

# CITY OF SAN MATEO

## Special Meeting Minutes

### City Council

**Monday, September 1, 2020**  
**Remote 5:30 PM**  
**Special Meeting**

## CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Remote: Mayor Goethals, Deputy Mayor Rodriguez, Council Members: Bonilla, Papan and Lee

## STUDY SESSION

### 1. Citywide Traffic Management Update

Police Chief Ed Barberini provided a presentation on the Police Department's procedures and strategies with regard to recruitment, increasing diversity on the force, demographics compared to other agencies, hiring process including background investigation methods, field training officer program, required on-going and specialized training, performance management accountability, department administrative review of use of force, vehicle pursuits, and internal affairs investigations and the complaint process, the internal affairs review process, and accountability including the six pillars for 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.

He outlined the next steps the Police Department is taking in addressing community concerns including working with Behavioral Health Recovery Service, a county mental health agency; including de-escalation and bias awareness into all components of trainings; first responder training for interacting with individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia; mindfulness and resiliency training; and continuing the conversation with some form of the real talk series. He encouraged the public to reach out with suggestions on how to reach out more to the community.

Council asked questions of staff.

Public Comment – Teri Whitehair encouraged a 24-hour hotline with mental health professionals; Krystle Flower interested in more training provided to the recruits and active duty officers; Gloria Brown expressed appreciation for listening about Alzheimer's; Lisa Diaz Nash asked about recruiting local community members as police officers and how the public can provide officer feedback; Arnie asked about San Mateo Lexipol policies and Eight Can't Wait; Jasmine Tijerino suggested data from the state that is specific to San Mateo be shared with the community; Heather Cleary requested that an acknowledgment of racism in our police system needs to occur and the police must be an anti-racist organization; Valerie is pleased with an embedded mental health clinician with 24-hour access and also expressed concerns for people with autism; Lu Ellen Parker commended all for the information shared; Jean-Marie Houston expressed concern that our police officers are our family; Lawrence asked who is going to guard the guardians and noted a need for a civilian review board; and Drew appreciates the format and asked if there is a cyclical review of policies.

Council Comments: Council Member Lee expressed appreciation for the conversation and commented on the need to make community policing the foundation of the department and noted that has to include access to affordable housing and she encouraged continuing to work with Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center to reach out to hard to reach populations in the conversations. Deputy Mayor Rodriguez stated the Police Department and the City is doing its best to respond to community concerns and is showing that we are striving for improvements. He is glad to see the work happening towards partnering with licensed mental health clinicians. He noted support for the proposed dashboard and is encouraged by how a more diverse police force is being sought. He appreciated the community for the participating in the dialogue. Council Member Bonilla appreciates the new refined policies and direction and

believes it will lead to a good path. He appreciates the very thoughtful comments from the public and looks forward to broadening and deepening the discussion. Council Member Papan concurs with the comments made and noted this is going to be an ongoing process. She commended the comprehensive presentation for providing a more global perspective and appreciates the need to be fluid and nimble while the community requests change. Mayor Goethals also stated this dialogue was a good format and he greatly appreciated the back and forth discussion and dialogue that occurred.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

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Joe Goethals, Mayor

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Patrice M. Olds, City Clerk