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**City of Sebastopol****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SEBASTOPOL ANNOUNCES SPECIAL MEETINGS JUNE 23 & 30 TO PLAN PROCESS TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS**

**Sebastopol, Calif., (June 19, 2020)** – At its June 16th City Council Meeting, the City Council approved two special meetings to plan a process to address community concerns regarding police policies and racism and nurturing a safe and healthy community. Both meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. The first meeting will take place on June 23rd at 7:00 PM and will cover specific information about the City's law enforcement policies and procedures and planning next steps to facilitate more community input. The second meeting is scheduled for June 30th at 6:00 PM. Public participation and comments regarding steps that should be taken by the City are especially appreciated. The agenda and information on how to participate in the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be posted on the City's [Meetings page](#).

Says Sebastopol Mayor Patrick Slayter, "We realize that all of the public's concerns and all of the issues cannot be addressed in just one or two meetings. These meetings are the beginning of what we see as an ongoing collaborative process between city government, citizens, and non-profit and other community organizations. For example, should scheduling town hall meetings be a priority in this process? How many and when? This meeting is for planning our next steps in facilitating more community input and collecting more specific information about the City's law enforcement policies and procedures. This will allow the City Council to make fully informed decisions as it sets priorities and policies for our future that best reflect the values of our community."

In addition to receiving input from the public, the June 23 meeting will include comments from Sebastopol Acting Police Chief Greg DeVore and a presentation on suggested processes to move forward by Jerry Threet, a consultant on policy advocacy on behalf of public entities and community members in the areas of police accountability, Public Records Act requests, and consumer, worker and tenant protections.

Instructions for citizens who wish to make public comment but are unable to participate in the virtual meeting may be found below and on the city website [here](#).

**For Items Not on the Agenda:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items not on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the virtual City Council meeting. All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)

**For Items Listed on the Agenda:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items listed on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the agenda item during the virtual City Council meeting. **Email comments must identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email.** All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to [mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)

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