

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

December 12, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Meeting of October 17, 2008

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Mark Lewis (East County) called the Public Safety Committee (PSC) meeting to order at 1 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. See last page for attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilmember Teresa Barth (North County Coastal) noted that the September 19, 2008, minutes stated she was Mayor (page 2 of the minutes). She noted to change Mayor to Councilmember/North County Coastal/Alternate. Upon a motion by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) and a second by Mayor David Roberts (North County Coastal) the revised minutes of September 19, 2008, were unanimously approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Tom Zoll (Chiefs'/Sheriff's Association) welcomed a new member representing the Chiefs'/Sheriff's Association, Chief Kirk Sanfilippo. Chief Sanfilippo stated that the Harbor Police Department, through the Port of San Diego, is the primary law enforcement and marine fire fighting component on the water in the harbor. Harbor Police has law enforcement authority through a contract at the San Diego International Airport and also patrols the tidelands jurisdiction around the harbor through the five member cities.

Supervisor Slater-Price stated the Board of the 22nd Agricultural District Association voted this week to ban smoking at all reggae concerts. They had been receiving a lot of pressure to do something about the marijuana smoking that was going on there. The drug-free youth groups and the anti-smoking groups prevailed upon the Board to vote unanimously to eliminate smoking for the reggae concerts and to limit tobacco smoking to two locations. They will be monitoring what the result is. In addition, the Board of Supervisors had appealed the ruling regarding the marijuana lawsuit (illegality of medical marijuana) because it is a federal issue and not just a state issue. The State Supreme Court has refused to hear it, so it goes to the Federal Supreme Court. Supervisor Slater-Price feels the question should be answered at the federal level because that is where the federal rules apply and they are part of treaties that are in existence now between various nations. She feels that even though 11 states have voted to allow medical marijuana, it wasn't done in such a way to ensure that it was medically oriented; it was a way to open the door to legalizing pot

smoking for anyone. If that is the general consensus of these states, then they should put forward in a more honest way and say that we want to legalize marijuana.

Mayor Roberts stated that the North County Transit District (NCTD) unanimously voted to ban smoking of all materials at all NCTD train and bus stations. This is the first ordinance at NCTD and mirrors Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) no smoking policy.

Chair Lewis asked staff to contact Council President Pro Tem Anthony Young (City of San Diego) regarding crime, gangs, and public transit to bring to the PSC as an agenda item to determine how the committee can help.

Vice Chair Zoll announced that the PSC has been invited to participate in the Golden Guardian exercises on November 13th and 14th. The 14th is also the next PSC meeting, but the time for the exercise is before our 1 p.m., starting time. He encouraged members to attend at least one of the three different locations to see how this region prepares for disasters. Vice Chair Zoll asked Bob Welty [Director of the Regional Technology Center (RTC)] to explain November's exercise.

Mr. Welty informed the Committee that the Golden Guardian is a statewide exercise that will focus on a major earthquake in the Los Angeles area. The primary focus for most of the state efforts will be up in Los Angeles. In San Diego, there will be different exercises that are related. Some of the evacuees will be brought down here potentially and we will be doing exercises at the county level (looking at the weakening of the dams and earthen structures, and potential damage to freeways to test out our own systems). Part of that may be a communications breakdown exercise. The RTC will be working closely with the City and County on different types of technologies. He encouraged all members to attend.

REPORTS

4. STATE FIRE AND WILDFIRE LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT (CONSENT)

Upon a motion by Mayor Roberts and a second by Supervisor Slater-Price, the State Fire and Wildfire Legislative Status Report was unanimously accepted.

5. REPORT FROM CHIEFS/SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (INFORMATION)

Vice Chair Zoll stated the Management Committee met on October 1, 2008. There was a request from USIS (a contracted partner of OPM – Office of Personnel Management) to request membership in ARJIS so they may do background checks on perspective federal employees. The Committee did not approve the request because it does not have a formal policy of how to deal with this, which it is currently working on. USIS is already getting that information but it is requiring that they go to an existing agency to get that. It is a workload on the existing agencies that they were not prepared for.

The second agenda item was an update and demonstration on the Sheriff's regional NetRMS (Records Management System).

The third agenda item was a report by Dr. Cynthia Burke (Director, Criminal Justice Research) on Clearinghouse products and upcoming priorities. The committee gave feedback on the surveys and products that would be most useful.

6. AN UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN THE REGION (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chief Augie Ghio, San Miguel Fire Department; Chief David Ott, Cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar Fire Departments; Chief Mike Scott, Heartland Communications and Training JPA; and Ken Miller, County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, gave a presentation on what the region has learned since the firestorms of 2007, recent efforts that have been completed and are planned to further enhance the region's safety, and how different entities are working collaboratively to make the best use of resources to achieve these goals.

Chief Ghio stated that there are 64 fire agencies around the County of San Diego. In his opinion, they are the best around the country in fire, and emergency medical services delivery. They work as a cohesive, collaborative, communicative team. However, the group wants to work towards regional consolidation to establish a plan that is absolutely in the best interest of every community served and that is funded long-term and whenever and wherever possible that it's established with local control.

Carlene Chamberlain (Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association) inquired if they are involved with the Fire Safe Councils that help people with defensible space, etc.

Chief Ghio replied that they are actively involved with about 20 Fire Safe Councils around the County of San Diego. Fire Chiefs are sitting with them and supporting them. They also have quite a few Community Response Teams that are directly associated with fire agencies throughout the County of San Diego.

Chief Ott introduced John Traylor (sitting in the audience) from the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) who has also been a key partner in helping with consolidating services.

Mayor Roberts asked Chief Scott about the mobile data computers and whether they have spots where one can not get connectivity.

Chief Scott stated there are some parts of the county that have poor coverage. Most of the mobile data computers being used are Verizon Wireless connections. For those areas that have poor coverage, there are opportunities through the County Sheriff's Regional Communications Systems (RCS). This data wireless program gives better coverage, perhaps not as fast of coverage as far as the speed, but there are parts of the County where the Sheriff's data wireless connection works better than Verizon because of geography. Some agencies have chosen that option as a connection point. It is something that can be problematic, especially in the rural areas.

Mayor Roberts inquired about the entities; "members" and "also serving"; and do they each pay a fee; and how do they differentiate those two.

Chief Scott stated that the “also serving” are the contract agencies. There is a formula to determine what their fee is. In the communications part, the contract is based on a per call cost. On the training side it is based on a member’s assessment formula. Based on the number of folks you have, the member assessment formula determines the number of personnel that is the same rate as charged to the contract agencies. Both have member assessment formulas which can be a source of occasional discussion. The communications formula and the training facility have been around for a while. We had to develop the fairest way to charge the membership and have agreed by consensus what is the fairest way.

Mayor Roberts inquired if the “also serving” could become members if they wanted to?

Chief Scott stated that one of the challenges they are facing is with the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in that some of the contract agencies are tribal nations. There are some limitations on the tribal nations’ ability to participate in the JPA. One of things being looked at in the training facility is what other methods of governance exist. It may be a limited liability corporation or something different. Some partners in the tribal groups would like to be voting members and they certainly support that. This can’t be done through a JPA, so legal possibilities need to be explored to change that.

Council President Pro-Tem Young stated he was impressed by the work that is being done. It is a testament to all the folks involved and possibly a lesson to all of us that collaboration and working together is where it is at here, especially in regard to utilizing the public dollar as efficiently as we can. He thanked the panel for all the work that they are doing. It has been previously discussed about a regional training facility and training our firefighters in a more seamless way. He has seen the East County proposal, but the City of San Diego has a training facility by the airport that the City and the County work together on. He cannot say that is the best place to do it, it could probably be done in a different place. That land may be more useful for other things. That is one concern he has. The one in East County may not be big enough to accommodate everybody. He asked how do you start identifying an area large enough to accommodate a much bigger place for regional training and it seems if we don’t have that regional site yet, it seems that all the fire departments could standardized some of their curriculum so that it would save money when they have training and in regard to where they go to get that training. We need to find ways to make it more seamless and standardized. He asked Chief Ghio what his thoughts were.

Chief Ghio responded that Council President Pro Tem Young is correct on where the vision should be. In the Heartland area, they are developing a model process that has a hub and satellite facilities. There are a couple of things regarding fire training that make it problematic to have everyone come to a centralized facility. It doesn’t matter where it is. We can’t take fire engines out of service without affecting direct customer service delivery (like a heart attack victim). The vision would be to have satellite facilities, a pool or core staff to develop the regional lesson plan, agrees on core competencies, and get to a point that we are standardizing the training across the entire region. Heartland has been doing it for over 30 years and we know that it works. Perhaps it could be 1-3 core or hub facilities with other satellite facilities around and dovetailing into that a mobile training component, so you take certain life, fire, search and rescue training out to the areas of the County that are harder to serve and that can’t pull people out in a centralized fashion. They are meeting with the Department of Planning and Land Use next week to talk about that. The third

element is utilizing technology and this is where dollars will need to be spent. North County has developed a teleconferencing system. We are starting to get into it in the East County; we've identified in my department alone that there are sixteen hours of centralized training that we could de-centralize it by getting on that network and keeping the firefighters in the station sixteen hours a year.

Council President Pro Tem Young stated that is where we have to go. He asked what the barriers are to make something like that happen because it makes so much sense and everyone here would save money. What are the barriers other than money?

Chief Ghio stated that some of the barriers are that San Diego is such a large county and getting everyone to agree to give up their way of doing things. People are very proud of the way they train. The City of San Diego, East County, and North County are all proud of their academy process. As firefighters, we need to agree on how to train. That is why we are trying to do a model program in Heartland that may be that spark to get everyone to go in that direction. Another barrier is standardization. A command module should be the same no matter where it is at, so when you train someone it should be the same as throughout the County. A couple of years ago a regional equipment committee was formed. We are incrementally working toward that.

Council President Pro Tem Young stated the PSC could be instrumental in making that happen. Clearly there are some specifics that fire personnel understand, that most of us may not understand. He asked what can the Committee do policy-wise to have fire personnel come to the table to talk about standardization, regional training, identifying and looking at the vision that Chief Ghio mentioned. Perhaps we need an analysis from staff to show how much we can save from a regional perspective.

Chair Lewis stated the Committee can make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to see the wisdom of saving money.

Supervisor Slater-Price stated this was a great presentation and shows the amount of growth within the last two to three years. If we look at the fires we recently had and the response and results, there is no comparison. She believes a number of things have come together to move this forward. We have discovered that those people that live in urban areas (like her), is that wild land interface fires are no longer a problem of just East County or North County, they are our problem. In the City of San Diego and the rural county areas that are adjacent to the cities and North County, we have canyons and areas that are overgrown with brush. The City of San Diego reaches out to so many areas, even Mayor Sanders was surprised that the City owned a canyon that is in Del Mar. That canyon needed to be included in the brush clearing. The time for the stove pipe type of doing business is gone. We can standardize things. The cross training of firefighters would help with fighting a tower fire downtown and also a wild land interface fire. All the cooperation that is going on now, including working with the volunteer firefighters is going to mobilize and increase the efficiency. Money is always a good way to give incentive to standardize. She just returned from Washington, D.C. and found out from FEMA and other agencies that there are sources of funding that hadn't been clearly identified. One of them is the pre-disaster mediation funding from FEMA. That funding (clearing brush and getting ready before confrontation) is what this group should look at. It's a great opportunity for all the cities and the County to work together. Training should be a standardize curriculum. We

know fire fighters change agencies within this area and state. We are seeing more cooperation with Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service. The suggestion is a good one to have an analysis done to show what we can gain.

Chief Ott wanted to clarify that firefighters do talk the same language; they train together all the time, fight fires the same way, but know we can do better. It's not necessarily the fire agencies that don't want it to happen; it could be a community ownership issue. This is where this Committee can come in to break down the barriers to get that cooperation together, whether it's in training, operational activities, fire protection, or the combining of buying equipment together. Chief Ott noted that FEMA money was used about three years ago for Crest canyon. We have been good about sharing technology, but we know we need to get better.

Supervisor Slater-Price noted that there are always positive comments from community members when fire trucks from other communities are seen during big fires noting regional cooperation. She asked Mr. Miller if the County has signed contracts yet with the seven volunteer fire agencies for the 135 startup.

Mr. Miller noted that they have. They received \$30,000 (they use to receive \$20,000). They are also working on liability with risk management so that will be another savings, so will build their budget up from a liability perspective.

Councilmember Bob Campbell (North County Inland) thanked Chief Ghio for his leadership and showing us ways of doing things better. He and Chief Ott work with North County Fire Dispatch and Chief Ott has been a leader in that effort to make more efficient use of resources. He acknowledged that everyone is aware of shrinking resources at the current time. He asked if this presentation has been to the Mayors and Managers.

Chief Ghio replied that this was the first presentation.

Councilmember Campbell stated that he would encourage the presentation to the Mayors and Managers. Other agencies are hurt thanks to the state and other shrinking sales tax and consolidation would be beneficial. We need to bring the information forward to share with the cities.

Chief Ghio stated that one of the things he has learned from recent experience in consolidation that it is not always cost savings that we are looking at, what we are looking at is improving the service level with the existing level of funds. If we are talking about training, per se, we can do so much better of a job if we do kind of going in the direction that the Heartland has been going in for 30 some years. It is really identifying how can we do a better job. If there's cost savings after the improvement by coordinating and consolidating that is a bonus. There are a lot of really hard to serve areas that don't have a training officer, that don't have a training program; it is catch as catch can. How can we put this group together? That is what Mike and I are chairing in Heartland. How can we put this together to do a better job for the whole. If we can get a pilot program going and get the facility built and get the standardization, I think it will spread like a genesis of thought and idea throughout the county.

Council President Pro Tem Young made a motion to have SANDAG staff develop a proposal for a project that would examine the merits of consolidating fire training across the region, that would include a timeline, options for how such a study could be conducted, and potential cost. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Slater-Price and was unanimously approved. Diane Eidam informed those present that staff action on the motion will be contingent upon the approval of the SANDAG Executive Committee and Board.

7. UPCOMING MEETING (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the PSC is scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2008, at 1 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE

October 17, 2008

JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ALTERNATE	ATTEND YES/NO	COMMENTS
East County	Hon. Mark Lewis	Member – Chair	Yes	
	Hon. Jillian Hanson-Cox	Alternate	No	
North County Coastal	Hon. David Roberts	Member	Yes	
	Hon. Teresa Barth	Alternate	Yes	
South County	Hon. Frank Parra	Member	No	
	Hon. John McCann	Alternate	No	
North County Inland	Hon. Bob Campbell	Member	Yes	
	Hon. Hal Martin	Alternate	No	
City of San Diego	Hon. Anthony Young	Member	Yes	
	Hon. Toni Atkins	1 st Alternate	No	
	Hon. Ben Hueso	2 nd Alternate	No	
County of San Diego	Supervisor Pam Slater-Price	Member	Yes	
	Supervisor Greg Cox	Alternate	No	
State Public Safety	Chief Gary Dominguez	Member	Yes	
	Assistant Chief Steve Lykins	Alternate	No	
County Chiefs'/Sheriff's Association	Chief Tom Zoll	Member-Vice Chair	Yes	
	Chief Kirk Sanfilippo	Member	Yes	
	Chief Richard Emerson	Alternate	No	
	Chief Adolfo Gonzales	Alternate	Yes	
San Diego Police Department	Chief William M. Lansdowne	Member	No	
	Executive Assistant Chief David Ramirez	Alternate	No	
County Sheriff	Sheriff Bill Kolender	Member	No	
	Undersheriff Bill Gore	Alternate	No	Assistant Sheriff Jim Cooke attended
Homeland Security	Jill Olen	Member	Yes	
	Ron Lane	Alternate	No	
Regional Fire/Emergency Medical Services	Chief David Ott	Member	Yes	
	Chief Augie Ghio	Alternate	Yes	
San Diego County District Attorney	Bonnie Dumanis	Member	No	
	Paula Robinson	Alternate	Yes	
Regional Transit Services	Bill Burke	Member	No	
	David Papworth	Alternate	No	
ADVISORY MEMBERS				
County Public Safety	Mack Jenkins	Member	No	
	John Hensley	Alternate	No	
Department of Defense	Colonel James B. Seaton III	Member	No	
	Captain Eric Patten	Alternate	No	
Federal Public Safety	Keith Slotter	Member	Yes	
	Anthony Cerone	Alternate	No	
	Karen Hewitt	Member	No	Linda Frakes attended
	Vacant	Alternate	No	
Southern CA Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA)	Carlene Chamberlain	Member	Yes	
	Stephanie Spencer	Alternate	No	