

APRIL 26, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Central District, Pier 1, Washington and Embarcadero Streets, at 6:00 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

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

Commissioner Renne welcomed the audience and asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves.

CHIEF' S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Chief Fong welcomed the audience and introduced the Command Staff that were present. Present were Deputy Chief Pengel, Commander Craig, Deputy Chief Parra, Commander Tacchini, and Commander Harper.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

OCC DIRECTOR' S REPORT

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

Director Allen introduced himself and talked about the function and responsibilities of the Office of Citizen Complaints.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CAPTAIN JAMES DUDLEY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF CENTRAL STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

Taken out of order.

Captain Dudley, commanding officer of Central Station, addressed the Commission on police activities in the Central District. Captain Dudley described the Central District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Taken out of order.

Lee Goodin discussed concerns regarding North Beach Place public housing.

Cindy Wandell, Director of SAFE, commended Captain Dudley and his officers for being involved in community policing.

Selene Sternis, Property Manager Northpoint Shopping Center, discussed concerns regarding crime increase at the shopping center. She thanked Captain Dudley and the officers of Central Station for everything that they have done.

Lance Evander, North Beach resident, discussed concerns regarding sharp increase in crimes and graffiti in the Fisherman=s Wharf area. He gave photos of graffiti to the Commission.

Nan Roth, Telegraph Hill resident, discussed concerns regarding activities on Broadway and the issuance of liquor licenses.

Eleanor Shinn, Grant & Lombard resident, discussed concerns regarding break-in at their condominium and what the does the police do in regards to Coit Tower.

Zack Stewart, Water Street resident, discussed concerns regarding alcohol consumption in the North Beach area.

Dennis Weatherall, Francisco Street resident, discussed concerns regarding graffiti and noise problem.

Bob Trumbull, Telegraph Hill resident, discussed concerns regarding drugs and alcohol activities and asked that a DUI check be set up at the bottom of Telegraph Hill.

Commissioner Renne asked for more information on the Reading Program that was done with SAFE.

Commissioner DeJesus asked about concerns with alcohol permits. Captain Dudley stated that he had attending meetings of the Entertainment Commission to voice opinions and certain restrictions on Broadway clubs and he has attended every meeting of the Entertainment Commission. He also addressed concerns regarding juveniles and alcohol. He also asked Supervisor Peskin to enact a curfew for the adult entertainment area. Captain Dudley also stated that his district is about 20 percent down on staffing.

Commissioner Campos asked what is being done with the Coit Tower situation. Captain Dudley stated that he=s been working with the different city agencies that is in charge of Coit Tower. He stated that lighting is a problem and closing the parking area is also problematic but the group is looking for some consensus. Captain Dudley stated that loitering should not be allowed. The Department is also doing hourly passing calls on the weekends.

Commissioner Campos asked about the alcohol issue. Captain Dudley stated that he has had meetings with the merchants but some have listened and some have not. He stated that he=s talked to ABC to do training for the bars and clubs to teach them what their duties and responsibilities are. There is also a separate training for the liquor store merchants. Captain Dudley explained that a STOP program would be more effective than a DUI checkpoint. Captain Dudley talked about foot beat patrols.

Commissioner Campos asked about the outreach program of Central Station. Captain Dudley stated that there are several officers that speak Mandarin and Cantonese.

Commissioner Veronese asked Captain Dudley about any ideas on how to resolve problems in the North Beach area especially with the alcohol problem. Captain Dudley stated that what happens with the clubs is that most of the time you have an absentee owner. He stated that Officer Crisp goes out at night and do physical checks of the clubs, permit checks, establishment checks, and sound checks. If there is a complaint, the Department can check and Officer Crisp follows up with a letter to the owner to let them know. The other officers also have done a great job of documenting the out of compliance clubs and it is followed up during the day time with the Entertainment Commission and the ABC. Captain Dudley stated that it=s gotten to a point where owners were brought in and talking to them and telling them that the club is in jeopardy of losing its license.

Commissioner Veronese suggested of assigning an officer during Friday nights and Saturday nights to deal with the club problems. Commissioner Veronese also asked about the graffiti problem in the district. Captain Dudley stated that there has been arrests made in regards to graffiti.

Commissioner Veronese asked the Chief about the issue of staffing. Chief Fong stated that one of the things the Department has been doing is getting the message out about staffing. Chief Fong also stated that the Department anticipates that in the next three to five years there will be upwards 500 officers who will be eligible to retire. The Department is trying

to deal with the reduce level of staffing but the Department is also trying to prevent being down on two fronts. Chief Fong stated that this Commission has been very supportive in terms of staffing. The Board did approve the budget for hiring of 250 officers but the Department will probably get 125 officers out of the 250. Chief Fong also stated that there are currently two academy class that=s in progress. One will graduate on June 2nd and the other in November. Chief Fong urged the community to speak out in regards to the staffing budget of the Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF APRIL 5TH AND APRIL 12, 2006

Continued to next week.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Veronese addressed the Chief regarding the graffiti problem and stated that he=s been in contact with a private organization that owns some properties and stated that they have offered to pay for two police officers for five years to specifically target people who commit graffiti type offenses.

Commissioner Veronese also addressed the homicide issue and stated that he doesn=t think that the Department is doing enough to address this problem. He also stated that he feels that this Commission is also not doing enough to address this problem.

Commissioner Veronese also addressed the issue of morale in the Department and stated that the Commission is here today due to Proposition H and Proposition H was a call to reform the Police Department.

Chief Fong stated she has met with Director Nance based on his comments in the newspaper about the direction he was given with regards to looking at some of the best practices that the Department may or may not have. She stated that she knows that she will have further discussions with the Commission to share some of the ideas in terms of moving forward. Chief Fong stated that she thinks that it is important to note that all the Departments around the nation are always looking at how to do things better and she stated that last week there was a conference in San Francisco that she attended several sessions and on Saturday morning, Chief Fong stated that she and Captain Keohane were there to listen to a speaker from the L.A. Police Department to speak about retooling internal affairs and what was talked about was very interesting and that 50 percent of the things that they talked about, the Department has already been doing.

Chief Fong stated that the homicides in the City this year has tremendously changed in terms of the pattern of last year. Chief Fong stated that last year the Department knew that everything was black on black gang violence and the Department knew that homicides are often driven by narcotics. This year, the number of black on black gang homicides has reduced significantly and what the Department is seeing is a number of homicides that are related to drug activity.

Commissioner Renne stopped the discussion because the issue doesn=t fall under announcements.

Commissioner Veronese stated that he would like the Chief to report back on this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Renne announced that the conference that the Chief mentioned, it was the Police Executive Research Forum that had the meeting in San Francisco last week. Commissioner Renne stated that this is an organization that=s actually set up by the Ford Foundation and Alan Nance, head of the Mayor=s Office of Criminal Justice, was there, the Chief, was there and there were some very good ideas but what you find is the same kinds of issues that=s here in San Francisco are issues every urban city does; use of force et cetera. Commissioner Renne stated that that was followed by a meeting that Commissioners Sparks and Renne had with Alan Nance. Commissioner Renne stated that what Director Nance would like to do is meet with all of the Commissioners and probably schedule that the week after next so the Commission can have the opportunity to dialogue with him. Commissioner Renne stated that homicide is not something that the police department or this Commission alone can solve. It is a community problem with lots of complex facets to it.

Commissioner Renne also stated that per request of Supervisor Maxwell for a joint Police Commission/Board of Supervisors meeting and that Commissioner Renne will be meeting with Supervisor Maxwell on Friday to set up the meeting date.

Commissioner DeJesus requested that the Commission finalize the priority list of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion by Commissioner DeJesus, second by Commissioner Campos to adjourn the meeting.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission