

CUPERTINO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday March 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Cupertino City Hall, EOC Room

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Chao called to order this meeting of the Cupertino Public Safety Commission at approximately 6:02 pm on Thursday March 12, 2020 in the Cupertino City Hall, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Room, located at 10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, California 95014.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Present: Yvonne Chao
Tiffany Wang
Eric Shan
Hymanand Nellore
Lakshminarasimha Ankireddipally

Commissioner Absent: None

Staff Present: Captain Rich Urena, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office

Others Present: Laura Lee, Community Relations Coordinator
Brian Babcock, Communications Officer
Robert Cascone, Interim Emergency Services Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Subject: Approve February 13, 2020 Minutes
Recommended Action: Approval of the February 13, 2020 Minutes

Commissioner Wang motioned to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting as amended; Commissioner Ankireddipally seconded the motion; Ayes: Shan, Chao, Wang, Nellore, Ankireddipally. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

POSTPONEMENTS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

2. Subject: Public Safety Education and Outreach
 - a. Public Safety Forum (Commissioners)
 - b. Senior Safety Forums with focus on mental health (Commissioners)
 - c. Potential distracted driving campaign with Bike-Ped Commission (Commissioners)Recommended Action: Receive updated reports and discuss proposals for future forums/workshops

Commissioner Chao talked about the upcoming Public Safety Forum. She explained that she spoke with City staff and reserved the Community Center for Thursday October 22, 2020. She added that the time may be 7-9 PM.

Commissioner Chao deferred the rest of the items until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Subject: Discuss Public Safety Champion of the Year for the 2020 CREST Awards.
Recommended Action: Vote on Public Safety Champion of the Year for the 2020 Crest Awards.

Mr. Brian Babcock, the city's Communications Officer, talked about the CREST Awards. Mr. Babcock explained that CREST has been around for a few decades in various forms. The program seeks to identify and award residents who volunteer in the community. About two years ago, the City changed the format and created categories. The Public Safety Champion of the year is one such category and it is the category that the commission will vote upon. Mr. Babcock explained that only one application was submitted and asked the commission to determine if the person embodies a Public Safety Champion spirit. He further explained that although only one application was submitted, commissioners should decide if this particular person meets the criteria.

Commissioners talked about the nominee's accomplishments and voted to recommend the nominee receive the award.

Commissioner Nellore motioned to recommend the applicant receive the CREST award; Commissioner Ankireddipally seconded the motion; Ayes: Shan, Chao, Wang, Nellore, Ankireddipally. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

4. Subject: Neighborhood Watch and Block Leader Presentation

Recommended Action: Receive Neighborhood Watch and Block Leader Presentation

Laura Lee, Community Relations Coordinator, provided the Commission with an overview of the Neighborhood Watch and Block Leader program. Ms. Lee explained that the Block Leader program has been in place for 18 years and is the social structure in which to allow people to get to know each other and problem solve issues in the community. Block leaders are encouraged to engage neighbors and talk. Currently, the City has 380 Block leaders who meet frequently. The meetings are held quarterly and the topics discussed vary. Frequent meeting topics include educating Leaders on how to facilitate discussions with neighbors, understanding conflicts, and crime updates with the Sheriff's Office as was the case during the last meeting. Hot topics are discussed at meetings and occasionally department heads speak about their programs. Ms. Lee provides information to Leaders and they share the info with neighbors. Ms. Lee further sends Leaders quarterly information on different topics and encourages them to include new neighbors. All Block Leaders have city provided badges so that they can identify themselves as Block Leaders when talking with new neighbors.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a crime prevention model that Mrs. Turini manages. Mrs. Turini, who was a previous deputy sheriff and assigned to the program for the last 12 years, will visit residents at their homes, parks or anywhere they would like to discuss the program. She assists interested folks who want to join Neighborhood Watch or the Block Leader program by giving them information on both. The Neighborhood Watch Program consists of discussing topics of interest such as residential burglaries. Crime prevention is the key to the program and volunteers are encouraged to look out for neighbors.

Commissioner Chao asked Ms. Lee to discuss the main differences between the Neighborhood Watch Program and the Block Leader Program. Ms. Lee explained that the Block Leader Program is the social part of the city and not necessarily involved in safety or preparation as is the case with Neighborhood Watch. The Block Leader program members connect in commonalities, such as food, parties, and other interests. National Night Out is an event held every year that brings everyone together. Often times the Block Leader Program is a path to the Neighborhood Watch Leader Program.

Commissioner Shan asked Ms. Lee how volunteers are selected and she explained that they would need to contact her directly. The best manner in which to reach her is to go to the Cupertino website and find her information. Ms. Lee added that about 30 to 40 percent of

the city is covered by either a Block Leader or Neighborhood Watch volunteer and each volunteer self-selects and self-designates their area.

5. Subject: Vehicle Burglary Presentation

Recommended Action: Discuss and Receive Vehicle Burglary Presentation

Captain Urena provided the Commission with a vehicle burglary presentation. He explained that vehicle burglaries are currently at an all-time high and he predicts that they will continue to climb. He provided 2019 data on vehicle burglaries and provided each commissioner with a map of the locations of each of the burglaries. Captain Urena briefly talked about the various shopping centers that seem to be the targets of the burglaries and added that he has deputies in unmarked cars stationed at the various shopping centers monitoring activity. He added that 84% of the vehicle burglaries are occurring in the shopping centers and only about 7% occur at a residence. This information is used to further predict where the crime will occur.

Captain Urena explained how thieves are committing the burglaries and how difficult it is to catch them as they drive unsafe when deputies try and stop them. He answered questions and explained that the problem will need to be resolved using a multifaceted approach. He explained that the solution will need to include residents, business owners, public safety, and technology.

6. Subject: Vice Chair Nominations

Recommended Action: Elect Vice Chair

Commissioner Nellore explained that he was interested in being the Vice Chair and outlined his accomplishments as a Public Safety Commissioner.

Commissioner Chao motioned to nominate Commissioner Nellore for the position of Vice Mayor; Commissioner Shan seconded the motion; Ayes: Shan, Chao, Wang, Nellore, Ankireddipally. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

7. Subject: COVID-19

Recommended Action: Discuss COVID-19 Education and Outreach

Mr. Cascone, the City's Interim Emergency Management Coordinator, gave a presentation on the city's efforts as it relates to COVID-19. Mr. Cascone explained that he is part of a core team of City staff working in the Office of Emergency Services.

Mr. Cascone explained that the Santa Clara County Public Health Department is the lead agency managing COVID-19 but that they are following the CDC (federal level) guidelines. He added that all entities in the county are following the guidelines. In order to support the City and all entities in the County, the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services (OEM) stood up and has been in operation seven days a week and 24 hours a day. Mr. Cascone talks with OEM three times a week in order to get the latest information. OEM provides entities with the most current orders and recommendations as well as how COVID-19 is impacting the entire county. He explained that everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19. However, different guidelines exist for people with different health risks and age. The latest information can be found on line on the Santa Clara County Public Health Departments website.

Mr. Cascone explained that the City of Cupertino is posting information on their website frequently. The information includes the latest city updates of what is going on in the city. Currently the city has two calls a day to discuss operations and the impact of Covid19. The meetings include the city's communication plan that is managed by the City Communications Office. The goal of the meetings is to try and determine essential services and ensure that services are provided and not interrupted.

Mr. Cascone answered questions and explained how city business is changing and will continue to change in order to protect city employees and residents.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

8. Subject: Report by the Santa Clara County Fire Department
Recommended Action: Receive report by the Santa Clara County Fire Department

None

9. Subject: Report by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office
Recommended Action: Receive report by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office

Captain Urena provided the commission with the monthly public safety report. He explained the response times and pointed out the crime categories. He pointed out the 22 residential burglaries in February and added that it appears that the suspects are young perhaps teenage age.

Captain Urena ended his presentation by providing a summary on the four domestic battery incidents in the city.

The victim girlfriend called to report that her boyfriend punched and pushed her, giving her a sprained ankle from falling to the ground. The victim was transported to the hospital but declined an EPRO. The suspect was arrested and booked into Main Jail.

The son called to report that his dad hit his mom. The suspect husband pushed the victim wife, causing her to fall. The victim hit her head on a garbage can but did not have any visible injuries or complaints of pain. The victim declined an EPRO and the suspect was arrested and booked into Main Jail.

The victim wife called to report that her husband attempted to grab their child from her arms, then used one hand to grab her neck and choked her. The victim did not have any visible injuries or complaints of pain. An EPRO was requested, but denied by the on-duty judge. The suspect was arrested and booked into Main Jail.

The suspect wife called to report confronting her cheating husband while he was with the other woman. The wife became angry and hit the victim husband multiple times with a plastic water bottle. The victim declined an EPRO and the suspect was arrested and booked into Main Jail.

10. Subject: Report by the City of Cupertino

Recommended Action: Receive Report by the City of Cupertino Liaison

None

11. Subject: Commissioner Reports

Recommended Action: Receive Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Wang talked about her attendance in the Mayor's meeting and briefed the Commission on upcoming initiatives. She explained that the Bike-Ped commission is Interest in working with PSC on a traffic safety plan.

Ankireddipally volunteered to attend next month's Mayor's meeting.

12. Subject: Future Agenda Items

Recommended Action: Discuss Future Agenda Items

Deferred to next month.

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Chao adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

*Veronica Lara
West Valley Patrol Division
Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff
April 15, 2020*

APPROVED BY:

Yvonne Chao Chair

Date