

**AUGUST 25, 2004**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Police Commission of the City and County of San Francisco met in the Park District, Page Street Public Library, 1833 Page Street, San Francisco, at 6:15 p.m., in a Regular Meeting.

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

The Commission introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**a. Review of Recent Activities**

Chief Heather Fong introduced herself and the members of her Command Staff. Present were Deputy Chiefs Pengel, Suhr, Tabak, and Parra, Commanders Craig, Puccinelli, Shinn, and Harper.

Commissioner Marshall asked the Chief about Ramey Warrants, where the police makes an arrest and the District Attorney does not follow up.

Chief Fong explained the process of obtaining a Ramey arrest warrant and stated the police can arrest a person after the Ramey warrant is signed by a judge. The District Attorney, on the other hand, must decide if they have enough evidence to prosecute the person arrested..

Commissioner Keane stated that there was an excellent article in the Examiner that explained the Ramey warrant process. He stated that he will give a copy to Lt. Geeter for distribution to the Commission and the Command Staff.

Commissioner Veronese asked why the police asks for assistance from the U.S. Marshalls to assist in a Ramey warrant arrest of a homicide suspect.

Deputy Chief Tabak explained that the reason why the Department ask for the assistance of the U.S. Marshalls' office was because the subject was a parolee at large and was also wanted in other jurisdictions for crimes committed in those areas.

Commissioner Sparks asked if the Department looked at whether a suspect could be held on other charges when they request Ramey warrants.

Chief Fong stated that suspects are also checked to ascertain if they have any other charges against them.

Commissioner Keane introduced a former student of his that is running for the Board of Supervisors. Thereafter, Commissioners Veronese and Renne asked all candidates to stand and introduce themselves and what office they were seeking. Approximately seven supervisor candidates introduced themselves.

**OCC DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Director Kevin Allen introduced himself and explained the function of the OCC. He also stated that through meeting with the Department, the OCC will, within two months, will make a presentation to the Commission regarding mediation.

**COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Renne stated that she had two points to announce. First, she will have a meeting next week with DHR to discuss the possibility of hiring a civilian as Secretary to the Police Commission because Lt. Geeter will be retiring soon. Second, on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, is the opening of the San Francisco Symphony and there will be a large formal dinner and party that will take place at City Hall during the time the Commission is scheduled to hold its meeting. She asked the Commission to consider cancelling the meeting and to let Lt. Geeter know.

**CAPTAIN JOHN EHRLICH, COMMANDING OFFICER OF PARK STATION, TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK DISTRICT**

Captain John Ehrlich, Commanding Officer of Park Station, welcomed the Commission to the Park District. Captain Ehrlich distributed a map of the district and crime statistics. He then proceeded to describe different neighborhoods and the crime issues within each neighborhood.

Commissioner Keane asked Captain Ehrlich if the problems of embezzlement of funds from the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic have any effect within the Haight Ashbury area.

Captain Ehrlich stated that the clinic not only provides health care but also provides outreach, and a needle exchange program but he couldn't say what effect it is having in the community.

Commissioner Marshall, who lives in the Park District, asked about cabs speeding in the district.

Captain Ehrlich stated that the officers do cite speeding cab drivers as well as any other speeding violations and that if anyone wants to report a speeding cab, just write down the number on the cab door and that driver can be identified.

Commissioner Sparks asked what was being done about aggressive panhandling.

Captain Ehrlich stated that if they view or if they are called to respond to an aggressive panhandling, they first talk with the person and advise that person that what they are doing is not acceptable and if it continues, they will be cited or arrested, when necessary.

Commissioner Veronese asked Lt. Geeter that, in future district meetings, it would be appreciated if the Commission could receive district crime statistics prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Orr-Smith asked about Pitts Plaza and asked Captain Ehrlich about how that area is policed by his officers.

Captain Ehrlich explained that at community meetings he would ask the residents what they want the police to do when patrolling their area and from the response that he receives from the residents, he attempts to go by their wishes if he can get the community to agree.

Commissioner Marshall asked Captain Ehrlich what gangs are operating in the Pitts Plaza area and if the Captain has attempted to get the Mayor involved like he has in the Bayview.

Captain Ehrlich stated that there is OC and Chappa and he stated that he has talked to someone in the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Keane asked Captain Ehrlich to comment on the parking problem occurring with the blocking of the driveway into the station and of problems with police cars getting out in an emergency.

Captain Ehrlich stated that he is working with Park and Rec to address the problem.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Unidentified cab driver spoke on the closing of Waller and Stanyan Streets.

Mattie Scott, mother of a homicide victim, wanted to invite the Commission to a neighborhood block party on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 7 p.m., which will take place following Mayor Newsom's Town Hall meeting at 1290 Fillmore Street.

Evangelist Johnson spoke in support of Captain Ehrlich and asked for more community support for the young people. She stated they will be holding a Friday Night Live Celebration with games for the kids, police and fire department will barbeque and the Mayor will be there, 1580 Eddy Street.

Unidentified, candidate for District 7 Supervisor, thanked Captain Ehrlich and stated that some of the homeless problems could be solved by having more police presence.

Ginger Martin, Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, spoke in support of Captain Ehrlich and commended him on how he responds to the community and the community's concerns about crimes.

Bob, Alama Square Neighborhood Association, spoke on the issue of residents in the area being assaulted and stabbed in Alamo Park.

Alicia Reynolds, resident of 500 Central Block, stated that the residents are concerned about drug selling on the block. She stated that Captain Ehrlich made a raid on one house on the block but the drug dealers are still in the neighborhood and stated that more can be done.

Pablo Hizin, Director of Haight Area Street Fair, spoke on the issue of the police not being interested in single people and stated that every resident is not a family.

T. Hozman, cab driver, spoke on the issue blocking streets in the Broadway area on Friday and Saturday nights preventing cab drivers to drop off customers.

Michelle Father spoke on the issue that she once called the police 911 and was put on hold for 15 minutes.

C. Farrow, Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, thanked Sgt. Porto who is about to retire. He also spoke on the issue of a proposed plan to have an event at Kezar Stadium with more than 10,000 people expected to attend and won't that cause problems for the neighborhood.

Joan Downey spoke in support of Captain Ehrlich and stated that police should spend more time writing tickets for double parking and sidewalk violations.

Carol Cromey thanked Captain Ehrlich and Sergeant Porto for the work being done.

Unidentified, former resident, thanked the Department and stated that the press do not give the police support.

Sandra Cooper, Idriss Stelley Foundation, asked the people of the Park District to attend the Commission meeting at City Hall.

Carolyn thanked Captain Ehrlich for his work with the MLK and Marcus Garvey area.

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

Commissioner Chan asked for a report on four things: (1) the plainclothes policy per the city or district; (2) have the department looked at the possibility of triangulation of gunshots to pinpoint locations; (3) assaults

on Muni drivers and how the department is responding to the issue and could the Director of Muni or its Union be invited to a Commission meeting to address the Commission of their concerns; (4) the relationship between the Police Department and Park & Rec and the budget issue around the topic.

Commissioner Veronese asked for (1) a report on 911 calls and are people being put on hold for 15 minutes; (2) what resources are allotted for Municipal and Safety Codes as it relates to obtaining permits; (3) meeting in the community should be located near parking so people can park and not have to be transported by a police car.

Commissioner Orr-Smith how can PAL be better used as a resource.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Lieutenant Edward Geeter  
Secretary  
San Francisco Police Commission

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