

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

Virtual Meeting

Port Angeles, Washington

October 15, 6:00 pm

This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Margolis called the regular meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Members Present: Chair Mary Margolis, Vice Chair John Hauck, Jessica Johnson, Sandy Sinnes, Liz Uraga (arrived at 6:07), Evan Brown (arrived at 6:20)

Members Absent: Kelsey Lane

Staff Present: Derrell Sharp, Fire Chief; Brian Smith, Police Chief; Jessica Toth, Clerk

Guest: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

LATE ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA/REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chair Margolis commented that the board would skip this section as this time since a quorum was not present to approve the minutes.

INFORMATION:

Fire Department Report:

Chief Sharp started with a staffing update. Nick Wrangle, paramedic, is scheduled to graduate on October 30, 2025. After graduation, he will be permanently placed on the PAFD peak unit.

Thanks to recent First Federal grant funding, all PAFD staff have been equipped with ballistic vests and ballistic helmets for incidents involving violence. In addition, all first response units have been equipped with active shooter hostile event response bags that consist of tourniquets, chest seals, needle decompression, elias bandages, quick litters, and triage tape. It's something that staff has been consistently training on for the last year.

PAFD has successfully onboarded four new volunteers for a total of over 15. The volunteer Fire Academy begins 1st week of November and will run through April.

Rescue swimmer training was completed this month. Training started at the Shore Indoor Aquatic Center with fundamentals and then in the afternoon, training was held at the pier. Chief Gage swam about one hundred yards off the pier and in teams of two, staff were able to facilitate a live surface water swimmer rescue.

Next week, Chief Gage and Chief Sharp will go to the Snohomish County Emergency Operations Center to attend a FEMA ICS train the trainer course, which will allow staff to put on the higher level ICS classes instead of bringing in an outside instructor to teach the classes to staff.

Chief McKeen will be making a presentation to City Council about the new fire prevention and life safety inspection program approved by City Council last year.

Call statistics for the month of September included 519 calls for service; 361 of those were EMS calls. Of those, 237 calls were basic life support calls for service and 124 were advanced life calls. Staff transported 150 times to OMC, responded to two overdoses and seven motor vehicle accidents. October 16 is the statewide Great Shake for earthquake awareness, and Chief Sharp provided an earthquake safety tip flyer to the board.

Thanks to Chief Gage, PAFD recently added autism kits to our ambulances. The kit is filled with sound-deafening devices, a weighted blanket, tactile toys to help with concentration, and an “I am Autistic” tag to be placed around them so that all hospital staff will quickly identify the patient’s condition. In addition, communication charts are included so the patients can communicate nonverbally.

Chair Margolis paused between department reports to welcome the new board member, Liz Uruga. Introductions were done for all board members and staff.

Police Department Report:

Chief Smith started with a staffing update. Pencom - all of the trainees have either completed or almost completed their training. 2026 is going to be a great year for the 911 center.

The Joint Public Safety Facility is currently in the bid process. Once awarded, construction of the facility is anticipated to begin in November or December of 2026.

The records division staffing is down a few people which will be a challenge for evidence, public records, pistol licenses and body cameras. For patrol and code enforcement PAPD is down five officers. Three quarters of 2026 we will be behind in terms of staffing until hiring training in September 2026. Being not fully staffed puts a strain on everyone which in turn means people see less of staff out in the field, and certain things take longer to get done.

Incident workload: Patrol made seven arrests. There was one arm robbery and the suspect is still at large as this is a complicated case. Two officers were on stone garden patrol which is a FEMA funded program which allowed them to do their job patrolling parks, downtown and on Ediz Hook. Peninsula Daily News recently reported on a person who was sentenced to 20 years, possibly longer, for human trafficking which isn’t common in this area.

The PAPD Regional Training Center recently had some improvements done to the berm for the shooting range with the help of staff from Public Works & Utilities. We want to keep the spent rounds in the sand as we have a road and City facility behind it. Prior to the berm improvements, some handgun rounds were still flipping over the top which is like throwing a rock, but not ideal. Two truckloads of sand were added to the berm as well as large plastic nylon bags of sand on the top to absorb the spent rounds. The improvements have been many years of work. This is the only active firearms training facility in the area. There is a classroom at the facility and staff looks forward to hosting one of the Public Safety Advisory Board meetings there and give a tour to board members.

Sergeant Corey Malone is applying for a really unique grant for a detective based electronics evidence dog. If approved, this will be one hundred percent grant funded. The dog will be a unique dog, unlike the current K9 dogs, to find electronics that suspects may be concealing. It will help find evidence more quickly.

Chief Smith also spoke of the upcoming planned protests, the locations and that officers will be present to ensure public safety.

CONSENT AGENDA/REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Clerk confirmed with Chair Margolis that there was now a quorum for the meeting.

Chair Margolis asked if there was a motion to approve the September 17, 2025 minutes. Vice Chair Hauck moved to approve the minutes as written. Member Sinnes seconded the motion.

Hearing no objection, the motion carried 6-0.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Bike Lane Discussion - Vice Chair Hauck spoke to how to make a recommendation to City Council. He said he will draft a memo and bring it to the next meeting. No action was taken.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

No members had reports to share.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40.

The next scheduled PSAB Meeting November 19, 2025.