

MINUTES
ADJOURNED
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
AND
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2007

The adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates and City Council of the City of Rolling Hills was called to order at 5:38 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN.

ROLL CALL

Rolling Hills Estates City Council Members

Present: Mitchell, Seamans**, Zerunyan, Zuckerman*

Absent: Addleman

*COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN arrived at 5:51 p.m.

**MAYOR SEAMANS arrived at 6:30 p.m.

City Staff Present: Doug Prichard, City Manager
Sam Wise, Assistant City Manager
David Wahba, Planning Director
Andy Clark, Community Services Director
Mike Whitehead, Administrative Services Director

Rolling Hills City Council Members

Present: Black, Hill, Lay, Pernell

Absent: Heinsheimer

City Staff Present: Tony Dahlerbruch, City Manager
Marilyn Kern, Deputy City Clerk

AUDIENCE ITEMS

NONE

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

A. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN welcomed everyone in attendance.

1. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE CITY, COUNTY AND AREA G DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Mike Martinet, Area G Disaster Management, noted that a City Council Members Guide to Disasters is available. He reported that there are a number of systems in place throughout the region that will provide mutual aid from various agencies and stressed that city staffs are in need of support in terms of time and financial commitment necessary to undertake training of those systems. He

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noted the importance of reassuring the public that their city is in capable hands.

Mr. Martinet noted that the media can be a powerful ally to effectively release reports and updates to the community.

2. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Tony Iacano, Battalion Chief, noted that their primary role is to provide a qualified well-trained work force to prepare for and respond to emergencies. He was proud to report that they are working with the Coast Guard on a tsunami task force.

In the event of a major earthquake, Chief Iacano explained the procedures they would implement such as sending reports to command and control, establishment of an incident command post, as well implementing disaster communications. If additional assistance is necessary to establish multiple staging areas, cities would open their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and identify what the region needs. He noted that once a short-term prognosis is made of the damage, every street, hazardous facility and school must be surveyed. Residents should plan on being able to take care of themselves in a non-life threatening situation as paramedics will be overwhelmed with emergency injuries.

RH COUNCIL MEMBER PERNELL inquired as to the unified command and how that would be established.

Battalion Chief Iacano noted that, in the event of a major disaster, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will take over as incident commander. He noted that high ranking officers will report to the city councils and relay that information back to the command center.

RHE COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL inquired if there is sufficient personnel to deal with the Peninsula if a County-wide disaster should occur.

Battalion Chief Iacano noted that they are prepared, but that mutual aid may be required. He noted that Topanga Canyon has a plan for their area and suggested designing a plan specifically geared to the Peninsula.

3. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Sgt. David Rozas, Lomita Sheriff's Station, announced their annual Open House scheduled for Saturday, November 3 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. He then reported on the governing codes and policies to handle an emergency with the Sheriff acting as the Director of Emergency Operations. He noted that in case of a disaster, emergency information will be disseminated to the public whereby a declaration of disaster may be made. He then recommended that everyone be prepared for at least a week before assistance may be available.

Sgt. Rozas noted that unit commanders are responsible for pre-planning for critical facilities and continuation of government. He noted that disaster routes are pre-designated but are subject to change depending on conditions. He noted that the role of Sheriff's units is to provide disaster intelligence, but added that volunteers are an integral part of the disaster program. He then stated that the Sheriff's Department must also prepare their facilities as well as schools, pharmacies, and pet identification programs.

RH City Manager Dahlerbruch inquired as to what the city's role is in the EOC.

Sgt. Rozas indicated that cities will set up in their EOC with a staff member and/or CORE Deputy acting as a communication link.

4. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DISASTER WORKER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND PVP COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) OVERVIEW

John Douglas, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, commented that it is everyone's responsibility to assist in a disaster as there are many opportunities to participate in volunteer organizations on the hill. He provided a brief history of volunteer disaster service stating that there are over 400 Peninsula residents in the CERT program. He then referred to the Equine Response Team which has trained volunteers to deal with horses and livestock as well as the Lomita Mounted Posse and Mounted Search and Rescue. He encouraged anyone who might be interested to attend a CERT neighborhood response seminar.

5. DISASTER COMMUNICATION SERVICE (DCS)

Jim Johnson, DCS Operator, noted they have a local station at Rolling Hills Estates City Hall. He explained their organization and the duties they perform. He noted that the majority of agencies on the hill have a radio station and emphasized the importance of radio communications.

In response to RHE COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL, Deputy Corey Johnston noted that other agencies' have mutual aid stations that can be tapped for assistance.

Battalion Chief Iacano reported that a \$40 million dollar County-wide radio project is in progress that will convert radios as well as computers over to digital for interconnectivity.

6. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Pearl Iizuka, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, noted that there are 19 coordinated school sites in position to address an emergency. She noted that their role is to ensure the children's

safety. She noted that ongoing training is provided as well as conducting district-wide test drills. She then stated that although they have sufficient supplies for least 72 hours, they are looking to extend that timeframe and that each school site and district office has a ham radio on site. Additionally, she noted that they have a “parent link” system that has the ability to call each parent who has submitted their number for an emergency contact.

RHE COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN inquired as to the transportation district with respect to buses. Deputy Johnston noted that the Sheriff’s Department has their own bus system, but that PV Transit provides swift and excellent service assistance when a quick response is needed.

7. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LIBRARY DISTRICT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Dallas McMillan, Human Resources Manager, noted she is in charge of purchasing first aid kits and supplies for the libraries as their peak time includes many children. She stated that they have 400 volunteers trained in emergency response procedures and are attempting to upgrade their communications as well as provide 72 hours of preparation.

8. FEDERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Fadi Essmaeel, Homeland Security Director, U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher’s Office, commended everyone on their role in coordinating this meeting. He noted that there is a distinct difference between the roles of tactical operations and policy-making and that both professional first responders and elected officials should understand and appreciate the role of the other.

Mr. Essmaeel briefly explained how the federal government will provide assistance, noting that the Governor’s office may ask the President for a declaration of a disaster. He noted that many federal agencies also have staff on site who will go to the various cities if there is a major incident. He also noted that Los Angeles County provides ongoing training courses.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN inquired into FEMA assistance and how they respond.

Mr. Essmaeel indicated that this is not a response agency, but rather a recovery agency.

RHE City Manager Prichard assured everyone that the Peninsula cities have a well-prepared plan in place that involves communication agencies, volunteers and a tremendous amount of resources. He noted that the city councils’ “pre-disaster” role is to lead and communicate with staff on threat assessment, emergency supplies, budgets, training, and provide information to the public on how they can prepare for at least two to seven days on their own during an emergency.

ADJOURNMENT

RHE MAYOR SEAMANS adjourned the meeting to the regular Rolling Hills Estates City Council meeting of Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. and RH MAYOR BLACK adjourned the meeting to the next regular Rolling Hills City Council meeting on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Hope J. Nolan
Deputy City Clerk

Douglas R. Prichard
City Clerk