

MARCH 29, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Tenderloin District, Community Meeting Room, 201 Turk Street, San Francisco, at 6:14 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

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

Commissioner Sparks 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 members of the Command Staff. Present were Deputy Chief Pengel, Deputy Chief Shinn, Commander Harper, Commander Craig, Deputy Chief Parra, and Commander Tacchini.

Chief Fong updated the Commission in regards to the Finance and Budget Committee held last week. Chief Fong thanked the Commissioners for their attendance at the hearing. Chief Fong stated that the academy class was approved and letters were sent out and on Monday, April 10th, there will be 50 new people joining the SFPD in the 211th Academy Class.

Chief Fong also stated that in addition to the academy class, \$1.3 million of an overtime supplemental request was approved. That was not the total request, however, with the money that have been allotted, the Department is breaking down pay period by pay period what the expenditures are anticipated to be. Also, Chief Fong stated that the Department has prioritized violence reduction in the communities and amounts of funding have been given to the Captains. Chief Fong stated that special events and the other responsibilities that sometimes require overtime have not been prioritized as a front burner item. She stated that that=s Phase 2 and will be put together and presented to the Commission because she believes that the Department will have to go back and request additional funding at a later date.

Chief Fong stated that two items of significance that were not approved are (1) the I.T. consultant. This is the \$200,000 request that is critical to help put together a road map for technology within the SFPD and it was based upon this consultant=s work that future expenditures in terms of costs required would be based. Chief Fong stated that the Department will look at other options to fund that. The other area that was not funded is monies for a number of part time hires that conduct background investigations for any employee who is hired, sworn or non sworn.

Commissioner Sparks stated that the Chief assure the public that the Department is able to fund the violence prevention programs. Chief Fong stated that that is the priority for the Department and the number of hours provided to the District Station Captains, some was exactly what was requested.

Commissioner Marshall thanked Commissioner Sparks for her hard work with the budget. Commissioner Marshall asked what the homicide rate is today as compared to last year. Chief Fong stated that there has been 13 homicides this year and last year, at this time, there were 21 homicides.

Commissioner Campos thanked the Chief and Commissioner Sparks for their work on the budget. Commissioner Campos asked Chief Fong if she can talk about some of the strategies being done in regards to homicide. Chief

Fong stated that in 2004 the Department started seeing an increase in homicides predominantly in the Western Addition, in the Sunnydale, and in the Bayview Hunters Point area. The Department targeted specific strategies to identify those individuals known to be involved in violent crimes. Based on a very targeted strategy, the Department looked at those that were involved and made sure that whenever cases were made, all information are brought to the District Attorney=s office or to the State and Federal law enforcement entities. The Department also focused on the issue of gun activity and narcotics. Enforcement efforts were done to reduce the narcotic activity and the Department also worked with federal authorities so that any person who had a prior conviction, a felony conviction, whenever they were apprehended with a firearm, that case would be taken at the federal level because the consequences are far greater at the federal level in some cases than at the local level. Based on those types of initiatives, the Department feels that there was impact.

Chief Fong also stated that in addition to that, there was a tremendous impact based on some indictments that were handed down by the U.S. Attorney=s office. They have used the Grand Jury process very successfully and the Department believes that many of the reductions in homicides and shootings in the Sunnydale area was primarily because of the indictments that came down in that community. Chief Fong stated that, unfortunately, the spike in homicides is not just in San Francisco. It is seen in Oakland, on the East Coast, in Boston, in Milwaukee, and that there is a dynamic there that nobody can quite put their finger on and so the Department is trying every single option that it has in order to improve the situation.

Commissioner Marshall asked if the District Attorney=s Office can be invited to speak to the Commission in regards to procedures.

Commissioner Campos asked the Chief as to what is being done to work closely with the Public Defender=s Office, the District Attorney=s Office, and all other agencies in the city. Chief Fong stated that every morning at 8:30 a.m., they have a Public Safety Cluster phone conversation and it is the Police Department, the District Attorney=s Office, the Mayor=s Office of Criminal Justice, the Housing Authority, Juvenile Probation, Adult Probation, and the Department of Public Health. The group discusses all of the incidents that occurred the night before, if there are any, and coordinate and collaborate on the Departments= responses to that incident. On Wednesdays, at City Hall, there is a larger meeting where additional number of entities come forward. The goal is the public safety of the citizens of San Francisco.

OCC DIRECTOR' S REPORT

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

Director Allen described the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Citizen Complaints.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2006

Motion by Commissioner DeJesus, second by Commissioner Marshall to approve the minutes. Approved 4-0.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CAPTAIN KATHRYN BROWN, COMMANDING OFFICER OF TENDERLOIN STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT

Captain Brown addressed the Commission on police activities in the

Tenderloin District. Captain Brown described the organizational chart and the demographics of the Tenderloin Station.

Commissioner Sparks asked about requests made for cameras in the Tenderloin. Captain Brown stated that the district captains were asked to submit areas in the districts where they felt the cameras would be valuable. Captain Brown stated that she has not heard anything but will probably get a surveillance camera in the Tenderloin very shortly.

Commissioner Sparks asked about staffing and how is the shortage of 14 officers impacted the station's ability to enforce the laws in the Tenderloin. Captain Brown explained that in the Tenderloin, targeted enforcement has to be done and to do that requires additional officers. Captain Brown explained that she works with Southern Station and combine resources specially for U.N. Plaza. Captain Brown also stated that in February she had six officers that were injured from very violent resistors and she stated that the tendency is to have more and more violent resistors because of increased use of methamphetamines in the Tenderloin.

Commissioner Sparks asked about homicides. Captain Brown explained that two of the homicides were shootings and one was domestic violence related and one was a result of an assault.

Commissioner Sparks stated about the significant increase in several crime categories in the Tenderloin and asked for comments from Captain Brown. Captain Brown stated that it is from drug usage in the district. Unfortunately, for many reasons there are many services for people who are addicted to drugs in the Tenderloin and that brings an element to the district that is not desirable.

Commissioner Sparks asked Captain Brown if one of the reasons the station's ability to more effectively community police is the lack of personnel. Captain Brown agreed. Captain Brown stated that it is frustrating because she can see what would work but she simply doesn't have the staffing.

Commissioner Marshall stated that he would like to get some comparative data by districts. Chief Fong stated that starting at the end of April each of the Captains will be participating in the Department's version of comstat and so as the Department moves forward with those, the Department will be able to provide those reports to the Commission.

Commissioner Sparks asked if the stats are available to the community. Captain Brown stated that a copy of the book that is provided to the Commission is available to the community.

Commissioner Campos asked Captain Brown what her definition of community policing is and how that fits with the uniqueness of the Tenderloin neighborhood. Captain Brown stated that community policing works really well in the Tenderloin because it is a small community and a very tight knit community so when a community member calls her, she can have them clearly identify who's dealing drugs at what time, at what place, and then she can target her enforcement. Captain Brown also stated that the Tenderloin community is not reluctant to come forward. She stated that it is not a community that's afraid of some type of intimidation for the most part. Captain Brown stated that aggravated assault is a great concern in the Tenderloin.

Commissioner Campos asked if there is any special training for officers in the Tenderloin to address the unique issues that they are going to deal with. Captain Brown stated that the training officers are really really good with the young recruits. They are very patient with them and they ease them into the

job. Captain Brown stated that it is more time and experience in the district than it is anything else. She stated that it is getting out there and talking to the people that teaches officers how to deal with the community.

Commissioner DeJesus asked if the station has enough multilingual officers. Captain Brown stated that she could use more Vietnamese-speaking officers because the district has a large Vietnamese community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Jordan, Better District 6 Vice President, presented a plaque to Captain Brown.

Hank Wilson, former manager of Tenderloin Aids Resource Community Center, talked about a shooting incident and talked about how the suspect was apprehended due to the community working together with the Police Department and asked the Department to review witnessing practice and policy. He also asked the Commission for their support for permanent needle disposal site(s) in the Tenderloin area where people can dispose of needles safely so that people cannot retrieve them.

Abdul Langehey, homeless advocate, welcomed the Chief and the Commission to his community. He thanked Chief Fong and her staff for her help in feeding the community.

David Villalobos, Director Community Leadership Alliance, recognized Captain Brown for her extraordinary service and leadership to the Tenderloin Community.

Matt Leroy stated that there is a need for effective treatment programs to offer people a way out.

John Nulty discussed concerns regarding establishment of off sale liquor license in the community.

Tamica Moss, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, asked for effective rehabilitation efforts that is aligned and correlated with law enforcement will have a better outcome in decriminalizing the addicts. She also stated that the decrease in the number of officers are really apparent due to response time being much slower.

Michael Nulty, program director of Tenants Association Coalition of San Francisco, discussed some concerns. He requested that a change in the format of the monthly Tenderloin Community meetings. He asked for more interaction during the meetings. He also asked for more police to walk around the neighborhood.

Joseph Contreros thanked the Department for police presence in the area because it is a deterrent against drug addiction.

Bruce Wyndom, Tenderloin resident, discussed concerns regarding drug problems.

Faulk Radman, store owner, stated that he noticed an increased on drug activities in front of his store, from the corner of Jones Street up to the daycare school. He stated that police presence helps with stopping sales of drugs.

Earl Rogers, San Francisco Rescue Mission, he asked that stay away orders be part of the statistics and asked for federal prosecution of drug dealers. He also discussed concern regarding officers not living in the city in case of an emergency.

Voda, business owner, discussed concerns regarding drug dealers on Turk Street.

Carolyn, lower Polk, discussed concerns regarding social problems and funding.

Elaine Zamora, North of Market Tenderloin Community Benefit District, stated that stay away orders is the way to keep people out of the neighborhood.

Gia Grant, Executive Director of San Francisco Clean City Coalition, discussed concerns regarding drug dealing in the neighborhood and asked for more officers.

Unidentified, nightclub owner, discussed concerns regarding actions of

young adults of today and how they are more prone to violence.

**SCHEDULING OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION AT
FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Commissioner Campos would like more information regarding homicide in the Mission District and would like a report regarding increase in violent crimes.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, second by Commissioner DeJesus to adjourn the meeting. Approved 4-0.

Thereafter the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sergeant Joseph Reilly
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

1497/ret