



CITY CLERKS: PLEASE POST

AGENDA

**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022
7:30 A.M.**

VIRTUAL MEETING

In accordance with Assembly Bill 361 (AB361), due to the continuing state of emergency, including masking and social distancing directives as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 virus, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee for Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:30 a.m., will be conducted via teleconference using the Zoom platform. Members of the public may participate virtually in the meeting in the following ways:

- Members of the public may listen to the meeting live by calling 1-669-900-6833 from any phone, Meeting ID: 844 5206 9123, Meeting Password: 459987. (Please note you will not have the ability to speak using the call-in option from a phone line.)

-Public correspondence may be emailed to the City Clerk at lauren@rollinghillsestatesca.gov.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NOTE: *This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding items not listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not listed on the agenda.*

V. CEREMONIAL

- A. RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF PVE PD CHIEF TONY BEST AND PPSC / RCL COMMITTEE CHAIR STEVE ZUCKERMAN

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) UPDATE (SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT)
- B. UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE (RPV VERBAL REPORT – MEETING NOTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 & NOVEMBER 2, 2022)
- C. UPDATE ON THE PENINSULA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASKFORCE (RHE VERBAL REPORT)
- D. ZONEHAVEN EVACUATION PLATFORM UPDATE (RHE)
- E. STATUS UPDATE ON PENINSULA WILDFIRE CAMERAS (RPV)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None.

IX. OTHER MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOTE: *This is the appropriate time for Committee Members to direct the placement of items for future action on upcoming agendas.*

Next regular meeting Thursday, FEBRUARY 09, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.



**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES TO MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Zuckerman at 7:32 a.m. via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Rancho Palos Verdes

David Bradley, Mayor
Eric Alegria, Councilmember

Rolling Hills Estates

Frank Zerunyan, Mayor
Steve Zuckerman, Councilmember

Rolling Hills

Patrick Wilson, Councilmember

Palos Verdes Estates

Dawn Murdock, Councilmember
David McGowan, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:

Rancho Palos Verdes

Ara Mihranian, City Manager
Karina Bañales, Deputy City Manager
Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator
McKenzie Bright, Administrative Analyst

Rolling Hills Estates

Greg Grammer, City Manager
Alexa Davis, Assistant City Manager
Lauren Pettit, City Clerk
Jessica Slawson, Management Analyst

Rolling Hills

Elaine Jeng, City Manager
Christian Horvath, City Clerk

Palos Verdes Estates

Mark Prestwich, City Manager
David Merlin, Community Relations Officer

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

Dr. Alex Cherniss, Superintendent

Suzanne Seymour, Vice-President, Board Member
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Captain James Powers, Lomita Sheriff's Station
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Assistant Chief Brian Bennett, Division 1

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Zuckerman.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2022

Motion by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Wilson to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: Members: Alegria, Bradley, McGowan, Murdock, Wilson, Zerunyan and Zuckerman

NOES: Members: None

ABSENT: Members: Dieringer

VI. OLD BUSINESS

**A. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE
(PVPUSD SUPERINTENDENT DR. ALEX CHERNISS)**

Member Alegria commented that in response to the recent tragedy in Uvalde, he and Mayor Bradley, on behalf of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes have connected with the School District to look for opportunities to better align their resources. He thanked Dr. Cherniss and stated that public safety in school is a common area of focus across the Peninsula cities and the School District.

Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss reported on recent updates and upgrades within the School District regarding communication systems, campuses, gates and cameras. He stated that currently his biggest focus is improving mental health support services for students, recent graduates and young adults. He discussed transition-type services needed for young adults who have graduated, in order to continue to provide support to those needing it, and those who could ultimately lead to safety issues at the schools. He

discussed recent suicides of students and recent graduates, and the importance of focusing on mental health.

Member Alegria inquired about trainings done by the Sheriff's Department with the School District. Dr. Cherniss stated that they haven't been done yet but the School District is very interested in the idea. He also stated that the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department did an active shooter training on one of the school sites recently.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of adding a third School Resource Officer (SRO) on the east side of the Peninsula.

Captain Powers explained that the Sheriff's Department works closely with the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department, and that both departments' active shooter plans mirror each other, in response to Member Wilson. Captain Powers also noted that every local law enforcement agency has a comprehensive collection of school maps that is updated regularly.

Dr. Cherniss explained that the schools all have therapists on site to provide mental health services, in response to Member Murdock. He acknowledged that there is a gap in support once they graduate. He hopes to have more resources available to those who have already graduated, within the next year. He further explained that anonymous tip lines have been set up for the schools, and all student ID's have the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number on them.

Member Zerunyan suggested Dr. Cherniss connect with the Schaefer Center at USC, as well as Supervisor Janice Hahn, to discuss mental health policy.

Discussion ensued about a working Subcommittee for this topic, and who could best contribute to this Committee.

Motion by Member Alegria, seconded by Member Bradley to form a Subcommittee along with Member Zerunyan and the City Managers to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Brown Act requirements for this Subcommittee.

Member Alegria amended his motion to also include Member Wilson and Member Murdock on the Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Member Bradley.

AYES: Members: Alegria, Bradley, McGowan, Murdock, Wilson, Zerunyan and Zuckerman

NOES: Members: None

ABSENT: Members: Dieringer

Member Alegria motioned, seconded by Member Wilson, to direct staff to explore the possibility of expanding the SRO program to three Resource Officers, in order to cover more schools on the east side of the Peninsula, and to bring this information back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Member Bradley inquired if the School District was formally requesting a third SRO. School Board Member Seymour explained that it wasn't a formal request, and that it ultimately is a budgetary issue. Dr. Cherniss stated that the School District's priority would be mental health, and he would not want to take any budgeted money away from that focus. Member Bradley suggested the Subcommittee explore and bring back the best options, whether that is a third SRO or other mental health support services.

Discussion ensued regarding the focus of the Subcommittee.

Alternate motion made by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Zerunyan, to table the former motion until after the School District comes back to the Committee with a formal request for a third SRO.

AYES: Members: Bradley, McGowan, Murdock, Wilson, Zerunyan and Zuckerman

NOES: Members: Alegria

ABSENT: Members: Dieringer

B. UPDATE ON THE PENINSULA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASKFORCE (RHE VERBAL REPORT)

Rolling Hills Estates (RHE) Management Analyst Jessica Slawson reported that the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Taskforce meeting was held this quarter to provide updates for each respective city and partner agency operations. The Peninsula cities partnered with the local fire stations and Lomita Sheriff Station for National Night Out on August 2.

Management Analyst Slawson noted that the School District was also present at the Taskforce meeting and discussed ongoing brush clearance at various school sites, and that they recently updated the emergency supply container. They also plan on conducting emergency drills this year.

Management Analyst Slawson also reported that the Peninsula cities are in the process of planning the annual Prepared Peninsula Expo, that will be held at Peninsula High School in partnership with the Palos Verdes farmers Market on October 30.

C. ZONEHAVEN EVACUATION PLATFORM UPDATE (RHE)

RHE Management Analyst Jessica Slawson provided an update on the Zonehaven program.

Management Analyst Slawson noted that this evacuation platform joins together the coordinated effort between public safety personnel and cities to communicate this information to the public. She also noted that all cities located in the High Fire Risk areas are participating in this program.

Public comment was received from Larry Maizlish, RPV Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, who expressed concern regarding what website address will be included in the printed materials and social media, and the challenges in changing the address if needed. He outlined an emergency dashboard he created, intended to work alongside Zonehaven.

Public comment was received by Irene Lam, expressing support for the dashboard system previously discussed by Larry Maizlish.

Public comment was received by Ruth Braswell, RPV Emergency Preparedness Committee Member, who echoed the previous public comments, and expressed her concern regarding the use of Zonehaven without the dashboard, and the potential need to change the publicized website. She also expressed concern that Zonehaven was for wildfires only, not other major disasters.

Public comment was received by Judy Maizlish, expressing her support for the dashboard being discussed.

Public comment was received by Charles Rennie III echoed the previous public comments.

Vice Chair Zerunyan thanked the members of the public who spoke for their engagement on this issue. He then asked staff to address the public comments.

Member McGowan inquired about funding sources for both Zonehaven and the proposed dashboard.

Emergency Services Coordinator Jesse Villalpando summarized that the main goal in a wildfire response is to centralize information in a one-stop place. He also noted that the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management received a grant to fund Zonehaven for the first three years of the program.

Member Murdock requested more background on the dashboard and how it works with Zonehaven.

Management Analyst Slawson explained that Zonehaven has the capacity to implement other languages, which is part of the roadmap over the next few months. She further explained that Zonehaven is a platform for all types of evacuations and emergencies, not just wildfires. She also noted that Zonehaven works in tandem with the Alert Southbay platform, which will be used to push the information out to the community.

RHE City Manager Grammar noted that Zonehaven is a program being funded and employed by the County, and the purpose of this item on the agenda is to provide an update on that program to the Committee. After Zonehaven is implemented, staff can do an evaluation to see what can be done to augment it if needed.

PVE City Manager Prestwich spoke on his experiences using Zonehaven, having to evacuate residents in the previous cities he has worked in Napa County during wildfires. He emphasized that the purpose of Zonehaven is to simplify the messaging process during an emergency.

RHE City Manager Grammar noted that the cities have not been involved in the creation of this dashboard. He recommended that the cities move forward with Zonehaven, then do an evaluation of what additional services may be needed.

RPV City Manager Mihranian summarized for the Committee that the County is rolling this program out in response to the lessons learned from the Woolsey fire, to help cities in Very High Fire Hazard severity zones to implement a program to evacuate. He stated that Mr. Maizlish's dashboard is a wonderful tool that needs to be vetted and can be considered down the road. Today, staff has provided an update on the latest from the County's Zonehaven program. He further explained that the web address concerns can be worked out in the coming months, and recommends the Committee receive and file staff's report.

Motion by Vice Chair Zerunyan, seconded by Member McGowan to receive and file the report.

- AYES:** Members: Alegria, Bradley, McGowan, Murdock, Wilson, Zerunyan and Zuckerman
- NOES:** Members: None
- ABSENT:** Members: Dieringer

Mr. Maizlish provided further background information on the dashboard tool.

D. STATUS UPDATE ON PENINSULA WILDFIRE CAMERAS (RPV)

Emergency Services Coordinator Jesse Villalpando provided a staff report, summarizing the City of RPV's investigation of the development of a wildfire camera detection system, and information gathered since the last Committee meeting in September. He provided new information regarding coverage and location of the cameras, with two options proposed by Pano AI. He also outlined the cost-sharing estimates, as offset by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Grant funding.

Member McGowan expressed his concerns about the coverage across the City of Palos Verdes Estates (PVE) and requested more information about what the system can and cannot do for PVE specifically. He also questioned the model used for the cost-sharing allocation.

RPV City Manager Mihranian explained the four-year cost covers the funding through the FEMA grant, in response to Vice Chair Zerunyan. He also explained that the Special meeting was not held due to a delay in the information requested, in response to Member McGowan.

Member McGowan requested that the vendor meet with PVE staff to give a better understanding of the risks and advantages unique to the PVE community.

Member Alegria left the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Discussion ensued about how the cameras work, noting that they identify smoke rather than actual flames, which works well in a high topography location such as the Peninsula.

PVE City Manager Prestwich left the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Member Murdock left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Motion by Vice Chair Zerunyan, seconded by Member Bradley to affirm using Option 1, and to receive and file the report.

AYES: Members: Bradley, McGowan, Wilson, Zerunyan and Zuckerman

NOES: Members: None

ABSENT: Members: Alegria, Dieringer, Murdock

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. None.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Bradley requested a follow-up at the next meeting on this meeting's discussion with the School District.

Vice Chair Zerunyan requested a follow-up on Emergency Management and staff's engagement with the issue of the dashboard.

There being no further business before the Palos Verdes Peninsula Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee, Chair Zuckerman adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Pettit
City Clerk
City of Rolling Hills Estates

Approved,

Steve Zuckerman
Chair
City of Rolling Hills Estates



MEMORANDUM

TO: PENINSULA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRENNA TERRONES, PVPUSD ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2022
SUBJECT: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this SRO update.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

SRO Watt and SRO Rozas continue to support the High Schools on a daily basis. About 80% of their time is spent on the campuses helping manage safety, presence with the students to encourage dialogue and assist administrators with investigating situations. The SRO's often give us a "heads up" of students who may need some extra attention or supervision.

Since early September, the balance of our schools have conducted drills for practicing shelter in place, in addition to emergency preparedness for earthquake. Both SROs help to make observations and recommendations to staff. We continue to look at ways to monitor and secure ingress and egress, including the installation/maintenance of some gates and fences. Both SRO's have been helpful with this endeavor. They have also helped train volunteers and staff with traffic at many of the sites. This is simply flagging cars to move to keep traffic in the community moving and helping students to safely travel to school with the help of everyone.

Student and the Law continue to be a positive investment in the future of our youth and our community. The students at RDM take advantage of the course elective. It is imperative, in regard to preventative law enforcement, for students to have the opportunity to learn about laws and penalties, and have their questions answered, by a sheriff deputy in a non- threatening setting. Topics include general law, responsibilities and penalties, driving laws, alcohol and substance abuse, to name a few.

A huge thank you to all Law Enforcement that have voluntarily visited our campuses during the Fall safety drills. It is so important for our students to see everyone working together. We strongly feel our SRO's help our school community to be better each day and staff overwhelmingly feels safer knowing they patrol our campuses with local law enforcement. The district is still exploring the possibility of an additional SRO.



**PENINSULA MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
MEETING NOTES**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

PVPUSD Superintendent Alex Cherniss
PVPUSD Deputy Superintendent Linsey Gotanda
PVPUSD Board Member Matthew Brach
PVPUSD Board Member Ami Gandhi
PVE Councilmember Dawn Murdock
RPV Councilmember Eric Alegria
RH Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Wilson
RHE Mayor Frank Zerunyan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: PVE City Manager Mark Prestwich, RPV Deputy City Manager Karina Bañales, RPV Administrative Analyst McKenzie Bright, RHE Assistant City Manager Alexa Davis

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

The Peninsula Mental Health Subcommittee was formed from action taken by the Peninsula Public Safety Committee (PPSC) and the school district to address, in particular, the student mental health crisis, and how the cities and district can work together to provide mental health support.

PVPUSD outlined their current practices regarding student mental health, including detailing the therapist services provided at the schools, particularly with the full-time therapist positions at the high schools and middle schools, as well as providing the district's general case management practices and student and parent education procedures. PVPUSD is the only school district in the area that provides therapists on campus; the therapist program has been active for five years.

The school district is requesting the cities' support to help create a network to continue mental health services for students after they have graduated, with additional consideration for services that could be provided during inter-sessions (winter break, summer break). Ultimately, the goal would be to provide a "warm handoff" for students seeing PVPUSD therapists to mental health services as they transition to college and/or working life.

Discussion among the subcommittee members ensued, with general support to explore the possibility of implementing a pilot program for the Peninsula to address the handoff gap. Mayor Zerunyan suggested working with USC's [MHART](#) program and

Councilmember Alegria suggested working with [Hope Gatekeepers](#), a nonprofit in Rancho Palos Verdes. It was agreed that the subcommittee would seek presenters to provide additional information on these programs for the next meeting.

In discussion regarding educational materials to parents, Councilmember Murdock suggested the inclusion of “Top 5” emailed educational materials, in addition to seminar/webinar format, to provide critical information to parents. Discussion was initiated on options for educational outreach and will be continued at a future meeting.

It was agreed that there would be a report back in one month.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING:

The following details the action items from the meeting, with the lead organization in parenthesis:

- Seek guest presenters for next meeting:
 - USC MHART program (RHE)
 - Hope Gatekeepers (RPV)
- Provide summary of PVPUSD education efforts for students/parents and trends of presenting issues of students receiving mental health support (PVPUSD)
- Provide summary of existing County mental health services for transition-aged youth (RPV)
- Provide summary of grants potentially available to the cities (RPV)
- Provide summary of grants potentially available to the school district (PVPUSD)



**PENINSULA MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2, 2022
MEETING NOTES**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

PVPUSD Superintendent Alex Cherniss
PVPUSD Deputy Superintendent Linsey Gotanda
PVPUSD Board Member Matthew Brach
PVPUSD Board Member Ami Gandhi
PVE Councilmember Dawn Murdock
RPV Councilmember Eric Alegria
RH Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Wilson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: RPV City Manager Ara Mhramian, RPV Deputy City Manager Karina Bañales, RPV Administrative Analyst McKenzie Bright, RH Executive Assistant to the City Manager Christian Horvath, RHE Assistant City Manager Alexa Davis

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Misty Rivera, Founder and CEO of Hope Gatekeepers, a nonprofit that serves to educate the community about mental health and suicide prevention, provided an overview of Hope Gatekeepers. She discussed risk factors and triggers for mental illness, as well as services provided by Hope Gatekeepers, including training curriculum such as “A Guide to Mental Health, Wealth, and Happiness” and the “87 Human Emotions and Experiences.” Training sessions tend to be 13-week courses but can be modified to a seminar length.

Discussion ensued among the subcommittee and staff regarding mental health among students and recent graduates, education for mental health stigma, and communications efforts.

Assistant to the City Manager Christian Horvath reported that Allcove Beach Cities, part of the Beach Cities Health District, opened yesterday. Allcove provides mental and physical health services, education and employment assistance, peer and family support, and substance use prevention programs for young people ages 12-25 in the greater South Bay, including the Palos Verdes Peninsula, as part of a three year grant.

