MINUTES
CITY OF DUARTE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING –March 15, 2016

The Public Safety Commission met in a regular meeting in the Town Center Community Lounge Building, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, California. The meeting was called to order at 7: 02 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Ken Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

RECORDATION OF ATTENDANCE:

The following were in attendance:
STAFF: Larry Breceda, Public Safety Manager
Sergeant Tony Haynes, LA County Sheriff's Department

PRESENT: Bell, Frye, Haynes, Hernandez, Magnusson, Skinner
Absent: Ur

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA:

George Halburian-

- His neighbor was the victim of the recent home invasion and he is present at tonight's meeting for an update on the case.

Shirley Halburian-

- She would like it to be noted that her call, which took place 10 min later was not responded to by Police. It wasn't until fireman that were in the area called law enforcement and police then responded.
- Days following the home invasion incident she noticed additional patrol in the area, however, she observed units patrolling together. She asked Sgt. Tony Haynes what happens to the rest of Duarte if units are patrolling together. She does not understand why units need to stick together.
- In the home invasion incident she spoke with two deputies that were at the scene and she was surprised by their response that they do not work Duarte. She felt these Deputies were not concerned with the incident since they are not assigned to the City of Duarte.

Nadine Schmidt-

- Wanted to follow up on the status of the home invasion and inquired if there were any solutions to this problem.
- Inquired from Sgt. Tony Haynes if these calls involving the home invasion were placed on the Temple Station line or 911 line.
- Believes as long as the City does not have their own Police Department the law enforcement culture might remain.
- Believes Deputies might not take resident calls seriously. Part of that could be in response to the hyper-vigilance that has taken place with residents in the past. She asked Sgt. Tony Haynes how residents can overcome that.
- She thinks it would be more helpful if the email alerts are sent out closer to the incident date.
- Inquired from Staff what the next steps would be to make a recommendation to Council to allocate resources for law enforcement.

Richard Amadori-

- Wanted to follow up on the status of the home invasion. Mr. Amadori attended the last council meeting and he made some suggestion to council on possible solutions that can level crime deterrence.
- Asked Sgt. Haynes to clarify a statement he made earlier about other agencies in neighboring cities assisting our Deputies. He asked under what circumstances would these neighboring agencies get involved.

Jim Dinsmore-

- Asked Sgt. Tony Haynes what the failure was with the Sheriff's Department regarding the recent home invasion.
- Outside of this incident he has called the Sheriff's Department quite a few times and at least 3-4 times he has followed suspects for various incidents and their response times are delayed. One call for service took 11 minutes for Deputies to respond. He has also experienced dispatchers trying to rush him off calls.

Karen Vance-

- She is aware the City of Duarte contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement needs. She has had some excellent response when she has called. However, she does believe there is a disconnect. She has over heard some comments the City gets what they pay for. There is an undercurrent with some Deputies of resentment. She thinks it is critical that the City hire at least one to two more 24 hour shifts. Residents cannot expect Deputies to be everywhere at once. Council has to know what the Sheriff's Department is lacking and remedy the problem.
- Inquired from Sgt. Tony Haynes how many suspects were involved in the home invasion incident.
- Inquired if the City has a reverse 911 program and how would residents register for it.
- Would like to see the City have a town hall meeting since one has not taken place in quite some time. She would like this Commission to make a recommendation to Council to host one soon.
- She would recommend an increase of Public Safety Officer's that would increase visibility throughout the City and give these officer's more crime prevention responsibilities.
- She has heard some complaints from residents that when they call Temple Station and they ask for a Watch Commander they are told one is not available. She asked Sgt. Haynes what should be the expectation of a resident if a Watch Commander is unavailable.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hernandez motioned to approve the minutes of 2/16/16, Haynes seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 2/16/16, and carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A- Update on recent criminal activity presented by Sgt. Tony Haynes

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS **NOT** ON THE AGENDA:

Karen Vance-

- Had a concern with the amount of homeless encampments in the San Gabriel riverbed. She would like to know if the City can get involved with this issue and she inquired if staff had an update with the recent cleanup efforts. Residents along the riverbed are impacted and are concerned.

Jim Dinsmore-

- Inquired from Sgt. Tony Haynes how long the Sheriff's Department stores record of 911 calls and regular landline calls.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bell asked if there are any local crime trends in the surrounding cities. Suggested an event where residents can meet the Deputies that work in the City. Commissioner Bell also suggested that residents get to know their neighbor's. He indicated crooks are aware of the communities they go to. If these crooks see that residents communicate amongst each other it may be a deterrent for crooks to come in to the City. Citizens need to be more vigilant. They should know what cars belong and don't belong in their neighborhoods. Inquired from Staff as to why the post office is no longer open 24 hrs.

Commissioner Frye commented that she is trying to figure out how the home invasion incident occurred when at every Neighborhood Watch meeting or any kind of meeting that residents attend they are constantly told that if they see a suspicious car or suspicious person to contact Temple Station. She is surprised that all the Deputies are not aware of this information being relayed to residents. Commissioner Frye asked Sgt. Tony Haynes about the coverage gaps when a person is being arrested. She also expressed a concern with the amount of mail stolen in her neighborhood. Furthermore, her neighbors have approached her about their concern with the response time of first responders when there is traffic due to the Metro Gold Line. She inquired if there is a way to have Schaefer ambulance and law enforcement personnel post themselves South of Duarte Rd.

Commissioner Hernandez wanted to address the statement made about the City of Duarte having their own Police Department. It is very expensive to do so. The City has to live within their budget and has done a good job of doing so thus far. He strongly encourages residents to continue to be the eyes and ears for law enforcement. He believes it's a team effort between resident's, the city and law enforcement.

Commissioner Haynes has a concern with the vehicles speeding on Mountain Ave. and Duarte Rd. A concern was brought to her attention about homeless people passing out at various locations throughout the City.

Commissioner Magnusson enjoyed the Metro Gold Line grand opening.

Commissioner Skinner inquired from Staff if Deputy response times are effected by shift change.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Secretary

Staff