



**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA  
REGIONAL CONTRACT LAW ENFORCEMENT  
MINUTES TO MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Law Enforcement was called to order by Chair Bradley at 8:35 a.m. via Zoom.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: **Rancho Palos Verdes**  
Ara Mihranian, City Manager  
Karina Bañales, Deputy City Manager  
Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator  
Shaunna Hunter, Administrative Analyst  
**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**  
Battalion Chief John Butorovich, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes with amendments by Member Dieringer will be circulated to the committee. Member Dieringer motioned to approve the amended minutes and Member Huff seconded the motion.

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

NOES: Members: None

ABSTENTION: Member: Alegria

ABSENT: Member: Wilson

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. NONE**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE/MCCORMICK/PARAMEDIC RESPONSE UPDATE (LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

Battalion Chief Butorovich reminded the committee of the upcoming brush clearance season and the HeliPod 53A in Rancho Palos Verdes near City Hall. The air operations completed a fly over at the site and it is a dip site for the helicopters to snorkel water out of which will be used in preparation of the brush season.

Chair Bradley inquired about the grand opening community event at the HeliPod which will be rescheduled due to weather and possible thunderstorms. The rescheduled event will be coordinated when Chief Bennett returns. Battalion Chief Butorovich stated that the Water Department is relocating the hydrant across the gravel road to improve connection.

The Battalion Chief provided an oral report on call volume.

#### Rolling Hills

City of Rolling Hills had five (5) rescue and emergency calls, four (4) good intent calls, two (2) false calls; the total ALS calls treated or transported was four (4), public assist calls one (1), canceled prior to arrival calls two (2), canceled on scene two (2) for the month of April 2023.

#### Rolling Hills Estates

City of Rolling Hills Estates had sixty-one (61) rescue and emergency calls, one (1) hazardous conditions call, one (1) service call, and twenty (20) good intent calls; the total ALS patient transports was eighteen (18), public assist calls five (5), canceled prior to

arrival calls twelve (12), canceled on scene three (3), thirty-six (36) canceled basic life support with ambulance partners, and fourteen (14) AMA month of April 2023.

Deputy City Manager, Karina Bañales requested the printout provided by Chief Bennett to be sent over so it can be attached to the minutes. Battalion Chief Butorovich stated he would have Rosemary send the printouts over and Chair Bradley requested the printouts get attached to the minutes.

### Rancho Palos Verdes

City of Rancho Palos Verdes had one (1) fire, two hundred and forty-six (246) rescue and emergency calls, two (2) hazardous conditions non-fire, eight (8) service calls, forty-two (42) good intent calls, eleven (11) false alarm calls; the total ALS calls treated or transported was seventy-seven (77), public assist calls fifteen (15), canceled prior to arrival calls fourteen (14), canceled on scene nineteen (19), transferred via ambulance vls (137), patient refusal twenty- four (24), and three (3) DOA incidents month of April 2023.

Chair Bradley asked Battalion Chief Butorovich if there is any trending data that the city's should address. Battalion Chief responded that the data was within normal parameters.

Member Dieringer asked Battalion Chief Butorovich why the committee did not receive the update in the agenda packet. The Battalion Chief will have Rosemary send over Fire Department updates to be included in the minutes to the committee members.

Battalion Chief Butorovich stated that ongoing training is happening with the department and that brush clearance and inspections will begin June 1. Vice Chair Alegria mentioned that the city sent out clarifying letters to impacted residents. Councilmember Huff requested clarification from Battalion Chief Butorovich on the brush clearance requirements. Battalion Chief stated he would have Rosemary send out frequently asked questions sheet to the committee which will address the first 5 feet. He stated that the first 5 feet for vegetation would not be enforced this year, but dead trees or dry brush would be enforced.

Assistant City Manager Alexa Davis confirmed that the four cities on the peninsula sent out communication to residents regarding what would be implemented this year and what was to be expected in future years. Assistant City Manager Davis stated that Rolling Hills Estates did not print the FAQ sheet but shared it with HOAs and sent it out electronically. Jesse Villalpando from Rancho Palos Verdes stated that RPV mailed out the FAQ to the over 11,000 residents on the declaration list a few weeks ago. City Manager Jeng stated that Rolling Hills held a social event for residents of RH at city hall to answer questions from residents. The City Manager read an email correspondence from Chief Bennett regarding the enforcement of Zone 0: 0-5 feet for the committee.

## **B. QUARTERLY LAW ENFORCEMENT/TRAFFIC REPORT/CORE REPORT (SHERIFF)**

Chair Bradley requested the LA County Sheriff's report.

Deputy City Manager Karina Bañales reported that the PowerPoint was not provided in advance of the meeting and will be included in the minutes.

### Rancho Palos Verdes

Lieutenant Michael White shared injury collisions for Quarter 1 are down and issuance of hazardous citations are up.

Chair Bradley asked if parking citations in the report are from LASD officers only. Lieutenant White stated that volunteers write parking citations also. Chair Bradley clarified that this report does not include citations written by the RPV Park Rangers. Lieutenant White inquired that if there are places the committee would like LASD to focus whether parking or hazardous citations for speed, to let them know and he will schedule them. Chair Bradley stated that they will continue to work with the Sheriff's office to identify areas of concern. Vice Chair Alegria asked if the spike in March was related to additional enforcement efforts requested by the committee. Lieutenant White stated that he has some enthusiastic deputies that are out there. Vice Chair Alegria affirmed that the deputies have been quite visible in the city and that the community members appreciate this. Chair Bradley said there are some chronic areas of concern including Vallon and the switchbacks where there are serious injuries or fatalities. Chair Bradley commended LASD for their traffic calming tactics in the community.

### Rolling Hills Estates

Lieutenant White shared that injury collisions and hazardous citations are down. Lieutenant White inquired that if there are places the committee would like LASD to focus on in Rolling Hills Estates and that he will schedule someone at that location. Member Frank Zerunyan inquired about hazard citations and did not have additional locations for LASD at this time.

### Rolling Hills

Lieutenant White shared that their hazardous citations are up in Quarter 1 with Lidar enforcement.

Lieutenant White presented an overview of the traffic statistics for all three cities combined and stated that he has encouraged deputies to write citations for distracted driving including texting while driving and drivers using cell phones.

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

Lieutenant White summarized the crime statistics for Rancho Palos Verdes and stated that residential burglaries were lower than this quarter last year. Lieutenant White stated that he would like to see this number lower especially since we are coming up on summer months and vacation season. He provided some details regarding the two robberies, one was a family situation, and one was a shoplifter where the employee attempted to intervene. Larceny numbers are higher including theft from vehicles and catalytic

converter thefts. Lieutenant White added that on May 5, though not in Quarter 1, they arrested catalytic converter thieves because the owner of one of the vehicles notified LASD and deputies were able to stop them with two catalytic converters in their vehicle. Lieutenant White stated that catalytic converter theft in the state is unbelievable.

Vice Chair Alegria asked about a hate incident in the community. Lieutenant White differentiated between hate crimes and hate incidents of individuals because of their race gender, or religious affiliation, the former is when someone is assaulted, or property vandalized, and the latter is basically just words. Lieutenant White said the incident that occurred on May 5 was vandalism and a hate incident; there were two separate incidents with the same people involved. The vandalism occurred first which was water balloons thrown at the victim's vehicle and the hate incident occurred afterwards. Vice Chair Alegria inquired if it was the same kids and Lieutenant White confirmed that they were the same kids and stated that they have a detective assigned to this case. According to Lieutenant White the juveniles that were involved were middle school age. Lieutenant White stated that so far this year there has been 1 hate crime and 4 hate related incidents. Vice Chair Alegria expressed appreciation for LASD follow through on this crime and the information provided with the understanding that LASD is limited to what they can share. Vice Chair Alegria stated that it was his understanding that these incidents start at middle school, and they don't get better. Lieutenant White stated that each time there is a hate related incident or crime they are required to notify the division and he can send the memo to the City Manager's office so that he is in the loop.

Member Dieringer expressed appreciation to LASD for sharing information with the city. Member Dieringer inquired about the catalytic converter theft arrests and asked if LASD was able to do any roll-back searches of their homes or vehicles that were under their control to determine if these individuals were responsible for other catalytic converter thefts on the peninsula. Lieutenant White responded that the investigation is ongoing and that thieves roam around and target mainly Toyota Prius' due to the high value of the precious metal. Lieutenant white stated that since the back-order date on Prius catalytic converter replacement is 4-6 months, thieves can sell the stolen catalytic converter to a muffler shop, and they will reinstall a stolen catalytic converter on another vehicle. Lieutenant White stated that Rancho Palos Verdes will have an etching event in July.

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

Lieutenant White shared that fraud and ID theft numbers are disturbing, where thieves steal mail and open credit cards in the stolen ID. Chair Bradley clarified that the ID theft and fraud were against our citizens of Rancho Palos Verdes not necessarily occurring in RPV. Lieutenant White stated that arrests are steady, and he encourages deputies to be vigilant which will reduce overall crime in the community.

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

Lieutenant White compared Quarter 1 statistics and described the 1 robbery as a shop lifting thief where an employee attempted to stop the thief and it turned into a robbery at the Peninsula Center. Larceny is catalytic converter theft.

Member Huff inquired if the catalytic converter theft is grouped in one area. Lieutenant White stated that the thieves move around looking for Toyota's parked on the street. Member Huff asked if there were Toyota models the thieves are targeting. Lieutenant White stated that Land Cruisers and Sequoias are good targets because they sit high off the ground, but the Camry and Prius because of the high value of the precious metals in the catalytic converters.

Lieutenant White shared that fraud and ID theft are the big numbers; the community can assist by getting the word out to be vigilant and monitor their bank accounts for suspicious activity.

Member Zerunyan expressed appreciation for LASDs work in the commercial districts and the arrests that have been made. He requested that staff provide some information on the website to lock their vehicles and to store their vehicles in their garages. Member Zerunyan asked about summer messaging on the peninsula.

Lieutenant White stated that they have had some success from members of the public notifying LASD when they witness individuals getting out of their vehicles with bags before they go into the store.

Lieutenant White recommended that people park their vehicles in their driveway which may increase the likelihood that a homeowner would hear the theft in progress. Lieutenant White also stated that residents are under the impression that they can leave their expensive items on the front seat of an unlocked car, but thieves will target nice neighborhoods. Lieutenant White asked for assistance from the committee to get the word out to lock vehicles and not leave valuable items visible in the cars.

City Manager Grammer inquired about the RHE report on receiving stolen property. Lieutenant stated that he had no information on that report but provided a hypothetical example. Lieutenant White stated that he would research the incident and get back to City Manager Grammer.

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

Lieutenant White shared that the only incident was that a piece of mail was stolen.

Member Dieringer stated that the city has posted notices and would like to have a town hall so residents can retain the information better. Member Dieringer cited an example regarding people leaving their house unlocked while they are home and people need reminders to secure their homes.

Lieutenant White described that delivery driver's leave packages on the front porch and someone driving by can steal very easily. Lieutenant White added that the number of deliveries has quadrupled since the pandemic, and he recommended that drivers leave a package with a neighbor rather than leaving it on the front porch.

Member Dieringer reported to the committee that fraud can be reported to the local LASD and the victim does not need to locate the jurisdiction where the fraud occurred, but they

can call the Sheriff so investigation can begin earlier. Member Dieringer requested that we provide more information to the public. Lieutenant White responded that he would have the deputies responsible for social media to post something on their webpage.

Lieutenant White described Part II crimes in Rolling Hills for Quarter 1; he stated that the forgery and the theft were related, and the sex offense was a reported crime that allegedly happened years ago.

#### Response Times

Lieutenant White shared response times for the peninsula and that everything is within targets or below.

Chair Bradley commented that we need to strive to improve response times as a community. Lieutenant White agreed that response times can improve but deputies need to arrive safely when answering calls of service.

Lieutenant White stated that he requested the social media deputies post some tips on social media for residents to harden their home and not posting their whereabouts when they are on vacation.

Lieutenant White recommended residents purchase a safe to store valuables because thieves are not generally cracking into a safe when they are breaking into homes.

Lieutenant White informed the committee that the Volunteers on Patrol can check the residences while people are on vacation if they inform LASD.

Chair Bradley asked the committee if they had any additional questions for Lieutenant White before, they move on to discuss the LIDAR request.

#### **C. CONSIDERATION OF LIDAR AND RADAR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE (SHERIFF)**

Deputy City Manager Bañales provided background information contained in the staff report for the purchase of LIDAR, described the cost breakdown for each of the three cities and the total cost of the purchase, and discussed the RCLC purchasing policy attached to the staff report.

Lieutenant White presented his request in the staff report provided to the committee and provided updates on the need for the equipment presented. Currently, the LASD has additional deputies that have been trained to use the LIDAR/RADAR equipment, but their vehicles are not all equipped with the equipment. Lieutenant White also stated that the recommended purchase has video capabilities which may reduce the time the deputies must spend in court defending the traffic stops. Lieutenant White stated that if the committee agreed to purchase this supplemental equipment that he would expect hazardous citations to go up.

Vice Chair Alegria inquired about the impact the purchase of the supplemental equipment will have on enforcement. Lieutenant White responded that the equipment purchase would mean a couple more deputies will have the equipment. Lieutenant White explained that if a deputy has the equipment and isn't producing, LASD will reassign the equipment to a more proactive deputy.

Vice Chair Alegria asked why the Sheriff Department does not have a policy that supports the purchase of this equipment. Vice Chair Alegria expressed support of the tools but mentioned that the LASD contract with all the cities is robust and should include these tools.

Lieutenant White responded that he would investigate the question further and stated that in the past LASD did not have enough of the LIDAR/RADAR units to go around. Lieutenant White also mentioned that all the Lomita Deputies have tasers which is another tool the deputies can use.

Vice Chair Alegria asked if there is a policy that guides the allocation of equipment resources. Chair Bradley stated that this supplemental equipment purchase is a tool that moves the equipment to our area faster than going through LASD procurement process. Lieutenant White responded that it isn't uncommon for cities to assist LASD with these purchases but that he would research it and get back to the committee.

Member Dieringer asked if there were provisions in the contract that dictate that the supplemental equipment purchased stays at the Lomita Station. Lieutenant White responded that the equipment is the exclusive use by Lomita deputies, they are not loaned out or transferred to other stations.

Member Dieringer asked if the deputy works overtime at another station would the equipment be used at another station. Lieutenant White responded that if a deputy works overtime at another station they would use that station's car and they do not take the cars from Lomita Station.

Member Dieringer asked if the equipment would be used at another station because the equipment can be moved easier than a car. Lieutenant White responded that patrol deputies do not usually go to other stations to work overtime and affirmed that the equipment stays at Lomita Station. Member Dieringer asked if there was something in the contract that stated the equipment stays at Lomita Station. Lieutenant White stated that it is their practice not to loan out LIDAR/RADAR equipment.

Member Zerunyan inquired that since the City of Lomita is covered by the LASD Lomita station deputies, that the RCLC should ask the City of Lomita to participate in the purchase of supplemental equipment so that all deputies at the Lomita Station have access to the equipment.

Chair Bradley requested that Lieutenant White reach out to the City of Lomita to participate in the supplemental equipment purchase request for LIDAR/RADAR. Lieutenant White responded that he would reach out to them.

Member Zerunyan requested that the City Managers reach out to Lomita about this issue.

Deputy City Manager Bañales stated that staff will review the agreement in response to Member Dieringer's request to see if there is any language supporting the supplemental equipment purchases.

Member Dieringer stated that the mathematical formula will need to be reworked if Lomita is sharing the cost of the supplemental equipment purchase.

Member Dieringer motioned, and Member Huff seconded the motion to contact Lomita to verify participation in the supplemental equipment purchase, rework the formula for an equitable distribution of the cost, report on policy guidance for supplemental purchases from LASD, and review contract for language that includes supplemental equipment purchase.

AYES: Members: Dieringer, Zerunyan, Huff, Alegria, and Chair Bradley

NOES: Members: None

ABSTENTION: Members: None

ABSENT: Member: Wilson

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

Member Zerunyan inquired about trail runners that are out of service and expressed an interest in getting them back in service. Lieutenant White responded that he would get back to the committee if the equipment is operational. Members Huff and Dieringer added information about a series of robberies that came from the trails.

Member Dieringer stated that people are drag racing and smoking on the trails, and that deputies on horseback would also be helpful to discourage these activities due to the high fire danger. Member Dieringer also inquired about a Peninsula town hall meeting so residents can get the information. Lieutenant White responded that LASD could do this.

Deputy City Manager Bañales reported that staff will work with RCLC staff to put together a Catalytic Converter Etching event at Rancho Palos Verdes Ken Dyda Civic Center. Deputy City Manager Bañales reported that RPV-TV would work with the other peninsula cities to put together some PSAs regarding catalytic converters and other crimes.

Introduction of Rancho Palos Verdes staff Shaunna Hunter and outgoing City Manager Elaine Jeng who will no longer attend the RCLC but will remain on PPSC as she has taken a new position as City Manager with the City of Palos Verdes Estates.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Bradley adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. immediately following the Peninsula Public Safety Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaunna Hunter

Shaunna Hunter  
Administrative Analyst II  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Approved,



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Dave Bradley  
Chair  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes