

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Report to the City Council



FIRE DEPARTMENT



POLICE DEPARTMENT





Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
- **Customer expectations**
- **Issues**
- **Recommendations**
- **Summary**

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum - Introduction

The Forum is single-focus group of citizens who have a strong interest in public safety.

- **Facilitators:** Ron Fink & Bernie Federmann
- **Participants:** Ralph and Carol Harman, Kurt Landthaler & Randy Harris.
- **Public Safety Commission:** Robert Cuthbert.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum - Introduction

– City Staff:

- **Fire Department –**
Chief Linual White & Battalion Chief Stan Hart
- **Police Department -**
Chief Bill Brown , Capt. Patrick Williams
& Sgt. Lane Middleton
- **Finance Director –** John Walk.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Background

During the 2004 Mayoral and City Council campaign “*public safety*” was identified as an election issue.

- The Public Safety Commission held hearings, however issues were not clearly defined.
- None of the candidates could quantify any specific issues.
- There was no in-depth public debate concerning either issues or proposed resolutions.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Background

A customer based Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum was formed to explore the delivery of public safety services, to identify issues and propose remedies.



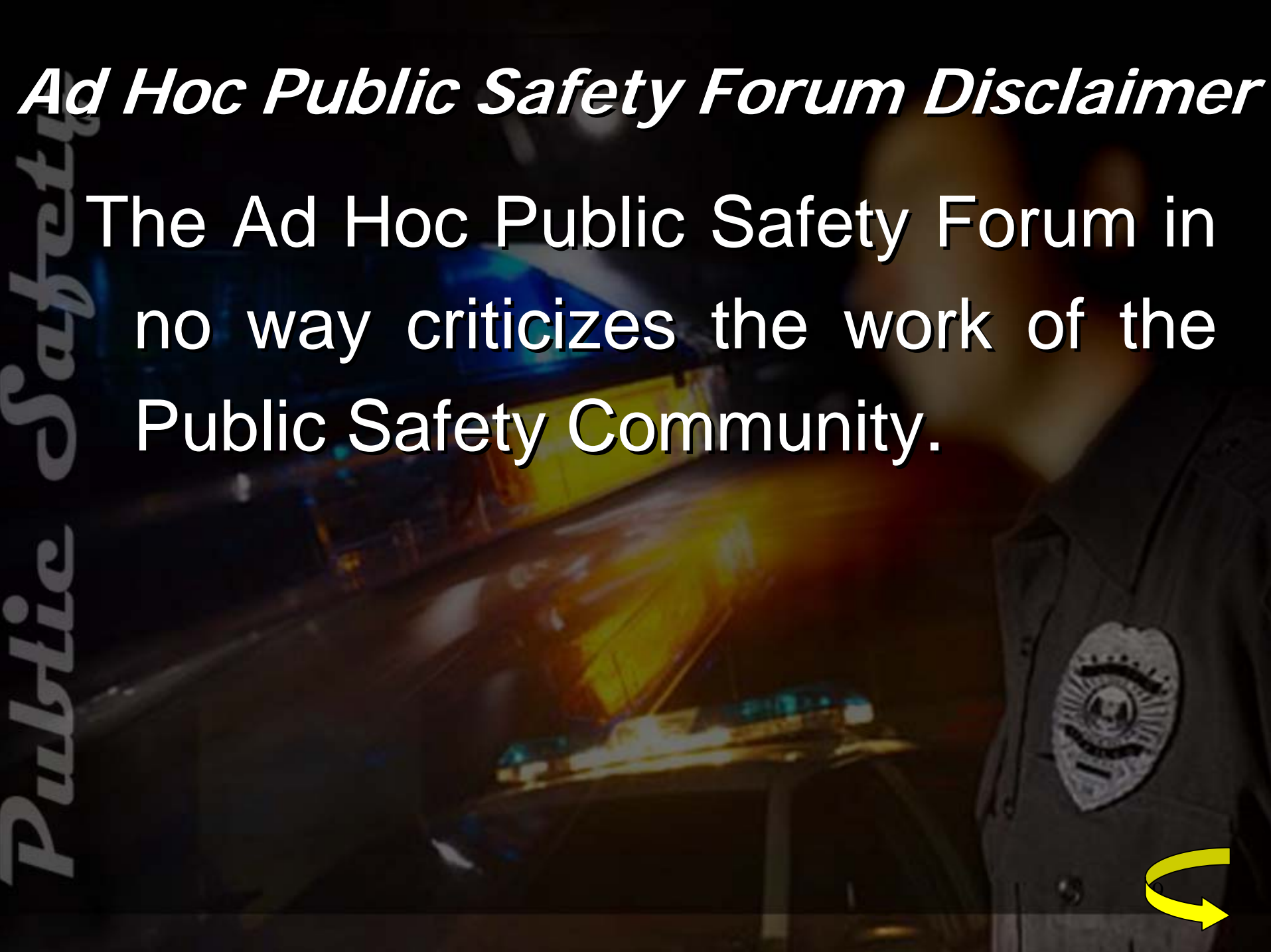
Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Background

- City staff provided public domain information and spoke candidly with forum members.
- The community was polled in an informal survey.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Background

- Several prominent citizens were asked to provide input.
- The Ad Hoc Forum spent over 295 hours researching data and preparing this report.



Public Safety

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Disclaimer

The Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum in no way criticizes the work of the Public Safety Community.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Disclaimer

The PSC was informed of the Forum's intent to evaluate public safety prior to our first meeting.

–The PSC was provided with this briefing prior to our report to the City Council.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Disclaimer

The staff of the Police and Fire

Departments are commended for their dedication to duty. The inadequacies described in this presentation are associated with the need for additional resources, not the extraordinary efforts of the professionals who serve our community.



*Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety Commission
Expectations*

Public safety incidents do not respect the clock or the day of the week. They occur at all hours, in all weather conditions, on holidays and weekends.

***Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety Commission
Expectations***

- The Public Safety Commission reviews local concerns and advises the City Council concerning criminal activities, fire protection or EMS issues or social conditions that present a real or perceived threat to public safety in Lompoc.



Public Safety

*Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety Commission
Expectations*

Public (customer) expectations are that:

- Meetings are noticed on the City Bulletin Board, in the Lompoc Record and on the City website so that the maximum public exposure is available for PSC meetings.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Public Safety Commission Expectations

- Meetings are scheduled so that there is a quorum for every meeting.
- Meeting agenda and minutes are available on the City website.



*Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety Commission
Expectations*

Public (customer)
expectations are that:

- Community service organizations are invited to meetings periodically to express their concerns.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum

Public Safety Commission

Expectations

- PSC members “ride along” in each of the four community policing areas, at least once each year to witness criminal activity levels first hand.
- PSC member's regularly attend Police and Fire Department outreach meetings to review local concerns within the constraints of the Brown Act.



Public Safety

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum

Public Safety Commission

Expectations

Public (customer) expectations are that:

- Public safety facilities are planned based on the recommendations of the PSC and at the direction of the City Council.**
- The budget to operate and maintain the public safety infrastructure is prepared by the City staff, reviewed by the PSC and approved by the City Council.**

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Fire Department Expectations

The basic responsibility of government is to provide prompt resolution of emergency conditions. The customers expectations are that the Fire Department will:



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Fire Department Expectations

- Prevent fires and/or promptly intervene to perform physical rescues, prevent the propagation of a fire to adjoining properties, reduce property damage and/or contain a hazardous materials release to the point of origin.





Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Fire Department Expectations

- Promptly resolve emergency medical emergencies and provide prompt transportation to the Lompoc District Hospital.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum

Police Department Expectations

The basic responsibility of government is to provide prompt resolution of emergency conditions. The customers expectations are that the Police Department will:



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum

Police Department Expectations

– Promptly intervene during violent crimes, provide aggressive police patrols, recover stolen property, identify perpetrators of crimes and submit them to the courts for prosecution.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Police Department Expectations

- Prevent crime through effective community policing, in partnership with citizens.

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Public Safety – Issue #1

- Issue #1: The level of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels of the Fire Department appear inadequate.



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Public Safety – Issue #1



–In 1986 the LFD responded to 1,211 calls and last year to 2,828 calls. Call volume and population have increased while LFD staffing levels have gone unchanged for 20+ years.

	1986	1992	1995	2000	2004
Responses	1,211	1,524	1,701	2,153	2,828
Population	30,182	37,649	39,526	41,403	42,500
Staff Level	25	25	25	25	25
Ratio	.82	0.66	0.63	0.60	0.58

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Public Safety – Issue #1

Industry standards recommend that the first unit arrive on-scene of an emergency call within 4-minutes, 90% of the time.



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Public Safety – Issue #1

The City budget sets a goal of emergency resource arrival within five-minutes, 90% of the time.

- **Currently, due to its limited resources the Lompoc Fire Department arrives within 5-1/2 minutes, 65% of the time.**
- **In 2004, there were 398 overlapping responses where no LFD units were available for additional calls.**



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Public Safety – Issue #1

Regional comparisons demonstrate an average ratio of .8 to 1.25 firefighters per 1,000 population. The current average in Lompoc is substantially lower at .58 per 1,000.

City	Population	Ratio f/f to population	Paid fire fighters	Stations
<i>Lompoc (2000 census)</i>	41,103	.58	25	2
Gilroy	41,464	.97	40	3
Murrieta	44,282	.95	42	3
Newark	42,471	1.2	51	3
Palm Desert	41,155	1.4	59	3
San Bruno	40,165	.8	35	2
San Luis Obispo	44,174	1.25	55	4

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Public Safety – Issue #2

- **Issue #2: The level of emergency medical services appears inadequate.**
- **American Medical Response, a private ambulance company, provides emergency transportation and paramedic service, however AMR is frequently sent to Santa Maria or Solvang where the call volume is greater.**





***Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Issue #2***

- Approximately 35% of County Fire Medic 51's call volume is to EMS calls within the City of Lompoc.**
- Overlapping calls (about one each day) and the absence of the AMR or county fire ambulance create a void in the transportation element of EMS in the City.**

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Public Safety – Issue #3

- Issue #3: The level of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels of the Police Department appear inadequate.
 - 3,989 cases were referred for investigation in 2004. The clearance ratio was only 37% (meaning the case was resolved).




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Public Safety – Issue #3

- The clearance ratio has steadily declined since 1998 when it was 72%.
- Activities per officer have increased from 47 per month in 1999 to 63 in 2003 and 94 in 2004.
- Recent increases in violent gang activity is challenging the resources of the LPD.

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Public Safety – Issue #4

- Issue #4: Fire and Police Department facilities appear inadequate.
 - Some fire and rescue equipment is stored outside of enclosed storage space. There is no capacity for expansion of service.
 - The Fire Department does not have a training facility to maintain skills. 

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Issue #4

- The Police Department does not have adequate administrative, detective, parking or evidence storage space.
- Some existing facilities are in need of expansion and/or significant repair.

***Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Issue #5***

- Issue #5: Funding to support public safety improvements appears inadequate.



***Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Issue #5***

- Resolving staffing issues for the delivery of fire, EMS and police services will cost approximately \$87,000 per new employee.
- Facility additions and repairs may cost approximately \$250 per square foot.



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Public Safety – Issue #5

- 72% of the General Fund is currently committed for funding public safety services.
- Grant funding has limited usefulness and should not be relied upon as a long-term solution for staffing deficiencies.

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Public Safety – Issue #6

- Issue #6: Pre-retirement age attrition may impact the delivery of effective police services.
 - 29 officers left the LPD for another agency, the bulk of them to the Santa Maria PD. The net experience loss to SMPD from the LPD was 114.2 years.



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Public Safety – Issue #6

- The loss of experienced employees erodes the experience base needed to address emergencies and investigate crimes.
- Training new police officers is a lengthy process which strains available resources.

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Public Safety – Customer Expectations

- **Staffing; the City must:**
 - Provide sufficient LFD resources to respond promptly to resolve two simultaneous emergency incidents and have sufficient resources to address a third incident.
 - Provide sufficient LPD resources to effectively and safely handle a minimum of two simultaneous in-progress emergencies.



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Public Safety – Customer Expectations

- Provide sufficient LFD/LPD resources to prevent and investigate fires/crimes, contain active crime scenes and capture criminals.
- Provide sufficient LFD resources to provide emergency medical services including on site evaluation, treatment and transportation.



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Public Safety – Customer Expectations

- Training; the City must:
 - Provide adequate funding for emergency medical, firefighter and police officer specialized skill training.
 - Provide sufficient qualified and trained personnel to assure the safety of the victims, responders and the public.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #1

Issue #1: The level of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels of the Fire Department appear inadequate.



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Public Safety – Recommendation #1


- **Recommendation:**

- Increase Fire Department staffing to a ratio of 1:1,000. This would require an increase of 16 additional fire personnel based on the 2000 census.

- Develop plans to accommodate adequate staffing levels consistent with the population expected at General Plan build out levels.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #1

- The City should:
 - Consider adopting NFPA Standard 1710, “*Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*” to assure firefighter and the public’s safety.
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Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #1

- The City should:
 - Change City standards to conform with 4-minute industry standard arrival times at 90% of the incidents.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #2

Issue #2: The level of emergency medical services appears inadequate.





Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #2

Recommendation:

- The City should provide dedicated and reliable ambulance services.
- The City should train and provide Emergency Medical Service, Expanded Scope firefighters on each engine company.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #3

Issue #3: The level of service, deployment capabilities, and staffing levels of the Police Department appear inadequate.



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Public Safety – Recommendation #3

- Recommendation:
 - The City Council should establish acceptable limits for staffing the Police Department. As a minimum, a goal of 75% clearance ratio should be established in the detective division and a patrol strength that is sufficient to handle two in-progress violent crimes responses should be provided.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #4

Issue #4: Fire and Police
Department facilities appear
inadequate.

- Recommendation:
 - The City should provide adequate facilities to house current and future public safety functions.

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Public Safety – Recommendation #5

Issue #5: Funding to support public safety improvements appears inadequate.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #5

Recommendation:

- The City Council should request that the staff prepare cost estimates for staffing increases and recommend a sales tax increase measure specific to Public Safety for a future election.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #5

Recommendation:

- The City Council should request that the staff prepare cost estimates for the repair and/or construction of adequate facilities.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum
Public Safety – Recommendation #6

Issue #6: Pre-retirement age attrition may impact the delivery of effective public safety services.

- Recommendation:
 - Develop recruitment mechanisms to become and remain competitive in the public safety employee marketplace.



Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Summary

The citizens of Lompoc are fortunate to have a group of individuals who are willing to risk their safety to help resolve our emergency situations.

Ad Hoc Public Safety Forum Summary

The City Council must provide them with the resources necessary to preserve the peace, rescue injured people, resolve hazardous materials incidents and combat fires.

