



**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA  
REGIONAL CONTRACT LAW ENFORCEMENT  
MINUTES TO MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Law Enforcement was called to order by Committee member Britt Huff at 9:35 a.m. via Zoom.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:           **Rancho Palos Verdes**  
David Bradley, Councilmember  
Eric Alegria, Councilmember - Absent  
                          **Rolling Hills Estates**  
Britt Huff, Mayor  
Frank Zerunyan, Councilmember - Absent  
                          **Rolling Hills**  
Patrick Wilson, Mayor  
Bea Dieringer, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:   **Rancho Palos Verdes**  
Ara Mihranian, City Manager  
Karina Bañales, Deputy City Manager  
Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator  
                          **Rolling Hills Estates**  
Greg Grammer, City Manager  
Alexa Davis, Assistant City Manager  
Jessica Slawson, Management Analyst  
                          **Rolling Hills**  
Elaine Jeng, City Manager  
Christian Horvath, City Clerk  
                          **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**  
Lieutenant Michael White, Lomita Sheriff's Station  
                          **Los Angeles County Fire Department**  
Chief Brian Bennett, Division 1

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

Member Wilson nominated Member Bradley as Chair and Member Dieringer seconded the motion.

AYES: Members: Huff, Wilson, Dieringer, and Chair Bradley

NOES: Members: None

ABSENT: Members: Alegria and Zerunyan

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

Member Huff motioned to approve the minutes and Member Wilson seconded the motion.

AYES: Members: Huff, Wilson, Dieringer, and Chair Bradley

NOES: Members: None

ABSENT: Members: Alegria and Zerunyan

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. NONE**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. QUARTERLY MEDICAL TRANSPORT RESPONSE TIMES REPORT (LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

#### Rolling Hills Community Meeting

Chief Bennett shared that he and the local Battalion Chiefs met with residents that were affected by the storms in the City of Rolling Hills. He explained that the meeting was productive and LACOFD learned from residents' experiences how services can be improved and explained policies. He offered to all three cities that the LACOFD team is available to meet with the residents as requested to address concerns from residents.

Chief Brian Bennett provided a summary of total incidents and response times in each of the cities.

#### Rancho Palos Verdes

Chief Bennett shared that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes had Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five (995) calls for Quarter 4. Ten (10) calls were categorized as delayed; the delays were due to distance, required a second unit to respond outside of the area, incorrect location by caller, and false alarms.

#### Rolling Hills

Chief Bennett shared that the City of Rolling Hills had Fifty-Five (55) calls for Quarter 4. One (1) call was categorized as delayed; the Captain decided to respond Code 2 to the call since the text stated it was a non-emergency call.

### Rolling Hills Estates

Chief Bennett shared that the City of Rolling Hills Estates had Two Hundred Fifty-One (251) calls for Quarter 4. Two (2) calls were categorized as delayed; the delays were due to a false alarm and the other due to multiple calls occurring at the time.

Chief Bennett concluded his presentation and made himself available for questions.

Member Dieringer asked Chief Bennett a question on a call that was listed as a fire or explosion and sought further clarification. Chief Bennett reported that he did not recall a but that he would investigate the incident.

Chair Bradley asked if there is a way to reduce the time on Medical Emergency calls. For example, if there is a medical emergency and waiting 6 minutes 30 seconds seems like an eternity. Is there anything we can do to reduce those response times.

Chief Bennett responded that nothing could be done at the city level to improve response times and he explained that the department has worked on getting individuals up and out of the station quicker. Chief Bennett reported that the department continuously reviews response times daily, weekly, and monthly.

Chair Bradley asked if there was an average response time target. He explained that the NFPA 1710's national standard is 9 minutes and 20 seconds. Chief Bennett reported that LA County has not adopted NFPA 1710, however, they use it as a target.

Member Wilson shared that during his time on the committee, the response report only includes the Fire Department and not McCormick's response; in some cases, McCormick may arrive sooner. Chief Bennett stated that is correct. Chief Bennett explained that if McCormick is driving in the community, they may be able to respond quicker. Chief Bennett reported that the arrival of McCormick is not reflected in the report the first arriving medical unit.

### McCormick Response Times

Daniel Perez, Communications Manager of McCormick Ambulance, was not on the call to be present. Chief Bennett offered to present and answer questions on behalf of the McCormick response times.

Chief Bennett provided an explanation that staffing shortages at hospitals cause delays to response times. Chief Bennett indicated that an ambulance would arrive at a hospital with a patient that is not on life support and would be required to wait 4-5 hours before they could leave the patient. Chief Bennett shared that this affects the responses to communities.

Chief Bennett shared that McCormick has implemented a new process whereby McCormick EMTs are stationed at major hospitals with a van equipped with additional

gurneys attends to patients from private ambulances while they wait to be seen by the doctor in the hospital. Chief Bennett stated that this allows the ambulance to return to services faster.

Chief Bennett reported that LA County Fire has authorized the transport of patients to a hospital in a squad truck engine if emergency personnel believe that the delay will impact patient outcomes. Chief Bennett indicates that this is being done almost daily to avoid delays in patients seeking treatment.

Member Dieringer asked if there was anything the City Councilmembers could do to assist to remedy through advocacy or changes to existing laws beyond what is already instituted to address this problem.

Chief Bennett responded that he is not aware of any upcoming legislation but any time an item involving EMS transport or homelessness care and transportation assistance, it would be beneficial if the cities took a position. While addressing homelessness, it is important that individuals seek other transportation and care resources first if the issue is non-emergent and doesn't require emergency medical transport.

Chief Bennett shared that LA County implemented a "quick response" program where a doctor, paramedic, or nurse practitioner are dispatched in a truck to provide higher level medical assistance and relieve their squads to return to service quicker. Currently, there are three trucks providing this service in Gardena, Hawthorne, and Inglewood.

Chief Bennett shared that grants or legislation that gather non-emergent resources to assist patients will allow paramedics to respond quicker to emergency calls.

Member Dieringer had a follow-up question regarding a program that is currently in place that takes mental health patients to an area that specializes in mental health treatment instead of a hospital. Member Dieringer asked if this was happening in our area.

Chief Bennett responded that this was not happening with their first responders.

Chair Bradley shared that it would require continued pressure on the LA County Supervisors to come up with solutions across the area.

Chief Bennett agreed.

## **B. QUARTERLY LAW ENFORCEMENT/TRAFFIC/COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT (LA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)**

Chair Bradley requested the LA County Sheriff's report.

Lieutenant Michael White shared with the committee a brief comment on the item presented by the LA County Fire Department, stating Deputies are first to arrive on emergency calls and that they are trained in CPR and basic first aid. If needed, Deputies will render aid until the Fire Department arrives.

Chair Bradley added that LA County Sheriff is also assisting with mental health support.

Lt. White shared that LASD has a MET (**Mental Evaluation Team**) team that when able they will respond to assist.

Chair Bradley asked if LASD is diverting the homeless or those with mental health needs to receive needed services instead of making an arrest.

Lt. White responded yes and that when MET responds, they will transport patients to the appropriate facility.

### Rancho Palos Verdes

Lt. White summarized the traffic statistics for Quarter Four (4) of 2022. Lt. White highlighted total collisions, and injury collisions are down, while enforcement of hazardous citations are up. Lt. White shared that this is an area he would like to increase traffic enforcement, especially in key areas in the city such as Hawthorne and Vallon to get drivers to slow down.

Chair Bradley mentioned that Rancho Palos Verdes continues to ask for extra service hours for additional traffic suppression, and he is aware that the department struggles with getting the additional hours filled. Chair Bradley asked how the department is doing as we enter the first quarter of 2023 in filling these requests.

Lt. White stated that although they are low on staffing these requests, they are still able to meet the city's need. Lt. White asked the traffic safety committee to identify specific areas in the city that need additional enforcement, communicate that information to him, and he will assign a couple of proactive deputies to these areas.

Chair Bradley stated the city will absolutely do that and suggested a few areas in the city that need enforcement. Chair Bradley also requested that Lt. White let the city know what we can do to help.

### Rolling Hills Estates

Lt. White presented Rolling Hills Estates Traffic Stats. Lt. White shared that traffic collisions are down below average and hazardous citations are up.

Member Huff shared that she appreciates the speed signs set-up on PV Drive East to address speed in that area. Lt. White stated that this is an area the department will focus citations on. Member Huff added that the Metropolitan Water Project has slowed drivers down.

### Rolling Hills

Lt. White presented Rolling Hills and indicated is quiet and has no injuries or collisions.

Member Wilson asked if there were additional supplemental traffic enforcement during the Quarter Four (4) in Rolling Hills. Lt. White stated that he was not aware of any and will investigate this further.

Member Wilson stated that as the other City's request for additional resources, they too would like to have more resources.

Member Dieringer requested additional enforcement on Crest Road.

Lt. White presented an overview of the traffic statistics for all three cities combined.

#### Rancho Palos Verdes Crime Statistics- PART I Crimes

Chair Bradley requested to move onto the PART I section of the presentation.

Lt. White summarized the crime statistics for the three cities.

Chair Bradley shared that catalytic converter theft continues to be a concern and that Flock cameras did not capture enough information on the incident. Member Bradley asked how the city can improve the infrastructure in support of crime suppression in the and help identify bad actors.

Lt. White responded by stating that as HOA's request for Flock Cameras, it is important for them to identify an individual in their neighborhood to monitor their equipment to ensure it is operating. Lt. White also mentioned that at the Contract Cities Seminar, it was mentioned that ALPR is now offering neighborhood cameras. He was not endorsing this product, but deputies did share their positive experience with the ALPR cameras.

Chair Bradley requested that staff follow-up on the ALPR camera.

#### Rancho Palos Verdes Crime Statistics- PART II Crimes

Lt. White proceeded with his presentation on Part II Crimes in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Chair Bradley commented that having patrolling deputies is essential to deter crime as with traffic suppression and asked Lt. White to let the city know what they can do to help support the station's efforts.

Lt. White responded that they are working on a PSA "See Something, Say Something" and ask the city's assistance with promoting the message.

Chair Bradley mentioned that the cities are willing to help support the Lomita station. He added that, at times, the Watch Commander or the person taking the calls seemed disinterested and made the residents feel that LASD was bothered by taking calls. Chair Bradley recommended additional training for Operators and Watch Commanders so they can take the calls for service in the spirit of the call being made; thereby encouraging residents to come forward with observations.

Lt. White responded that desk personnel are trained to provide patient and quality public service. He shared that they are told when someone calls the station, it is their first interaction with law enforcement and the last thing the caller should feel is that they are being a bother to the LASD desk personnel. Lt. White encourages anyone that calls the stations and is not satisfied with the service they received to ask for the Watch Commander so they can share their concerns.

Member Dieringer appreciated Lt. Whites comments responding to citizens. Member Dieringer noticed that crime activity is higher for RPV and the other cities in this quarter compared to the previous quarters; she inquired where catalytic converters and stealing from mailboxes are placed on the crime report.

Lt. White stated that stealing from mailboxes is found under Part 1 Petty Theft, Larceny and Theft. Catalytic converters are found under theft from a vehicle.

Member Dieringer asked if there was something for residents to do to reduce the number the mail theft occurrences. Lt. White suggested a lock on the mailbox.

Member Dieringer asked a question about catalytic converter etching program and if there was one available. Lt. White mentioned that cities take the initiative in hosting these events.

Chair Bradley stated that Lomita has hosted an event in the past at Lomita City Hall, and City Manager Mihranian confirmed.

#### Rolling Hills Estates Crime Statistics- PART I and PART II Crimes

Chair Bradley asked if Member Huff from Rolling Hills Estates had any questions regarding the statistics.

Member Huff highlighted that residential burglaries are increasing to 2018 number and is an area of concern for residents. Member Huff asked a question about the burglary structure and asked if it was a garage. Lt. White responded to Member Huff's questions about burglary structure and stated that this is a commercial burglary such as Ulta beauty store.

Lt. White responded to the residential burglaries and their increase. He stated that Vantage Point off Crest Road had a few burglaries last year and since then they have added private security conducting foot patrols. These burglaries were occurring off the Bridle Path.

Member Huff stated that the community used to have deputies on mobile patrol vehicles in the area in the Bridle Path. Lt. White stated they are working on training additional deputies to resume periodic mobile patrols since the previous Core Deputy had retired. Patrols in that area have increased and they are in regular communication with a resident in the community to reduce the residential burglaries.

#### Rolling Hills Crime Statistics- PART I and PART II Crimes

Chair Bradley requested to proceed with Rolling Hills and their crime stats.

Member Wilson mentioned that the two residential burglaries in the report occurred next to each other and shared they may have entered from Palos Verdes Drive North. Member Wilson also inquired about a burglary structure and sought clarification. Lt. White stated that burglary structure in Rolling Hills referred to a barn where a chainsaw was stolen.

Member Dieringer highlighted the increase in burglaries in Rolling Hills Quarter Four (4) compared to previous quarters and inquired on the status of the investigation of these burglaries. Lt. White stated he did not have that information and would follow up with additional information.

Member Dieringer would like to take this opportunity to inform residents that although the community is gated, they still need to lock their doors.

Member Wilson mentioned that leaving garage doors open continues to be a problem.

### Response Times

Chair Bradley requested to proceed with the response times. Chair Bradley stated that the response times are aligned within the targets of the LA County Sheriff's. Lt. White states that they pride themselves in getting to their calls as soon as possible.

City Manager Mihranian asked Lt. White to define the response times for the Emergency, Priority, and Routine. Lt. White stated that the response time for Emergent call is 10 minutes (baby not breathing), Priority Call is 20 minutes (missing person), and Routine call is one hour (theft of a catalytic converter).

City Manager Mihranian thanked Lt. White for the explanation and clarified that if a resident arrived at home and identified the home was burglarized, that is considered a Routine Call. Alternatively, if you hear someone in your house or receive a notification from the security system, that is considered an Emergency Call.

City Manager Mihranian shared a recent call from a resident where they believed a burglary was underway and called the Sheriff's department; the LASD Deputies responded immediately to this Emergency Call.

Lt. White agreed that deputies will drop everything to respond to the call.

Lt. White asked City Manager Mihranian if it would be beneficial to share this information with the community. City Manager Mihranian stated it would be appropriate to share and the city would work with LASD to communicate this message to the residents.

Member Wilson shared that Rolling Hills has a citywide newsletter where this information can be made available for residents. Chair Bradley shared Rancho Palos Verdes has the same.



Member Dieringer asked advice for a resident regarding forgery. Member Dieringer described an incident that occurred in the City of Rolling Hills.

Lt. White shared examples of identity theft and forgery where a wallet was stolen from a purse in a store and their stolen credit card was used in a different city. This is an example of both petty theft and identity theft.

Member Wilson shared that these crimes are occurring outside the jurisdiction where the victim resides. Lt. White stated that when the Deputies conduct their investigation the reveals that the petty theft occurred in one city, but the withdrawal of funds occurs in another city.

Member Dieringer shared that residents may not understand where to find the agency of where their identity was used. She shared that most residents would report the crime to the Sheriffs, but the investigation might be conducted by another agency. Lt. White responded that another station may have jurisdiction over the location where the crime occurred, but residents should start with the Sheriff's department.

Chair Bradley proceeded with the presentation; both Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates response times were within standards. No questions were brought by the committee over the reported times.

Chair Bradley noted the Peninsula average response time and how residents focus on Emergency Calls. He shared with Lt. White to reach out to the cities on how they can help both LASD and the Fire department communicate with residents the topography's impact on call times.

#### **VIII. OTHER MATTERS FROM REGIONAL CONTRACT LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Member Dieringer requested that the committee explore ways to communicate what they have learned at the committee to their constituents. She suggested Peninsula-wide PSAs program highlighting various public safety campaigns and hosting town halls.

City Manager Mihranian suggested hosting "Coffee with a Cop" events in the next quarter and coordinating PSA messaging regarding response times.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Bradley adjourned the meeting at 10:41a.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. immediately following the Peninsula Public Safety Committee meeting.

[Signatures on next page]

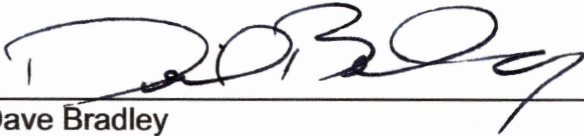
Respectfully submitted,



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Karina Bañales  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Approved,



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Dave Bradley  
Chair  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes