

Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 6, 2020

- I. 6:30 – 7:00 Social Time:
- II. 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Nancy Coleman, Jim Williams, Todd James, Jeff Gordon, Jeff Brecht, Steve Lissick, Ann Greenspun

Board Members Absent: Evelyn Lauchenaour, Sonya Sultan, Victor Fresco, Danilo Bach, Derek Devermont, and Phillis Dudick

III. Call to Order

IV. Acceptance of Minutes of January 9, 2020

V. Treasurer's Report

A. ~\$9,800 balance.

VI. Election of 2020 NOMA Board

Sherrill Kushner, Chair NOMA Nominations Committee

Observer: Laurence Eubank, Transparency Project

Vote: unanimous approval

NOMA Board Nominations for 2020

Danilo Bach*

Jeff Brecht*

Nancy Coleman*

Stan Fox

Jeff Gordon*

Tawny Laske

Jim Williams*

*Current Board Members

VII. Fire Chief, Bill Walker, and Deputy Chief Tom Clemo

discussed general topics related to the department, and touch on the calls for service specific to the North of Montana neighborhood; with Q & A.

- A. The North of Montana area is served by station 3 (19th & Arizona). Any questions can be emailed to Bill Walker directly.
 - 1. Two large fire trucks are stationed here and they respond to approximately 5,000 calls each year.
 - 2. Average response time from your 911 call to the fire truck arriving on scene is 5 minutes. 75% of calls are medical related.
- B. Ongoing project is an accreditation process run through The Center for Public Safety Excellence. It is a self-assessment of ability to address risk throughout the city.
- C. The pilot station on PCH has been a success.
- D. Station 1 is being replaced in the downtown area. It is an impressive building.
- E. New recruit class starts in March. Applicants who are local and diverse are prioritized.
- F. Nancy Coleman Question: How are you able to service the growing number of large or high-rise buildings? Can these types of developments pay for fire safety needs?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: All high rises are fully or partially sprinkled. Otherwise, those types of buildings are a challenge. Developers paying for a strengthened fire service would be welcomed.
- G. Member Question: Cars block the alley in my neighborhood. Fire trucks couldn't access the area if needed. What can be done about this to help us feel safe?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: If you email me directly, then hopefully we can remedy the issue.
- H. Member Question: How do you navigate the new roundabouts? Were you asked about the installation of roundabouts?
 - 1. Deputy Chief Clemo Response: We were asked about these. There is a balance between our needs and the

City's. We discuss everything from roundabouts to curbs and speed bumps. We have some of the best drivers of the city and they navigate the city elegantly.

- I. Member Question: What detail do we know about the recent fire on Barrington and Wilshire?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: LA is investigating this fire.
- J. Ann Greenspun Question: How do you staff for firefighters? Regarding the suicides in downtown Santa Monica, what thoughts do you have on those?
 - 1. Deputy Chief Clemo Response: The city of Santa Monica is our priority. When we send people to wild land fires, we back fill their positions in the city. If we don't have an extra apparatus for the job, then we will not leave the city without it. That is to say, we won't leave the city without fire trucks at any time.
 - 2. Chief Walker Response: Mental health seems to be becoming a more prominent thing. This is true of service members like fire fighters as well as the general population.
- K. Member Question: Have you had a say in the decrease in funding for mental health issues?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: We believe this type of funding is important. The city decided against it. Many of the calls that we respond to are related to mental health. Mental health treatment could decrease these.
- L. Todd James Question: Could you explain why there is sometimes a large turnout for seemingly minor issues?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: We have found that the best response is to send a "swiss army knife" for every issue. We can respond best when we are fully capable. This is especially important when we get ambiguous reports of what we are responding to. This is why you see a fully staffed fire truck for seemingly minor issues.

- M. Nancy Coleman Question: How many of the new recruiting class are women?
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: 1 out of 7. The LA Times has an article about this. LA has had a tough time recruiting women fire fighters as well.
 - 2. Deputy Chief Clemo Response: This is the highest in the county.
- N. Nancy Question: LA County fire department provides training to inmates who are eligible. Would you every hire any of these people?
 - 1. Deputy Chief Clemo Response: No. They would not pass our background check.
 - a) Nancy Response: I am sorry to hear that. These people are trained, needed, and can be rehabilitated.
- O. Nancy Question: Would the city hire a brush crew.
 - 1. Chief Walker Response: From a budgetary perspective, the city is not going to hire a brush crew.

VIII. Officer Peter Lashley and Crime Prevention Coordinator Suzie Lockwood

- A. Staffing goals were achieved approximately 8 months ago.
- B. New police cars are being issued. They are a significant improvement.
- C. Live 911 may be coming to Santa Monica. This allows the officer to hear the caller on the phone with 911. This can allow us to respond more appropriately.
- D. Scooters: the scooter companies will be forced to implement a new technology in the near future. The technology detects whether the scooter is on a sidewalk and either slows it or completely stops it.
- E. Member Question: Would you please address security estimates? Crime seems to be us, is that correct?

1. Officer Lashley Response: We still do that, yes. Crime is not up. It is down 16%.
- F. Ann Greenspun Question: Do the Ring camera doorbells and systems help to apprehend criminals?
 1. Officer Lashley Response: I have not seen any concrete data on this. Picture and video are definitely helpful. We would much rather have it than not.
- G. Member Question: How did the chief achieve a full complement of officers so quickly?
 1. Crime Prevention Officer Lockwood Response: We have recruited very aggressively. Additional officers were added to the background check workforce to expedite the process.
- H. Member Question: How responsive can the police be to our calls?
 1. Crime Prevention Officer Lockwood Response: We responded to over 138,000 calls last year. This includes over 4,000 arrests.
- I. Member Question: Scooters and bicycles are left in place on sidewalks and otherwise for weeks. How do we get these things off the streets?
 1. Crime Prevention Officer Lockwood Response: They can be left on the sidewalk. This is allowed. The operating company can be called for service as well.
- J. Member Question: What can be done about public disturbances in public parks?
 1. Officer Lashley Response: Nothing can be done unless someone presses charges.
 2. Crime Prevention Officer Lockwood Response: Otherwise, they would have to be gravely disabled before we may take action. This is a very high bar to meet.

- K. Todd James Question: What is done with people who qualify as 5150
 - 1. Officer Lashley Response: Mental health workers may be brought in to assist in evaluating the individual. If the issue is critical and immediate, then they may be brought to the hospital.
- L. Jeff Brecht Question: Police accountability
 - 1. Body cameras these are available publicly for many cases and they are activated automatically. They may be turned off in some cases.
 - 2. Nancy Response: Jeff you raise an issue which doesn't exist in Santa Monica. We do not have a civilian police commission in this city. Supporting measure R will allow for this type of transparency in the sheriff's department.
- M. Nancy Response to Mental Health: This goes back to the mid 60s when we started removing people from mental health hospitals. There continues to be a lack of mental health services. There are no services provided by the City of Santa Monica. They are provided by LA County.
- N. Member Question: Is there any interaction between residents and neighborhood security services?
 - 1. Nancy Response: I would like to use March's meeting to have a discussion about security services.

IX. Announcements and discussion on such topics as Water and Wastewater increases., State Senate Bill SB50, Spring Newsletter, and annual NOMA celebration.

- A. State of the City
 - 1. 6th and Wilshire from 430PM-7PM.
- B. City Council Meeting
 - 1. East wing of the civic center. Demonstration of the new voting system. No RSVP required.
- C. SB 50

1. This has been defeated for now. For awhile, densifying R1 neighborhoods will not be happening.

D. Water Rates

1. City council voted for the rate increase 7-0. Strategy in approaching this issue will be discussed in detail at a future meeting.

E. Annual Meeting

1. Should we use The Aero or St. Monica's?
 - a) Todd James Response: I feel that not as many people would attend if we held it at St. Monica's.
 - b) Member Question: Could we use one of the local schools?

X. Public Comment

XI. 9. Adjournment