exact numbers as far as those who have been trained in police crisis intervention training but with regard to Operation Outreach, the 31 officers work during the day watch.

Commissioner Chan asked if there are other City Agencies working during off hours. Lieutenant Lazar stated that during the evenings and on weekends, the Police Department is essentially the primary agency responding to some of those complaints.

Commissioner Chan asked if the Department has a framework by which data can be compiled to at least catalog the amount of non aggressive contacts that members of the Department have with the public. Lieutenant Lazar stated that speaking with the Operation Outreach Program itself, beginning in September, every officer that's involved in the program is required to complete a 3 ½ - statistical page every month to be submitted to him.

Commissioner Chan asked if there are grants available that would reimburse the Department for this program. Lieutenant Lazar explained that he spoke with the Grant Unit to try to obtain some funds for all the work the Department is doing. He stated that the Grant Unit is working on that.

Commissioner Campos stated that he shares the concern that Commissioner Veronese has but stated that what he saw at the presentation is a perfect example of community policing and that it really shows that it's imperative that the Police Department not only play a role in dealing with crime but that there is a preventative side to a lot of things that the Department is doing. Commissioner Campos stated that working with other city agencies is an excellent way of using resources. He commended the Chief and Lieutenant Lazar for everything that has been done.

Commissioner Campos asked what are the plans for the other officers

that are not part of this program. Lieutenant Lazar stated that some training have started by way of the Chief's message. He explained that Chief Fong puts out a message every month to all the officers in the department and on a couple of those months, he has been one of the guest speakers that have spoke about the resources and some of the things the officers could do with regard to the homeless. Another vehicle used is the Department Bulletin. The Homeless Resource Sheet has been put out to all members of the department.

Commissioner Marshall is excused at 8:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darryl Jones stated that this program is not what is presented today. She discussed concerns about being abused and beaten by hospital practitioners.

Reuben Goodman discussed concerns about being homeless and about being evicted from the Empress Hotel.

Matt Leroy discussed concerns about evictions and concerns about the quality of living spaces and services referred to the homeless.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Director Allen welcomed Commissioners DeJesus and Campos.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified discussed concerns regarding video tapes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2006

Commissioner Sparks requested that discussion with the Chief regarding staffing be included in the minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Sparks, second by Commissioner Chan the minutes be approved with the addition of the Chief's discussion regarding staffing. Approved 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Campos stated that he appreciates having the minutes from the last meeting.

Commissioner Veronese asked that staffing discussion be calendared sooner than later.

Commissioner Renne stated that it will probably be in February.

Commissioner Renne requested that the approval of the minutes be continued until changes are made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sergeant Reilly announced that the Commission will be meeting in the Mission District on January 25, 2006, at the Sanchez Elementary School, 325 Sanchez, at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Renne announced that the Commission will be considering written findings in regards to the motions heard today.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT
FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Commissioner Renne stated that the staffing issue will be calendar ASAP.

Commissioner Sparks asked that the budget be noticed at least two weeks before the meeting so that the public can attend. Commissioner Sparks asked the budget be calendared soon and asked that the Commission be involved in the beginning process of the budget as opposed to the middle or end.

Commissioner Sparks asked for a presentation in regards to Patrol Specials and asked the Chief be made a part of the community policing program and if not, why it can't be done.

Commissioner Chan would like to hear not only from the Chief and the command staff but to hear from the Patrol Specials themselves.

Commissioner Chan also asked for a presentation to the process by which members are promoted in the Department from sergeant to lieutenant. Also a presentation on promotional practices with respect to the Investigations Bureau.

Commissioner Chan asked for a report from the Chief in regards to cameras in patrol cars.

Commissioner Chan would like an update from the Chief as to the staffing plan to be put in place preparatory to the budget presentations and negotiations.

Commissioner Veronese would like a report on GPS tracking of police unit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion by Commissioner Chan, second by Commissioner Sparks to adjourn the meeting.

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

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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