

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY**  
**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 9, 2021**

Commissioners present: Chair Michelle Terrell, Vice-Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Victoria Lim, Ashely Raveche, and Brian Jolda.

Staff attending: Deputy Chief Tom Welch

Absent: None

**Meeting called to order** at 6:38 pm by Chair Terrell.

**Approval of Minutes** from October meeting minutes proposed with a motion by Commissioner Perrey and seconded by Commissioner Lim: Minutes approved as amended.

**Old Business:**

- Appreciation to Maggie Lang for her efforts to support the EPC, NRG, and CERT programs. Read by Chair Terrell:
  - *Maggie Lang has been dedicated to the preparedness of Marin County residents for over two decades. Her early efforts were focused on disaster preparedness at the schools and since has blossomed into the entire County. A true champion and visionary for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, Maggie has grown the program by leaps and bounds into the institution that exists today. At the core of many of Maggie's accomplishments is neighbors helping neighbors -- developing citizen volunteers who are trained and willing to help each other should the unthinkable occur.*
  - *A skilled educator, Maggie has been instrumental in delivering programs such as Get Ready, Get Ready 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Marin Business Emergency Readiness Program (MBER), and CERT. Educating our youth, high schoolers, and residents are the cornerstone to preparedness.*
  - *Maggie is a master collaborator. Working among several disaster councils, Maggie often bridges the gaps between communities to share best practices that improve preparedness programs. She has been instrumental in leading the CERT steering committee on a professional trajectory towards building a reliable resource throughout Marin County. Maggie is a skilled communicator. Speaking at numerous DC3 events, at the Marin County Board of Supervisors as well as various city council*

*meetings, Maggie is tenacious at raising awareness, garnering support for programs, and delivering an improved product.*

- *Although Maggie is retiring from her county post, she will remain active and tireless in the pursuit of educating and preparing all residents within her hometown of Mill Valley.*
- *Maggie, we thank you for your vision, leadership, tenacity, and passion. You have brought several fledgling programs to flight, and we will do our best to grow them in the future.*

- **COVID-19 Update-**

Chair Terrell reported:

- o The COVID-19 case rate has doubled in the last ten days. Marin County has had over 16,000 cases since the pandemic began. We are currently averaging about 40 cases per day. Approximately 198 people have died associated with the virus. Marin County has the highest vaccination rate in California and has yet to see a rise in hospitalizations, which demonstrates the efficacy of the vaccine. Marin County is now shifting to hospitalization rates vs. case rates as the new metric to follow. Mask mandates will be triggered based on hospitalizations. Although masks are not currently mandated, it is highly encouraged, especially with the new, highly transmissible Omicron variant that is now found in 60 countries. It, however, does not seem to be causing as severe illness as previous variants. Marin County encourages all 18 years and up to get boosted as significant protection from COVID has been identified with the booster. The unvaccinated are 13x more likely to be infected, 35x more likely to be hospitalized, and 19x more likely to die from COVID (excluding the Omicron variant which isn't in those counts).

Marin County has approximately 97% of its residents (ages five and up) having had at least one shot, with 89% of those eligible being considered fully immunized. In total, 86% of Marin residents (including those who are still ineligible) have been fully vaccinated.

In November, the pediatric vaccines became available. As of this meeting:

26% of (ages 5-11) are immunized.

36% of (ages 5-11) one shot

38% of (ages 5-11) no shot

A new county focus has been placed on pediatric vaccines. (discussion followed)

Arson threats related to vaccines and masking have occurred throughout the County, with law enforcement agencies have been investigating. (discussion followed)

- **Southern Marin Disaster Council (Next Meeting January 20, 2022):**
  - Commissioner Perrey, along with the new NRG Coordinator Elaine Wilkinson, will work on the agenda for the next Disaster Council meeting. All commissioners were encouraged to participate in the meeting.
  - Elaine will discuss the new roles of the NRG and deliver this presentation to disaster councils and City Councils throughout Southern Marin. Other subjects include the water district. A save-the-date has been sent.
  
- **Debriefing of December 5<sup>th</sup> Winterfest tabling event :**
  - Second tabling event for 2021.
  - One hundred go-bags were disseminated. We had a great spot that allowed us to reach out to many people. And many visited the table on their own
  - Most contacts said they were on their path towards preparedness.
  - Clarification of two types of evacuation:
    - A fire outside of town coming into town - go to a CRA
    - A fire inside their canyon – consider going to the CRA
  - Commissioners noted repetitive messaging is working with the community.
  - One thing that is not resonating is the question of where I go during a fire:
    - Know two ways to go and two modes of travel.
  - Swag was well-received.
  - 99% of contacts had signed up for alerts and warnings.
  - Consider not putting everything in the grab-n-go bag swag to not create confusion on the materials.

**New Business:**

- **EPC Elected Officers: Development of Annual 2021 EPC Report:**
  - Nominations for new EPC leadership positions will occur in January 2022
  - There is one vacant EPC seat and 3 current commissioners up for renewal for their second term (Coleman, Perry, and Raveche) (discussion followed)
  
- **Good Neighbor Guide:**
  - Commissioner Raveche reported that the Good Neighbor Guide has been a work in progress for over a year. We need to ensure that links are correct due to website changes and the rollout of Zonehaven. Commissioner Raveche will work with the Southern Marin Fire Protection District's Communications Coordinator to finalize the product for dissemination.
  
- **Planning Tabling Events for 2022(Earth Day, etc.):**
  - Commissioner Perry announced a possible good tabling event/outreach opportunity for the EPC in the Spring of 2022. On April 24, 2022, an Earth Day event at the MV Community Center will take place. The lead organization is Green Change, but the City of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Department and Sustainable Mill Valley are key partners to help put it on. Commissioner Perrey suggested that the EPC can have a joint table with Southern Marin Fire, NRGs, and CERTs if everyone wants to join. He will serve as lead contact for the EPC

and encourages EPC members to get involved in helping to plan the event, as well as to staff the EPC table.

- **Development of the 2021 Annual Report:**

- Chair Terrell and Chief Welch will draft and deliver the EPC report to the City Council on February 7, 2022.
- We look to the other EPC Commissioners to add value with their accomplishments and review the report during the January (2022) meeting. Commissioners asked to submit contributions to Chief Welch and Chair Terrell by the first week of January.

- **Development of the EPC Strategic Plan for 2023-2026:**

- When we created the Strategic Plan that governs us now – for 2019-2022 – we met as a full group in the late spring of 2018 to brainstorm what issues we all thought were most important in fulfilling our purpose laid out by the city which is:
  1. Identifying and organizing community groups
  2. Promoting community emergency response training
  3. Educating residents on ways to be self-sufficient in a disaster.

Then a smaller subcommittee (Chair Terrell and former commissioners Tricia Ossa and Jeff Sills) took those ideas and created several goals and objectives for those three years. The subcommittee worked together over a few months and brought back a draft document for refinement and approval with the larger commission and then submitted that strategic plan to the city council in the fall.

With at least one new commissioner joining the team this year, Chair Terrell suggests that we follow a similar approach, with an off-site meeting in May to launch the process. We would want the new commissioner(s) to get used to the process and the subject matter before beginning the development of the next strategic plan.

- **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- **Finance:** Nothing to report
- **Communication:** Chair Terrell reported that since the October EPC meeting, she has tweeted over 65 times on the EPC Twitter account – some original content and other times retweets from partners such as SMFD and the city of Mill Valley. Together, those tallied over 7,000 views. On the EPC Facebook account, she created 27 posts, largely original messaging, which yielded approximately 1,800 views. Chair Terrell noted that the one-year old social media presence continues to pay off in terms of connecting the

EPC with the public. On another Communications note, she encouraged commissioners to favorite the following numbers on their cell phones so that if there is an actual emergency and your phone is on Do Not Disturb, you will get the alerts – according to the Office of Emergency Services, emergency alerts calls will come from 415-473-6376 and text messages will come from 88911.

- o **NRG/CERT:** Elaine Wilkinson has stepped into her new position as Southern Marin’s first NRG Coordinator and Chair Terrell reports that Elaine is really connecting with a variety of populations in the Southern Marin area.
- o **Equity:** Nothing to report
- o **Evacuation Drill Planning:** Chair Terrell spoke with the City of Mill Valley Mayor earlier this month and he said he would like the EPC to focus on a 2022 evacuation drill on Miller Ave similar to the Blithedale evacuation drill. She also reported that OES is planning a countywide event regarding AlertMarin this Spring, and that the EPC may want to tag on to that.
- o **Community Partnerships:** This past month, the EPC worked with the Mill Valley Chamber to host the emergency preparedness table at Winterfest. Chair Terrell helped Old Mill School run their annual earthquake and evacuation drill this past Tuesday on December 7. This was part of the Mill Valley school system’s district-wide evacuation drill. Chief Welch scheduled a few SMFD firefighters to be at each of the schools to observe and provide feedback about each school’s efforts.
- o **Website Update:** Chair Terrell encouraged everyone to check out Marin County’s new Emergency Portal: [emergency.marincounty.org](https://emergency.marincounty.org) She said it is a comprehensive site for all sorts of very up-to-date information about disasters and preparedness.

#### **Staff Reports:**

- o **Chief Welch:**
  - o Winter storm preparations: The City of Mill Valley have been completed, and setting aside the large storm in October, our creeks and systems have responded favorably.
  - o Fire Season update: Nothing significant to report
  - o MWPA: Nothing to report
  - o CERT: Marin County Disaster Preparedness Coordinator interviews are set with high hopes for a qualified candidate to move forward. Thanks to Commissioners who are participating in the interviews.
  - o NRG: January will bring a presentation to Mill Valley EPC, Southern Marin FPD’s EDPC, Sausalito, and the Marin County Disaster Council.

**Commissioner reports:** nothing additional to report.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 13 at 6:30 pm, in-person at City Hall.**

DRAFT