



**Executive Board Meeting**  
**September 18, 2019**  
**South Natomas Community Center**  
**2921 Truxel Rd, Sacramento, CA 95833**  
**6:30 PM to 7:15 PM**  
[www.natomascommunity.org](http://www.natomascommunity.org)

**1. Attendance:**

Executive Board Attendees:

Dan Aderholt, Dee Buck, Lizzie Edmondson, Janae Grant, and Ericka Harden

Board Excused Absences:

Nikki Chand and Sachiko Konastu

Community Attendees:

Howard Knudsen and Rich Kermickel

Natomas Garden and Arts Club:

Todd Boyd, Joy Smathers, and Amie Tokuhama

Councilmember Jeff Harris' Representative:

Jocelyn Navarro

Sacramento Police Review Commission Representatives:

Mariana Corona Sabeniano and Graciela Castillo-Krings

**2. Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 PM**

**3. Agenda Changes:**

- The Sacramento Police Department is running late. Officers notified Ericka that there are a number of calls and if they can, they will stop by. Attendees were asked to complete the Police Form so their concerns could be shared with the police department via email.
- Members from the Natomas Garden and Arts Club would like to take a few minutes to speak about the South Natomas Firehouse 15 Project and some of their other work.
- This is a shortened meeting so the board can meet to discuss plans and conduct business in a closed session.

#### 4. Councilmember Jeff Harris' Update - Jocelyn Navarro

##### Garden Highway Construction

- Jeff Harris' Office has received numerous complaints about the traffic on West El Camino due to the Levee Construction on Garden Highway. Some of these complaints include traffic congestion, erratic and unsafe driving, and cars running red lights. They are taking these complaints seriously and are working with their counterparts to see if anything can be done to mitigate the traffic issues being reported. The following steps have already been taken:
  - Integrated all intersections to the City Traffic Operation Center - This will allow real time monitoring of Traffic.
  - Upgraded signal detection system at Northgate and West El Camino
  - Implemented adaptive signal control at Northgate and West El Camino
  - Repaired CCTV at Arden and Northgate
  - Repaired signal detection at Stone Creek and Fairweather
  - Integrated several signals into our ATSPM system. (performance measure and monitoring system)
- When construction first started, Jeff Harris' Office requested additional police presence to help alleviate some of the potential issues. However, given the understaffing issues with the Police Department and the number of traffic teams currently assigned to this area, this hasn't been very effective at mitigating some of the current traffic and safety issues.
- Lizzie Edmondson - What can realistically be done about the traffic on West El Camino, given that it often takes months and dedicated funding to make changes to traffic signaling? Jocelyn - this is what Jeff's Team will be working on with their counterparts.
- Lizzie Edmondson - One of the bottleneck areas along West El Camino is the Northgate/El Camino intersection itself. With the number of cars that have to make right hand turns it often gets backed up because the Pedestrian Crossing is at the same time that cars can turn right. During high pedestrian crossing times two cars are lucky to get through the intersection per light cycle. This backup has also caused a number of cars to turn right onto Northview and there are a number of speeding cars that drive by that preschool and drive dangerously - Jocelyn will pass this information onto their traffic counterparts.
- The current Garden Highway Closure from Truxel to Northgate is projected to come to a close at the end of October. Jocelyn hasn't received any updated information from the Army Corps of Engineers to state otherwise. The next phase of construction will take place West of Truxel on Garden Highway. As soon as she receives updates, she will forward them to community groups so the information can be distributed to the community.
- Councilmember Harris' office is also aware that some residents have been affected by the nighttime work that has been taking place at the I-5 Interchange along Garden Highway. This section of Garden Highway has been closed during nighttime hours to relocate a waterline. If you have been impacted by this work, please feel free to contact Jeff Harris' Office.

### **Upcoming District 3 Events:**

- Behind the Badge Program - This program will be held the third Monday of each month, September-December from 3:30-4:30 at the Natomas High School Multipurpose Room. The first session just occurred and they had 18 girls attend.

This program is an opportunity for teens to talk with female police officers and learn about the Sacramento Police Department. While this program is targeted for female youth, all teens are encouraged to attend.

- COPS On Beat - September 21, 2019 8:00AM-5:00 PM Natomas High School - This will be a fun filled day of fellowship and unity with local Law Enforcement agencies.

### **Other Topics Discussed:**

- Abandoned Vehicles - Rich Kermickel has noticed a number of abandoned, unregistered, or vehicles with expired registrations all over the neighborhood. What is the process for getting them towed?
  - All of these types of vehicles should be reported through 311 either the app or via phone. It is a complaint driven system so there will be no action unless there are complaints filed. Sometimes, even when complaints are filed the issue may not be resolved and this can be due to city understaffing. You should keep calling the complaints in.
  - Over the summer, Ericka Harden and a former NCA Executive Board Member went through a section of South Natomas and made over 800 code violation reports. Very few of them were acted upon. It was their hope that the city would dedicate a day to come and tow the vehicles and address the issues, but this didn't happen.
- LED Lights along the Greenbelt Surrounding Jefferson Park- Dee Buck reported this issue previously and wanted an update. Jocelyn is working with the Light Maintenance Representative on this issue. Hopefully she will have some answers soon.
- Individuals living/conducting illicit activities in their vehicles around Jefferson Park - Dee Buck reported this as an issue at the last meeting. She wanted to report that several of her neighbors have also complained and Sacramento Police Department have dealt with this issue.

### **5. Natomas Garden and Arts Club - Todd Boyd, Joy Smathers, and Amie Tokuhama**

The Garden and Arts Club conduct a number of art and garden-based projects around the community. For example, they have a community garden plot at El Ninos Community Garden. All of the produce that they grow is donated to charities, like Loaves and Fishes. They also work with a number of schools planting gardens and hold art-based events throughout the year. They meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the South Natomas Community Center at 6:15. Their next meeting will be 9/24. At this meeting they will be discussing different volunteering opportunities.

### **Fire Station 15 - Garden and Arts Center**

Over the summer the City Council approved funding for the Garden and Arts Center which will be located at the old Fire Station 15 Building along Truxel Road. The Garden and Arts Club has been meeting with Jeff Harris regarding this project. Jeff Harris' Office is waiting for specific project staff to be assigned to this work.

This will be a center that is for the community at large. They envision that the space will be used for:

- Art Classes
- Art Gallery
- Community members/groups to meet
- Entertainment space
- Demonstration gardens and gardening lessons

They would like to get the community's feedback about what they would like to see in the space via an online [survey](#). The survey can also be completed at the South Natomas Community Center. They would like as many community members to weigh in as possible.

### **Trash Pick-Up at the Fire Station 15 Site:**

The Fire Station 15 Site has been abandoned for almost a year and in that time trash has been dumped, weeds are overgrown, and some people have been seen camping there. The Garden and Arts Club would like to plan a day where volunteers can go and clean up the site. They have reached out to Jeff Harris' Office to:

- Better understand who they need to get permission from to get on the grounds.
- How to get the trash picked up once they are finished.

Jocelyn received their email from Jennifer West, and she will be putting them into contact with the right people to move this project forward. If any community members are interested in volunteering for this event, please email the Garden and Arts Club at: [natomasgardenartsclub@gmail.com](mailto:natomasgardenartsclub@gmail.com).

Dan Aderholt - asked if the garden center would be open to the homeless population helping out. Dan leads a crew of homeless people that clean up the American River Parkway and other areas around the community. His crew could possibly help with this effort and they would bring their own supplies. Dan's email address is:

[Danaderholt@yahoo.com](mailto:Danaderholt@yahoo.com).

- The Garden and Arts Club doesn't see why not. They actively work on homelessness issues by providing food from their community garden to local soup kitchens and charities for the homeless population.

**Other Charities/Places That Could Take Fresh Produce** - In the Spring and Summer the Garden and Arts Club actually has so much produce that Loaves and Fishes cannot

take all of the vegetables/fruits. They have tried to give some of it to Joey's Food Locker, but they do not take fresh produce.

- Ericka Harden - There is a coordinator that works with the Natomas schools that sends home food with kids that need extra help. Ericka can connect the Garden and Arts Club to them to see if they can donate fresh produce when it is available.

**Home and Garden Tour - May 2, 2020** - The Club will be hosting a Garden Tour for the public to visit gardens throughout Natomas. They are in need of 2-3 homes North of the Freeway to include in the tour. Interested individuals can reach out via email:

[natomasgardenartsclub@gmail.com](mailto:natomasgardenartsclub@gmail.com).

#### **6. Sacramento Community Police Review Commission - Mariana Corona Sabeniano and Graciela Castillo-Krings**

- Mariana is the Vice-Chair and District 3 Representative for the Police Review Commission. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and there is one appointee from each Council District. Their role is to look at Police Department Policy and provide feedback.
- For this discussion Mariana and her colleague distributed draft recommendations for Body Worn Cameras. They have been studying this issue since January and developed the recommendations that are included on the Handout (Appendix A). These recommendations will be included in a report that is due to the City Council by December 10th. They are currently sharing these recommendations with community members and groups to gain feedback.
- The last time that the policies were reviewed and updated were March 2017. This policy is what is actually used in training Sacramento Police, so the policy needs to be explicit and reflect what practice needs to be.
- In the committee's discussions with other groups/individuals they found that:
  - People want the body cameras on 24/7. Current policy is that the police officer needs to press a button to start the recording, so it is at the discretion of individual police officers as to whether something is captured. They are supposed to turn it on if they are part of an "active investigation". A police officer can easily forget to turn it on, or they can purposely leave it off.
  - Release of body worn footage within 30 days. The current policy doesn't clearly state when the footage is to be released. While Chief Hahn has worked to have footage released rather quickly ~3 Days they would like this explicitly stated.
  - A supervisor needs to provide authorization of when to turn off the camera. Many individuals gave feedback that until there is more trust with the police there needs to be a clearly defined process of when and how cameras get turned off from recording.

- There are potential issues with having police record all of the time. One of the issues is cost. The cost to store the camera footage from March 2017 was \$1,000,000. As of today, all of the camera footage needs to be kept for at least 2.5 years. Even if this is an issue today, with changing technology we may be able to do this in the future, if costs go down.
- Attitudes about body cameras have changed both from the police and the public. Initially, many police officers were resistant and worried about having their actions recorded; however, many of them actually like that they have video footage that accurately depicts what occurs. They feel like it is a two-way street. It protects the public and the officers.
- Dee Buck - Are there recommendations/training about de-escalation techniques other than "Use of Force"?
  - Yes, the committee has discussed the "Escalation Policy". Mariana will send that to Ericka Harden to distribute to attendees. In that policy they made recommendations for more psychological testing and help for Police Officers to ensure that officers have more mental health resources at their disposal and that they are in the best equipped for duty.
- Meeting attendees and board members agreed with many of these recommendations and felt that the policy needs to be explicit. The committee would like to include as many written public comments as possible in the report. Please give your written feedback about this policy to: [mcoronams@gmail.com](mailto:mcoronams@gmail.com).

#### **7. Adopt a Family - Ericka Harden**

- NCA would like to adopt two families in South Natomas for the holidays. This would mean that NCA would gather donations to help these two families have a good holiday, including food and gifts. We will discuss more of these details in the closed session since time is running short.
- Amie suggested that we see if the group Love Natomas, a non-denominational church group may want to help or participate.

#### **8. Meeting Adjourned - 7:30 PM**

## Body Worn Cameras: Draft Recommendations September 9, 2019

### Overview:

In January of this year, the City Council directed the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission to evaluate the Sacramento Police Department's Police Body Worn Camera (BWC) program. The program was fully implemented in March 2017 and its policy, equipment, community concerns, and other feedback has not been evaluated to determine the program's effectiveness and any need for improvement.

The Commission created the Body Worn Camera Ad Hoc committee (Ad Hoc) to focus on the Council's directive and over the course of the year the Ad Hoc has reviewed similar policies in other cities, met with members of the public, the Sacramento Police Department (SacPD), and other interested stakeholders. The Commission held two community forums in July soliciting feedback from the community on three different policies, one of them being the BWC program. The comments received from the community were:

- BWC should always be on and recording to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Law enforcement officers should not have the discretion to turn the cameras off, unless authorized by a supervisor.
- Solidify the release of BWC footage, within 30 days of a critical incident.

The Ad Hoc committee is continuing to review the recommendations offered in those community forums.

### Draft recommended changes to the Sac PD's Body Worn Camera General Order:

1. (B)(1) "All employees **shall be** issued a BWC **and** are required to wear and use their BWCs while working in uniform..."

The Ad Hoc's recommendation is to strengthen the BWC policy to ensure all officers are required to be issued and wear a BWC during their work shift. As currently written, the policy is not clear that all officers shall be issued a BWC; however, this appears to be the intent based on conversations with Sac PD.

2. In (D)(4), the policy states that: "Only a watch commander or higher can authorize an employee to go in service without a BWC due to an equipment shortage or malfunction." The Ad Hoc recommends creating a reporting requirement for instances when this occurs. Based on our meeting with Sac PD, this should be a rare occurrence, however, if it happens the incident should be documented.

3. (E)(5). "Employees are not required to give notice they are recording when speaking with ~~private citizens~~ **members of the public** during the course and scope of their official duties, even when the contact occurs in a private residence. If asked, employees shall advise ~~citizens~~ **members of the public** they are being recorded. Moreover, employees should strongly consider advising ~~citizens~~ **members of the public** that they are being recorded as a tool to de-escalate a situation, **maintain transparency, and build trust.**

The Ad Hoc recommends changing the words "private citizens" to "members of the public" throughout the General Order. Additionally, while the BWC program

can be a tool to de-escalate a situation, it is also a tool to maintain transparency and to build community trust.

4. In the policy, under G. RESTRICTED USE OF THE BODY-WORN CAMERA AND/OR STORED MEDIA or K. OUTSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REQUESTS, the Ad Hoc recommends adding the following: **No BWC footage shall be shared with immigration enforcement officials, unless there is a court order.**

It is our understanding that this is current practice, therefore the BWC policy should be updated to reflect this process.

5. The Ad Hoc recommends adding a new language to the General Order outlining the process for members of the public to request and to view (but not record or keep) BWC footage.

It is our understanding that this is current practice, therefore the BWC policy should be updated to reflect this process.

6. The Ad Hoc recommends specifying in the BWC policy that Sac PD can provide an interpreter/translator to a non-English speaker that is reviewing BWC footage.

It is our understanding that this is current practice, therefore the BWC policy should be updated to reflect this process.

Need to review further:

- Should the General Order require consent from minors and victims?  
Alternatively, require during the release of BWC footage that minor or victim be redacted or their identities maintain confidential.
- Include an additional sentence clarifying that an officer responding to a call should always turn the BWC on before any interaction with the public.