This past year, the City completed a telephone system upgrade to replace the antiquated analog system, which had reached the end of its useful life. Residents calling the City in the afternoon may now listen to an automated system prior to reaching the Police Department, which they wish to reach and be directly connected, streamlining the process and saving time.

The new, modern system was installed utilizing VoIP over Internet Protocol technology, which runs over the internet, as opposed to a traditional landline telephone service that is provided by a regional phone company. The quality and sound of a VoIP system have come so far that it's nearly impossible to tell the difference between landline and internet-based calls.

The new VoIP technology offers several advantages over the prior system, including lower cost of ownership and easier management. Among others, the newest technology seeks to ensure that the City of Palos Verdes Estates operates as efficiently as possible and in line with IT industry standards that have evolved over time.

NEW PALOS VERDES ESTATES POLICE CHIEF APPOINTED

In January 2019, the City Manager appointed Captain Mark Velez as Police Chief of the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department. Chief Velez has been with the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department since 1986, working his way through the ranks of Reserve Police Officer, Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain of Operations. Chief Velez’s priorities include providing a culture of law enforcement that is proactive, responsible and transparent, and ensuring the safety of those who reside in, and visit, the community of Palos Verdes Estates.

Congratulations Chief Velez!

PALOS VERDES ESTATES RANKED ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN CALIFORNIA

The City of Palos Verdes Estates has been ranked as the fourth safest city in California based on recent FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics from cities with populations of 10,000+ residents. We could not be prouder of our tremendous police force for their safety. The approximate response time for an emergency call is 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Violent crimes are extremely low and a majority of the crimes involve thefts of property, primarily out of unlocked vehicles. During the period of July 1, 2017 through May 1, 2018, the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department made 461 arrests and issued upwards of 2,400 citations and warnings. We are proud to partner with our community to keep our citizens and our streets safe.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY POLICE ENGAGEMENT

In 2013, the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department (PVED) has increased its focus on community engagement. Police officers reach out through social media, street meets, elder programs, school engagement and other youth programs. Throughout the
year, Officers speak at community-wide events, including PTA meetings, Homeowners Association events, student group and School Board meetings. If you have a concern that the PVPD wants to speak about, please contact Chief Mark Vale at 310.378.4211 or via email at mvale@pvpd.org. If you want to connect with the PVPD on social media, visit us online at https://www.facebook.com/PalosVerdesEstatesPD/ or call at 310.378.4211.

CITY ESTABLISHES NEW COMMITTEES AND WELCOMES NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The City of Palos Verdes Estates has established resident Commissions and Committees. The City Council appoints members of the community to serve on these boards to provide greater community participation and public input in the decision-making process.

The City Council established three new Committees this year, bringing the total number of resident Commissions and Committees to seven. Appointees serve two-year terms, except for newly created appointees who serve staggered terms, in order to establish staggered terms, some appointments are for one year.

Finance Advisory Committee

- Amir Kaviani
- Robert Wade, Chair
- Philip Solomita, Vice-Chair
- David McGowan
- Mark Young, Vice-Chair

The recently created Finance Advisory Committee advises the City Council on financial matters for technology, government transpar- ency, future technologies and structures with City vendors. Members have knowledge of investments and banking practices, and make recommendations to the City Council regarding budget reconciliation and responsibility.

Committee members! Contact Mayor Stacie Adams at 310.378.4232 or via email at sadams@pvpd.org.

Traffic Safety Committee

- Frank Adams, Chair
- Kevin McCarthy, Vice-Chair
- Clark Margoff
- Richard Phillips
- Zoe Uno

The Traffic Safety Committee reviews specific traffic-related requests and concerns, as well as reports for traffic calming. Typical requests such as changes to parking restrictions, new signage and changes to striping are also reviewed by the Committee.

For more information on Traffic Safety Committee meetings, please visit the City’s website at http://pvpd.org/traffic.html.

Citizens Academy

The Academy is pleased to be welcoming 31 new members of the Citizens Academy. The program serves as a forum to provide residents with a foundation for serving as City ambassadors and connecting the community with residents concerning designated street trees and the City’s tree management policies.

The Academy consists of two programs per year, and all new members are instrumental in defining the goals and objectives of the Committee.

Members of the recently created Finance Advisory Committee research financial issues and provide advice and recommendations to the City Council regarding budget reconciliation and responsibility.

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The City Council, all Commissions and Committees members who are volunteers serve without any compensation. Thank you to all our citizens who have generously volunteered their time and welcome new Committee members!

Investment Policy Advisory Committee

- Amy Forrester, Chair
- Mark Young, Vice-Chair
- Don Culler
- Stu Jakes
- David McGeown

Members of the recently created Finance Advisory Committee research financial issues and provide advice and recommendations to the City Council regarding budget reconciliation and responsibility.

Traffic Safety Committee

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