

JANUARY 26, 2005

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Mission District, Sanchez Elementary School, 325 Sanchez Street, at 6:00 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Renne, Orr-Smith, Keane, Sparks, Veronese
ABSENT: Commissioners Chan, Marshall

The Commissioners welcomed the audience and introduced themselves.

CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Review of Recent Activities

Chief Fong introduced herself and her Command Staff and deferred her comments to Captain Goldberg.

OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Allen described the function and duties of the OCC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2004

Motion by Commissioner Veronese to approve the minutes of October 6, 2004, second by Commissioner Keane. Approved 5-0.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CAPTAIN JOHN GOLDBERG, COMMANDING OFFICER OF MISSION STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE MISSION DISTRICT

Captain Goldberg, Commanding Officer of Mission Station, addressed the Commission on police activities in the Mission District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified discussed concerns regarding transients in Dolores Park.
Miguel Bustos, resident, discussed concerns
Merchant, lower 24th Street, discussed concerns.
Todd Miles, seven-year resident, discussed concerns and stated that it's a revolving door of criminals.
Unidentified discussed Everett Middle School Clean Team.
Lorraine Altamirano asked to keep the Mission safe.
John Brown discussed concerns regarding crime in the Mission.
Tomas Lee, for Supervisor Ammiano, addressed the Commission.
Teresa Alvion, Mission resident, discussed concerns.
Amanda, for Supervisor Dufty, addressed the Commission.
Gail discussed concerns and stated that she is frightened in living in the Mission.
John discussed concerns.
Marie Sorenson discussed concerns regarding parolees and stated that 60 percent of parolees go to the Mission. She also discussed concerns regarding drugs and graffiti.
Hannah Brown stated that she's beginning to lose hope and stated that more cops are needed.

Robert Ortega addressed the Commission.

Bill, resident, asked for more resources for the Mission District.

Pat Delgado, resident, thanked Captain Goldberg and officers of the Mission District.

Lisa Melanson, resident, discussed concerns.

Commissioner Veronese thanked the community for attending the meeting and encouraged the public to stay on top of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors in regards to the budget to get more officers out on the street.

Commissioner Sparks addressed the audience and stated that from what she heard of the concerns of the community, they all speak to the amount of resources the Department has. The Department needs more resources. She stated that the Board of Supervisors indiscriminately cut out hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the Police Department's budget and we can't have that. We can't allow that to happen. She stated that we need to have this Department fully staffed. She commended Captain Goldberg for his efforts but the Department can't have beat officers because there is not enough police. She stated that the Department can't have quality of life enforcement because the Department does not have enough police. She stated that her focus would be to get the Department's staffing up so that neighborhoods like the Castro, Dolores Park have sufficient amount of officers to make people feel safe.

Commissioner Orr-Smith thanked the audience for their comments. She stated that a lot of the problems that are facing urban communities today are not police problems. The quality of life issues that the community talked about, like homelessness, are not police issues. They're mental health issues; they're substance-abuse issues. So to say that more cops are needed, Commissioner Orr-Smith stated that she doesn't think that's prudent. She stated that there are many solutions. She stated that hiring a police officer is an expensive decision for the City. She stated that four police officers, you can get a dozen teachers or a dozen outreach workers to deal with homeless issues and problems in the community. She stated that what the community wants, as city dwellers, is to treat everyone and every problem as appropriately as we can. She stated that she hopes the community would show up for school district meetings, for Health Commission decisions to talk about the mental health resources that are needed for the homeless and the drug addicted. She asked the community to advocate for solutions that would address more people focus programs.

Commissioner Keane asked Captain Goldberg as to how many officers of Mission Station live in the City. Captain Goldberg said no, he doesn't. Commissioner Keane asked what the racial and ethnic makeup of officers in the Mission. Captain Goldberg stated that he will get the information for the Commission as soon as possible. Commissioner Keane stated that what he has seen over the years is the quality of the SFPD really improve tremendously with certain things like increasing diversity, reflecting the membership of the community in terms of ethnic, racial, sexual preference identification. All of those things are meaningful things through a community like San Francisco. Commissioner Keane stated that if you have officers living in a community and police officers that represent the makeup of the people whom they're engaged in, that's a resource of professionalism and a resource that's powerful in terms of its effect upon the community and its ability to be better police officers in terms of getting leads, getting information, and getting the trust of the community. Commissioner Keane stated that he prefers to have something a little more solid for the Commission to use and he would prefer that the people of the community have something more solid to make their judgments relating to the effectiveness of policing in their community and in San Francisco. He went on to thank Captain Goldberg for his presentation.

SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commissioner Veronese would like a report from the Chief on how important it is to have the Command Staff residing in San Francisco should there be an emergency. Commissioner Veronese would also like to know about non essential police employees and how many of those employees have to work on holidays.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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