

**MINUTES  
CITY OF DUARTE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MEETING DATE –March 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at  
7:02 p.m.

RECORDATION OF  
ATTENDANCE:

The following were in attendance:

STAFF: Brian Villalobos, Director of Public Safety Services  
Sgt. Stevin Fiedler, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

PRESENT: Bell, Frye, Wright

ABSENT: Calderon, Oloteo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bell motioned to approve the minutes of 11/15/22; Frye seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 11/15/22, and the minutes were carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A) Swearing in of Commissioners Bell and Wright by City Clerk Annette Juarez

B) Commission Reorganization of Chair and Co-Chair

**Chair:** Chris Frye

**Co-Chair:** Ken Bell

C) Public Safety Update presented by Brian Villalobos and Sgt. Stevin Fiedler

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Director Villalobos notified commissioners that due to the dwindling number of commission participants, all commission meetings will now meet on odd-numbered months. He provided a crime statistic update and notified Commissioners that Duarte's crime rates are well below the national average. Furthermore, he reported that Royal Oaks Manor is looking for the City of Duarte to annex their location. If this takes place there is a possibility of adding one additional unit to patrol Duarte.

Mr. Villalobos reported that to date there are no homicides to report, one rape was reported yesterday, which appears to be family member related. There was one sexual battery reported at the 99-cent store, and Special Assignment Deputies are currently working on that incident. Year to date three robberies have been reported, however, one was an actual attempt. Aggravated assaults are significantly down from last year. Aggravated assaults are the only part one crimes that for each individual person attacked it is listed as a part one crime as opposed to one incident. Larceny thefts are also down in the city. He reported that gang violence remains down, but there has been a rise in graffiti throughout the city, and deputies are identifying the taggers.

Lastly, Mr. Villalobos reported no problems with debris flow in the Mel Canyon area. He informed commissioners that Big Lots is now vacant along with MoDo Donuts. There has been an increase of homeless individuals gathering in these areas, but City Staff and Deputies patrol the location often and the city is collaborating with the individual owners to improve the area. Letters of agencies for all the businesses in the Big Lots Shopping Center are on file with Temple Station and the Duarte Public Safety Department. These letter of agencies allow the Deputies to arrest for trespassing.

Sgt. Fiedler informed commissioners that response times per call are going up slightly and mainly because of all the new housing developments such as The Esperanza Apartments, The Huntington Apartments, and the new condominiums behind the Target Shopping Center. Mr. Villalobos added that another factor in the slight increase in response times is the Public Safety Department is struggling with hiring and maintaining new Community Service Officers, which help Deputies take non-workable reports. Applicants either cannot pass the background investigation or they choose not to take the position.

Sergeant Fiedler also spoke of the length of time it takes for an average booking, which is approximately three hours. He also informed commissioners that all deputies now have body-worn cameras on their uniforms and are activated on every call.

#### ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bell-None


Commissioner Frye notified staff that residents have expressed their concern with the number of coyotes roaming city streets. She also inquired from staff as to what is going on with the vacant home on Bloomdale Street directly across from the Duarte Teen Center.

Commissioner Wright-None

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

  
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Staff

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary