

MINUTES
CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Hawaiian Gardens Public Safety Commission is hereby called to be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 commencing at 6:00pm, at City Hall, in the City Council Chambers, 21815 Pioneer Boulevard, Hawaiian Gardens, California, 90716

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairmember Bertha Meraz

ROLL CALL	CHAIRMEMBER	BERTHA MERAZ
	VICE CHAIRMEMBER	LIZET MENDOZA
	COMMISSIONER	PEDRO AMARO
	COMMISSIONER	MARIO RICO
	COMMISSIONER	VALERIE MASON

The Acting Recording Secretary Claudia Ortiz, Staff Assistant II did the roll call and announced a quorum. Also in attendance, Linda Suniga, Commission Liaison.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – ITEMS ON AND OFF THE AGENDA

This is the time reserved for members of the audience wishing to speak on items **on and off** the Agenda and within the legislative body's jurisdiction. This period will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, maximum time allocated is fifteen (15) minutes.

Speaker 1 Kevin Sneed:

Kevin Sneed would like to discuss an issue. He has been working as a security officer for the gardens for 5 ½ years. His duties includes working with the tenants of the 21 stores, property manager and running off homeless individuals, panhandler and transients that enter into the property.

May 12, 2017, approximately, 11:35 a homeless man that had been coming into the property for about 2 weeks. Mr. Sneed and the homeless man had an encounter.

Earlier that morning he was able to escort the homeless man however, came back late that afternoon. Homeless man began harassing customers that were shopping and it's his duty as security officer to address the issue.

When he first approached him he asked him, "Would you please leave the property?"

There is no trespassing or panhandlers on the property. He refused to leave and began to threaten him wanting to engage in a fight. The homeless man began to say the "N"

word. The homeless man then left and sat in front of a store (Cricket) and Mr. Sneed approached him once again and repeatedly asked him to leave.

The property manager, Mr. Frank Tovar, advised him to keep these (homeless, panhandlers and hangovers, transients) individuals away from the property because at the time he was going have investors and realtors on the property that day.

At some point the intense level got so escalated, a lady began recording the event. They reached the point that they almost began fighting. Someone had called the police. The police arrived when Mr. Sneed had gone to his lunch break. When he came back he was questioned by police of the situation that had happened, at that point the officer had already seen part of a recording. He told police his boss had advised him to run off homeless individuals. Police officer said he didn't believe him. Mr. Sneed then asked to call his supervisor and office denied him that. Officer said "I'm controlling this, I'm running this". Immediately after, Mr. Sneed was taken to the back of the police car. His immediate supervisor called him to his cell phone and officer answered and said Mr. Sneed was busy. His boss called again and police officer said he was busy and taking Mr. Sneed to jail. Mr. Sneed asked to call the watch commander, the police officer refused. The police officer told Mr. Sneed he was being taken to jail for assault. He said he was the aggressor. Mr. Sneed was arrested, booked and detained for 9 hours. Mr. Sneed believes the police officer is running his own agenda. Mr. Sneed is not working right now and if he can get anyone to call his security company – Finally, would like to ask all- do you actually think that it is for an officer to call your security company before evaluating the situation. The officer called before asking him or his supervisor. This is very dearest to his heart, he lost his job, his real estate license is at stake, and business license is at stake. All he wants is to have his voice heard.

Speaker 2 James Sneed:

James Sneed – Riverside California, Veteran, College Graduate, Supervisor
Representing his brother- his brother works 3 security jobs. For his brother to get arrested for assault is not right. His brother is a hard working man, has 4 kids and is doing what is right for his family. He would like to see if we can actually get the record of this police officer and maybe we can see anything of this to be in his character.

Commission & Staff Response:

Commissioner Amaro advised Mr. Sneed (Kevin) the information he presented will be passed on to the City.

Commission Liaison, Linda Suniga, advised Mr. Sneed, the City can provide you with the information on filing a complaint with the Sheriff's Department. There is a formal process which needs to be followed. We have the forms here at City Hall and the instructions that should be followed. It is important to use the form provided and carefully follow the instructions. City Council has directed staff to make sure the Community is aware of the formal process. After submitting a complaint with the Sheriff's Department, you will receive a response from the Sheriff's Department, and if you do not agree with the response there is an opportunity to appeal the response. The instructions for doing this are provided by the Sheriff's Department. The City Council does want to know about complaints of this nature and your information will be

forwarded to the City Manager and City Council. The City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. There is an opportunity for oral communications at the council meetings. You would be limited to 3 minutes so you would need to shorten the information presented at tonight's meeting, and you can also provide the Council any additional information, such as a copy of the complaint form, or any additional information you wish to provide.

California JPIA Training

Course Name You Want to Put a Stop Sign Where?

This training is designed to address the legal and practical ramifications of using unwarranted traffic control devices by public entities. It reviews the traffic control basic requirements, primary objectives, and justification. The training covers safety devices in detail, common misuses of those devices, the adverse impact on neighborhood traffic, and increased exposure to litigation. The trainer is Scott Grossberg, an attorney who specializes in defending municipalities.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Pedro Amaro would like to report that he attended the last month's homeless coalition meeting. They are doing a great job with collaborating with other agencies. Pedro asked a question and got an answer on behalf of Commissioner Mason and received the proper information which was later forwarded to Mrs. Mason. In addition, would like to extend the invite to commission for any other future coalition meetings.

Commissioner Mario Rico expressed his concern with the ongoing problem on 226th. Couches and boxes have been laying there for long periods of time. He believes PW picking up the items just creates a bigger issue. Staff informed commission this is also a concern that the city has. PW also tries to pick up items usually in the afternoon.

Commissioner Mason commented in regards to the training and feels she expected more. We have specific problems in the city and can't we can't solve all of them. Mrs. Mason beliefs commission needs more of a direction rather than litigation.

Vice Chairmember Mendoza commented about fireworks beginning to be heard sporadically and if there were any updates from council. Staff advised that the minutes for past meetings will be presented at next month's meetings. The memo has been sent to the city manager and will be forwarded to council this week. The Memo states the concerns/ recommendations and suggestions. These suggestions were modified from last year's concerns and other items were added. Items that were added were the possibility of increasing code enforcement and consult with sheriffs department of

additional patrolling. Also, asking the sheriff's department to be present to address issues. Mrs. Mason would like to see consistent representation from the Sheriff's Department

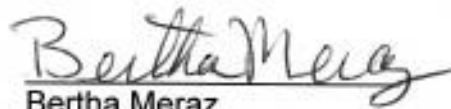
Chairmember Meraz has the same concern about bulky items affecting her street and its always the same property. It is unfortunate to see children having to step out of the sidewalk to the street to go around because of the bulky items. Staff advised that if we know the specific address to the location we can send code enforcement. Commissioner Meraz advised possibly going to the property owner on rental units.

ADJOURNMENT to the next Regular Public Safety Commission Meeting on June 21, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Claudia Raya
Recording Secretary

Approved:


Bertha Meraz
Chairperson

Attest:


Claudia Raya
Recording Secretary