



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION 2025 WORK PLAN **DRAFT**

### **BACKGROUND**

Per the Ordinance assigning new duties and authorities to the Fire and Police Commission, it states [2.09.040 B(9)] that the police monitor role within the City Administrator's Office will coordinate with the Commission to submit an annual report and work-plan to the City Council no later than March 1 of each year.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Fire and Police Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and to the City Administrator in all matters relating to the efficient and adequate Fire and Police protection for the City of Santa Barbara.

The Commission is dedicated to strengthening the relationship between the community and the Santa Barbara Police Department and Fire Department by providing transparent oversight and increased civilian input regarding departmental policies, practices, and procedures.

### **2025 KEY PLANNING OBJECTIVES**

The Fire and Police Commission is a chartered Commission and has long-standing, quasi-judicial duties relating to permitting and operating policies facilitated through the Santa Barbara Police Department. The following planning objectives do not include these regular business items that are addressed during public meetings.

The Fire and Police Commission is proposing to accomplish the following planning objectives in the 2025 calendar year:

- (1) **Identify and implement ways in which the community can engage more in the efforts of the work of the Fire and Police Commission.** One of the responsibilities of the Fire and Police Commission is to provide a forum to facilitate communication between the community and the Fire and Police Departments, including opportunities for community input and education on departmental policies, procedures, and practices in Santa Barbara. Though the Commission meetings are held in publicly accessible venues and often recorded live, many community members do not feel comfortable participating for a variety of reasons. The Commission is committed to continuing its efforts to build these bridges with

our diverse community members by working with trusted partner organizations to create safe, open spaces for dialogue on critical and timely issues.

- (2) **Coordinate with City staff to publicize meetings of the Fire and Police Commission and ensure that the public has access to relevant data and meeting materials.** The Commission will assist City staff in assessing the current platform(s) used to communicate City Advisory Group meeting information and to determine how to: (a) better leverage existing platforms; (b) expand networks to engage more members of the public; and/or (c) create new mechanisms to share information.
- (3) **Gain a better understanding of the investigatory process for complaints of police misconduct and use of force incidents.** The members of the Fire and Police Commission have participated in trainings on the complaint process and use of force investigatory process. This year, the Commission would like to exercise its authority to review and discuss with the Police Chief individual investigations, if and when they become disclosable under the California Public Records Act pursuant to California Penal Code Section 832.7. The Commission will coordinate with the City Attorney's Office and the Police Department to identify investigation(s) that meet these criteria and that would assist in understanding the processes in greater detail.
- (4) **Receive additional training and consultation on how the Commission can exercise its ability to make public statements.** The Commission will coordinate with the City Administrator's Office and City Attorney's Office to learn how best to facilitate public statements on behalf of the Commission in response to important and timely issues under the purview of the Fire and Police Commission.