SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020
HELD VIA ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Horvath called the Special Meeting of the SBCCOG Board of Directors to order at 6:00pm.

II. ATTENDANCE

In attendance were the following voting elected officials:

Cedric Hicks, Carson	Jim Gazeley, Lomita
Drew Boyles, El Segundo	Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne	Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Stacey Armato, Hermosa Beach	George Chen, Torrance
James Butts, Inglewood	Janice Hahn, SD-4

The following non-voting elected officials were in attendance:

Mark Henderson, Gardena	Eric Alegria, Rancho Palos Verdes
Paulette Francis, Gardena	Heidi Ashcraft, Torrance
Alex Monteiro, Hawthorne	Alex Villanueva, LA County Sheriff
David Bradley, Rancho Palos Verdes	

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Mike Saffell, Gardena	Daisy Paniagua, Rep. Lieu
Erick Lee, Hawthorne	Dr. Erroll Southers, USC
Michael Ishii, Hawthorne	Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Charles Lennon, LA County DMH	Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
James Powers, LA County Sheriff	Wally Siembab, SBCCOG
Jason Skeen, LA County Sheriff	David Leger, SBCCOG
Alexandria Latragna, Manhattan Beach	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Ara Mihranian, Rancho Palos Verdes	Cierra Washington, SBCCOG
Joe Hoefgen, Redondo Beach	Amy Howorth, Public
Keith Kauffman, Redondo Beach	Marta Rodriguez, Public
Elaine Jeng, Rolling Hills	Lee Phillips, Public
Martin Serna, Torrance	Dr. Joseph Lee, Public
Jennifer LaMarque, SD-4	Kiran Magiawala, Public
Kyla Coates, SD-4	Susan Seamans, Public
Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith	Fiona Pereira, Public

III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE
The agenda was properly posted in the City of Torrance.

IV. PANEL I: Role of police, community policing and best practices, community expectations
Moderator: Dr. Erroll Southers
Panelists: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Shari Weaver, Dr. Joseph Lee, and Chuck Lennon

Chair Horvath introduced Dr. Southers and the participants on the first panel.

Dr. Southers led the panel through discussion on a variety of topics including:
- **What steps are needed to restore public confidence in law enforcement?** Panelists shared their views including increasing accountability; understanding different views of law enforcement and the experiences that lead to the views; and civilian oversight and transparency. There was also brief discussion surrounding the impacts of police not living within the cities/jurisdictions they serve. Relationships between police departments and communities can be heavily impacted by even small things such as this. Empowering or requiring officers who observe wrong-doing by fellow officers was also discussed as an important reform.

- **"Reimagining Policing"** Panelists provided their insight on what it means to "reimagine" the police where they are not the first responders (or not the only first responders) to all 911 calls. Some panelists noted their view that as funding for other services has dried up over time, the police have become the mechanism to deal with all of society's ills such as homelessness, drug/alcohol abuse, and mental illness. The public largely calls on the police to deal with these situations when there may be a better set of first responders than armed police officers. There are many instances where a police presence may not de-escalate a situation and may actually escalate it. Alternatives discussed included concepts such as triage policing where the goal is to divert those with mental illness/addiction issues from police custody and instead provide them appropriate support services.
- **Resources for implementing police reform and Measure H funding.** A question was posed as to whether or not Measure H (LA County Homeless Services sales tax) could be used or modified to help facilitate the implementation of "reimagining police". Supervisor Hahn noted that Measure H does allocate additional funding for mental health professionals and other services and that the Board of Supervisors specifically chose to not divert funding to police agencies.
- **Implicit Bias and Training.** There was discussion on implicit bias training both surrounding what is needed and what is currently done. Dr. Lee explained that human beings are all implicitly biased, based on their own unique life experiences and further elaborated that bias training is trying to teach something at an intellectual level when it is all learned on an experiential level. Overcoming biases needs to be done on an experience by experience basis, not necessarily a pre-planned workshop periodically.

V. PANEL II: Police Practices and Policies
Moderator: Dr. Erroll Southers
Panelists: Sheriff Alex Villanueva, Mayor James Butts, Councilmember Cedric Hicks, and Police Chief Keith Kauffman

- **What is Community Policing and what are metrics of success?** Sheriff Villanueva shared that he defines it as a shift in culture and a shifting from a "warrior mindset" to a "guardian mindset". Success is not judged off of how many citations are given or the number of individuals put in jail, but more of how many relationships did an officer build and how many problems were solved. Councilmember Hicks echoed these sentiments and added that it's also knowing the community and being connected to the local community leaders. Chief Kauffman noted that he also feels police need to be involved with the community early, often, and before there is even a problem, which is why he began the "Coffee with a Cop" program.
- **Use of Force and training.** There was discussion on the use of force, when it should happen, etc. Mayor Butts shared from his personal experience as a Chief of multiple police departments, this work begins with a City Council selecting the appropriate Police Chief who understands what the Council wants and to hold that person accountable. Sheriff Villanueva shared that the County's Sheriff Department is not only doing implicit bias training as part of a recruit's overall training, but recruits are instructed to evaluate each other which helps weed out potential "bad apples" earlier in the process. Chief Kauffman and Mayor Butts also touched on the academy training and that officers are trained from the start to anticipate and expect danger which leads to a very stressful mindset that further affects decision making. This causes officers to be unable to simply have a conversation with the public and for the public to continue seeing the police as an occupying force instead of being part of the community.
- **Predictive Policing.** A question was asked about the efficacy of predictive policing and its impact on finding "bad" officers. Chief Kauffman noted Redondo Beach does not utilize it and relayed the controversial aspect of it. He believes that instead of trying to anticipate where the next crime will take place, officers should be out in the community being proactive and preventing crime, not only being reactive. Mayor Butts added that it is impossible to predict where anything is going to happen and that all the predictive policing can do is help identify a pattern, but as soon as you base discretionary police activity on crimes that have happened in an area, you criminalize everyone in that area.
- **"Defunding the Police"**. There was brief discussion on support for defunding the police and what it means. All panelists agreed that there is no support to simply eliminate the police. An additional infusion of funding for non-traditional policing (such as mental health professionals or other programs) is needed before you can begin eliminating police positions. After programs are identified to be working, then there can be discussions on police budgets, but most panelists cautioned that community policing programs would likely be the first to be eliminated when budget cuts are ordered.

For more detail, the full meeting has been uploaded and is available for viewing here: https://youtu.be/qiutUhZMWuo

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
The following questions were posed in the meeting's chat function and were forwarded to the panelists for further review and response due to time constraints.

- Mr. Hoefgen: What are some of the best practices you have seen/utilized in dealing with individuals with mental health issues and/or dealing with the homeless?
- Board Member Horvath: Can Measure H funding be modified to also be used in helping "re-imagine" PD responses by offsetting costs and personnel as it relates to Homelessness, mental Health and Addiction. Right now individual cities have to make spending a priority in order to include Field Mental Health clinicians, homeless outreach providers etc.
- Board Member Boyles: I understand Gartner and others, are developing predictive analytics to identify bad actor police officers. Where are we, in the County or individualizing agencies, on this? Our police chief in El Segundo did a white paper several years back, while in Irvine, about Implicit Bias, effectively showing that group training, ie POST, will not work for addressing individual's implicit bias. Rather, implicit bias training must be done individually, and on a recurring basis. Any developments here?
- Ms. Rodriguez: I don't know about defunding police, my question as a civilian is how do police departments determine where police budgets go? I wonder in terms of staffing, training, equipment. People see viral images and traditional media images of police in military gear and riding military vehicles at protests and wonder is this where all police funds are going? People honestly don't know. How do we find out? Respectfully submitted.

XII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm to Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

David Leger
Assistant Board Secretary