

## NOMA Meeting June 2018

- I. Meeting opened by Nance Coleman
  - A. Skipping July meeting, next meeting will be in August
- II. Announcements
  - A. NOMA is sponsoring Music Night for Make Music Day. We will be located at Ocean Ave between Georgina & San Vicente Thursday June 21 5:00PM-8:30PM/sunset. Entertainment for all ages. One of the best events of the year.
  - B. Memorial Park survey is available online. Complete one before the end of June.
- III. Police Chief Cynthia Renaud, Lieutenant Rodriguez - Communications Director
  - A. Background
    1. She comes to us from being the Chief in Folsom in Sacramento County for 7 years
    2. Prior to that, she worked with Long Beach PD for 20 years
    3. Has worked at many levels of policing: undercover, internal affairs, patrolling, commander
    4. 27 years of experience serving diverse types of communities
  - B. Key Outcomes
    1. Fight crime
    2. Part of homeless solution
    3. Pedestrian safe travel on foot, bicycle, car
  - C. Hiring
    1. Professionals & sworn officers both needed
    2. Hiring take a long time: background, testing, training (minimum 8-18mo)
  - D. Visibility in the Field
    1. Encouraging officers to be more visible
  - E. NOMA Crime
    1. The Chief has been briefed on "shocking" crime in NOMA
      - a) Jewelry store, robberies, vehicle burglaries from midnight to 4am, trend of Honda airbags being stolen, NOMA not experiencing catalytic converter theft like the rest of SM
      - b) Combat this by making arrests & informing citizens
      - c) YTD 2018 has less crime than last year
  - F. Member Questions
    1. Residential Burglaries
      - a) This month, NOMA has only had 1. Compare to 8/month last summer.
      - b) If home during the day and someone knocks at the door, do not answer the door, but make your presence known and let the knocker know that you are not alone. Active your alarm & lock your doors when you are asleep.
      - c) Minimum 8 units in the field
        - (1) Have the space to hire 18 new officers & those are intended for patrol
      - d) There is a sense that high hedges are protective to homes & ordinance says 42in is the maximum height.
        - (1) SEPTED - One of the main principles of home safety is "eyes on the street." High hedges prevent this type of safety.
    2. Communication with Residents. Can there be a more direct form of communication from the department? Police in neighborhoods blocking residents from their homes did not inform residents of the situation. Request: relocate emergency communications from city manager to police.

- a) Lieutenant Rodriguez is communications director. Jewelry store incident: SMAAlert was supposed to be sent & direct residents to twitter for updates.
- b) Chief has had good experiences with Nixel. She believes that there should be one communications platform. This has not yet been decided.
  - (1) If this incident were to happen again tomorrow, we would hear it on NextDoor again because it is the most responsive. Police communications take more time to compile.
- c) The chief's goal is to keep residents more informed by officers in person.
- d) Esmergency management communications are not under the Chief's purview and she has not power to change this.
  - (1) SMAAlerts are now written by on-duty watch commanders
- 3. Sonya - We are fortunate to have this police department. We appreciate the job that the police do.
- 4. Homeless Population
  - a) Homeless population seems to be rougher and more drug oriented. Frequently seeing younger homeless population on bicycles in neighborhood alleys. How does the PD manage this?
    - (1) Chief does not disagree with this assessment
    - (2) Important tools have been taken away:
      - (a) Prop 47 changed drugs to misdemeanors, not felonies and this is a cause.
      - (b) AB109 mandated that some people are released from prison and this is a cause.
      - (c) Criminal justice system includes more than the police
    - (3) Follow up question: we have the largest veteran homeless population, but we also have the VA nearby. Can we relocate homeless to federal resources like the VA?
      - (a) We cannot forcibly relocate anyone.
      - (b) Homeless may not decide to relocate even if this type of resource were available
      - (c) Police attempt to provide guidance to homeless when they are sober, this is typically when they are leaving jail.
      - (d) Nancy - VA has not built housing that they have promised to build.
  - b) Homeless population along west coast is high. Is Santa Monica an outlier within this data set.
    - (1) The chief blames this on recent legislation and has no data on how we compare.
    - (2) Working with regional partners on a unified solution.
- 5. Who sets the limits of police aggression?
  - a) Chief sets this direction through her leadership.
  - b) Greater visibility can help to discourage crime and homeless
  - c) Each officer has their own discretion
- 6. Culture: what would a successful culture transformation look like in 1 year?
  - a) Happy motivated workforce that shows up every ready to serve the community. measure by high resident satisfaction & low crime rates.
- 7. Protecting residents vs businesses?
  - a) Police do not have a mandate that sets a proportion between the two.
- 8. Youth Homeless in Boston: medical van patrolled the community offering aid to the homeless. This resulted in encouragement of sober living.

- a) There are programs like this in Santa Monica. Sargent of the Health team has more info and the Chief can connect us.
  - 9. Private Patrols: what is the current relationship between private patrols & police?
    - a) Chief uncertain of the number of private patrols. Per Nancy, there are 3-4.
    - b) Nancy concerned that private patrols are misrepresenting themselves as police and also behaving recklessly
    - c) Santa Monica Protective Association: they check in on residents, open garages, etc. The PD does not offer a service like this. SMPA is a value add to residents.
  - 10. What are your thoughts on the public's perception of their own safety on SM?
    - a) I can't speak for residents & haven't seen any data. Santa Monica is safer than it was in the 60s & people feel less safe because of new communication methods. 3% less crime in NOMA compared to last year.
  - 11. Electric Vehicle Safety
    - a) These require a license & a helmet. This is not the case a vast majority of the time. Officers claim that this is not their responsibility.
      - (1) Chief claims that hundreds of tickets have been written for electric vehicles. Enforcement is not the solution.
      - (2) June 12 Council meeting will address many items pertaining to electric vehicles
  - 12. Is our PD not funded well enough to operate? What can we do to help?
    - a) PD is not at full staff due to retirements. They have plenty of funds to fully staff.
      - (1) We cannot hire a new officer until another officer leaves.
      - (2) Chief could potentially vet new candidates ahead of time.
    - b) Chief has a lot of experience in training. She plans to streamline this process without sacrificing quality.
  - 13. Not enough traffic officers?
    - a) Motorcycle officer is a sought after job within the PD. Parking ticket writers may not be a sought after job. Not sure of reason behind lack of traffic officers.
- IV. R 1 Interim Ordinance
- A. Update: last meeting, City Council voted to extend the interim ordinance until 2019 or until the final ordinance is enacted, whichever comes first.
  - B. Next Steps: in the second half of this year, city will be holding meetings city wide to gauge public opinion. As the public, we need to be active and make our voice heard.
  - C. Architects are also being hired and consulted on this issue.
  - D. We'll know more some time after July.
  - E. Could we have separate guidelines for developers & residents?
    - 1. These rules would be easy to work around.
  - F. How do we make this better?
    - 1. We have to find a way to prevent ADUs from being reconverted into main unit.
  - G. How do we stay in the loop?
    - 1. Let Bob know that you're interested.