PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, California

9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

This Virtual Meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order
N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020

Councilmember Roger S. Aceves
Councilmember James Kyriaco
Michelle Greene, City Manager
Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood Services & Public Safety Director
Jaime Valdez, Principal Project Manager

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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
This meeting is being conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State
of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
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Public Participation
If you wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item, the following
methods are available:

Distribution to the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standing Committee - Submit your
comment via email prior to 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Public Safety & Emergency
Preparedness Standing Committee meeting. Please submit your comment to the City Clerk at:
cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org. Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed
appropriately.
Please register for Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting on September 2, 2020 9:30 AM PDT at:

**ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION:** Join Meeting Electronically at:  
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/682672885111661067

WEBINAR ID: 618-761-163

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

You will be connected to audio using your computer’s microphone and speakers (VoIP). A headset is recommended.

You can also select the option to use your telephone, but you must use the Go To Webinar software to interact with the meeting. Select ”Use Telephone” after joining the webinar in order to use your telephone. Oral comments during a meeting may be made by electronic participation only.

**AGENDA**

I. Public Comment  

II. Review and Finalize Mayor Paula Perotte’s Letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown on Behalf of the City Council, dated June 8, 2020  

III. Concluding Remarks

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**Americans with Disabilities Act:** In compliance with the ADA, if special assistance is needed to participate in a City Council meeting (including assisted listening devices), please contact the City Clerk’s office at (805) 961-7505. Notification helps to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2020

TO: Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standing Committee

FROM: Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood Services & Public Safety Director
Jaime Valdez, Principal Project Manager

SUBJECT: September 2, 2020 Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standing Committee Meeting

Item I. Public Comment

Receive public comment.

Item II. Review and Finalize Mayor Paula Perotte’s Letter to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown on Behalf of the City Council, dated June 8, 2020

The Mayor’s letter (Attachment 1), on behalf of the City Council, commends the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office (SBSO) and acknowledges the excellent working relationship with City. Moreover, it condemns police brutality and declares racism a public health emergency. Lastly, it provides a list of actions from the Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization and asks the SBSO for its support in exploring options to meet the actions requested.

At the August 8, 2020 Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Standing Committee Meeting, the Committee, SBSO and City staff reviewed the actions list in the Mayor’s letter and provided recommendations to finalize the letter for the Mayor to transmit to the Sheriff. The revised letter is attached and shows responses and edits in track changes (Attachment 2). Committee staff is asking for the Committee’s concurrence to bring back to City Council for direction and execution by the Mayor.
June 8, 2020

Sheriff Bill Brown
P.O. Box 6427
Santa Barbara
CA 93160

RE: Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

Dear Sheriff Bill Brown:

The City of Goleta thanks you and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department for your continued partnership, support and protection of the City of Goleta residents since the City’s incorporation in 2002. Especially during this unprecedented public health crisis, we value the commitment you show to providing quality services to our community and collaborating with our City staff to ensure our residents are safe in the face of crises of all kinds. It is with this spirit of collaboration and partnership in mind that we write this letter to you seeking once again to rally together in solidarity to overcome another crisis facing our community: the challenges of racism and police brutality that our country continues to endure.

The latest tragedy against George Floyd has kindled the flame of advocacy, activism, protests, and support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement taking place around the world. The Goleta City Council stands in solidarity with the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization, which is demanding action be taken to stop the police brutality, violence and incarceration of black people.

In response to the latest tragedies of police brutality in the United States and the justified demands of the Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization and Black Lives Matter movement, the Goleta City Council has adopted a resolution condemning police brutality and declaring racism a public health emergency. The Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization has demanded the following action be taken at Police Departments in Santa Barbara County:

- Demanding transparency and accountability from Police...
Departments.

- Disbanding internal department investigations of police misconduct.
- Creation of a civilian review board, with members selected by the community, to investigate occurrences of police misconduct.
- Prioritization of mental health services and rehabilitation before arresting and incarcerating black people.
- Updating police departments’ use of force policies to center and focus on de-escalation.
- Stopping the isolation/quarantine of inmates attending court or waiting to be in contact with their lawyers.
- Reducing jail admissions by redirecting people to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Demanding institutional support for an annual Juneteenth celebration, including a city and county commitment to allocate funds for this annual celebration of black emancipation and liberation.

We ask for your support in these matters by exploring options for your department to begin to implement these requests of the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization. Keeping in mind our limited knowledge of what policies and measures you and the department have already implemented, we appreciate all and every action taken to end police brutality and systemic racism that exists in our society.

The City of Goleta greatly appreciates your consideration of these issues and looks forward to further discussing how together we can continue to best protect the citizens of Goleta. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta
June 8, 2020 TBD

Sheriff Bill Brown
P.O. Box 6427
Santa Barbara
CA 93160

RE: Condemning Police Brutality and Declaring Racism a Public Health Emergency

Dear Sheriff Bill Brown:

The City of Goleta thanks you and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department Office (“Sheriff’s Office”) for your continued partnership, support and protection of the City of Goleta residents since the City’s incorporation in 2002. Especially during this unprecedented public health crisis, we value the commitment you show to providing quality services to our community and collaborating with our City staff to ensure our residents are safe in the face of crises of all kinds. It is with this spirit of collaboration and partnership in mind that we write this letter to you seeking once again to rally together in solidarity to overcome another crisis facing our community: the challenges of racism and police brutality that our country continues to endure.

The latest tragedy against George Floyd has kindled the flame of advocacy, activism, protests, and support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement taking place around the world. The Goleta City Council stands in solidarity with the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization, which is demanding action be taken to stop the police brutality, violence and incarceration of black people.

In response to the latest tragedies of police brutality in the United States and the justified demands of the Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization and Black Lives Matter movement, the Goleta City Council has adopted a resolution condemning police brutality and declaring racism a public health emergency. The Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization has demanded the following action be taken at Police Departments in Santa Barbara County:

- Demanding transparency and accountability from Police
Departments.
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- Updating police departments’ use of force policies to center and focus on de-escalation.
- Stopping the isolation/quarantine of inmates attending court or waiting to be in contact with their lawyers.
- Reducing jail admissions by redirecting people to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Demanding institutional support for an annual Juneteenth celebration, including a city and county commitment to allocate funds for this annual celebration of black emancipation and liberation.

We acknowledge that as of June 8, 2020 the Sheriff’s Office has responded to these concerns via two meetings with our Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Standing Committee (“Committee) held on July 9th and August 6th, 2020. The City, through its collaboration with the Sheriff’s Office and the public via the Committee, would like to address the above demands with the following restated and Council-concurring language:

- **Demanding Continued** transparency and accountability from Police Departments, and in particular the Sheriff’s Office.
- **Disbanding internal department investigations of police misconduct.** (REMOVE)
  - Sheriff Brown noted that the Sheriff’s Office is transparent as evidenced by publishing information, including use of force statistics.
  - Sheriff Brown provided his feedback that certain types of internal investigations, in particular those regarding sexual abuse and use of force, can be made public now that were previously confidential in nature due to a change in the law in 2019, thereby providing additional transparency.
  - Disbanding would also be problematic as the Sheriff’s Office uses internal investigations to address complaints and as an audit system for policies and procedures. Moreover, it would be impractical to pursue certain approaches in one contract city versus other contract cities.
- **Creation of a civilian review board, with members selected by the community, to investigate occurrences of police misconduct.** (REMOVE)
  - Sheriff Brown opined that establishing and using a civilian review board would be extremely time intensive, costly, impractical, and ultimately unwarranted. Sheriff Brown shared that of the nearly 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide only about 150 have such civilian review boards and almost all are in metropolitan areas. Moreover, he shared that the majority of those established have deep rooted histories of serious distrust and transparency issues that continue today.
- **Prioritization** of mental health services and rehabilitation before arresting and incarcerating black-all people.
  - The Sheriff’s Office contends that prioritization of mental health services and rehabilitation responses over arrest and incarceration does not just apply to black people but to all people.
  - The Sheriff’s Office noted they have been a leader in prioritizing mental health services and diversion in lieu of arrest and incarceration for those suffering from mental illness and/or substance abuse. In partnership with the County’s Behavioral Wellness Department, the Sheriff’s Office fields 3 Co-Response teams consisting of a Sheriff’s Deputy and a mental health clinician. These teams work together to keep mentally ill people out of jail unless absolutely necessary due to the severity of a crime.

- **Updating** police departments’ use of force policies to center and focus on de-escalation.
  - According to the SBSO: “Policy states deputies are to consider the use of force de-escalation, crisis intervention tactics and other alternatives to the use of force when possible and practical.”
  - Sheriff Brown expanded by saying the Sheriff’s Office review of policies happens in an on-going fashion and neither he nor his staff believe there is a need to change the existing policy related to de-escalation.

- **Stopping** the isolation/quarantine of inmates attending court or waiting to be in contact with their lawyers.  
  - Sheriff Brown informed the Committee that this policy has changed. When the COVID-19 Pandemic first struck, strict isolation of inmates upon intake and after returning from court did take place. Then a change allowed inmates returning from Court to return back to General Population after using N-95 masks and having their temperature checked. Recently, after an outbreak of COVID-19 in the Jail, the Sheriff’s Office had to go back to utilizing isolation (quarantine) if an inmate had not worn a mask throughout their court visit or they were symptomatic upon return to the Jail. This change in policy was required in order to protect inmates and Jail staff.

- **Reducing** jail admissions by redirecting people to community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
  - Sheriff Brown noted his previous response about prioritizing mental health services and rehabilitation over arrest and incarceration. Further, in adherence to Proposition 36, the numbers of inmates are at their lowest level in 50 years at the County Jail. The Sheriff’s Office looks for every alternative to incarceration. Sheriff Brown also shared that this approach is being pursued in all jurisdictions and among all law enforcement agencies in Santa Barbara County.

- **Demanding** institutional support for an annual Juneteenth celebration, including a city and county commitment to allocate funds for this annual celebration of black emancipation and liberation.
  - The City Council took action on this item. A placeholder was included in the budget for FY 20/21 for this purpose.
We ask for your continued support in these matters by exploring options for your department to begin to implement or continue these requests of the local Healing Justice Santa Barbara organization that are actionable and appropriate. Keeping in mind our limited knowledge of what policies and measures you and the department have already implemented, we appreciate all and every action taken to end police brutality and systemic racism that exists in our society.

The City of Goleta greatly appreciates your consideration of these issues and looks forward to further discussing how together we can continue to best protect the citizens of Goleta. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta