



**MINUTES**  
**Public Safety Commission**  
**January 11, 2021 City Hall**  
**Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Hollimon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

**II. Roll Call:**

Members Present: Commissioners Robert Boyd, Amina Ghouse, Geoff Hollimon, Tanya Kessler, Stephanie Kitzhaber, Karen Wagner, Ache Wakai and Jack Winkels.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Director Tony Paetznick, Council Member Graeme Allen and Dave Matteson (Allina Health).

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Wagner to approve the January 11, 2021 agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Ghouse to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

**V. Presentations and Public Hearings**

**A. Pathways to Policing – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director**

Director Paetznick discussed the pathways to policing in the State of Minnesota. He explained the Commission reviewed the LISTEN webpage, traffic data collection and use of force information last year. He described how the New Brighton Public Safety Department recruits and hires police officers per 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing requirements that reflect the community they serve. He commented further on the educational and statutory requirements to be a Peace Officer in the State of Minnesota. He stated Minnesota was unique because the State requires a two year degree to be a police officer along with post board certification. He reviewed the number of law enforcement agencies in Minnesota which included city, county, university, parks, tribal and state agencies. He discussed the number of POST exams that have been taken between 2010 and 2020, noting it has been an ongoing challenge to recruit

for the future and current needs of the organization. The three routes to peace officer licensure in Minnesota was then described at length. These three routes include people who don't have a post-secondary degree, people who have a degree, or people with peace officer experience in another state and/or military policing experience. The Professional Peace Officer Education (PPOE) programs available in the State of Minnesota were discussed. He described the benefits of the Law Enforcement Exploring Program, the Public Safety Auxiliary Unit (Police Reserve) and the Public Safety Officer (PSO) program. He commented on the benefit of having School Resource Officers (SRO's) within the Mounds View School District.

Discussion included:

- Staff described the length of time it takes to complete schooling, skills training and post board certification.
- Staff explained 90% of New Brighton Public Safety Officers have a four year degree and 10% have a Masters.
- The hierarchy within police departments was discussed.
- Staff reviewed the minimum standards for hiring that were followed by the New Brighton Public Safety Department.
- The 14 week training and one year probationary period for new hires was described.
- The Commission thanked Director Paetznick for the excellent presentation.

## **VI. Reports and Updates**

### **A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson**

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina. He reviewed the 2020 calls for service compared to 2019 and noted there was a 7% increase. He discussed the average response times for 2020 for emergent calls. He commented on the types of calls Allina was responding to noting the highest category was pandemic/COVID related. He reported ER evals was another high category. He stated Allina was four weeks into vaccinations for its staff members, which meant staff members were now receiving their second dose. He reviewed staff changes that have occurred within Allina and then introduced Dr. Joey Duren to the Commission.

Dr. Joey Duren, Director of EMS, discussed her previous work history, noting she was born and raised in Minnesota. She explained she did her residency at Regions Hospital and for the past 13 years has practiced in the Twin Cities. She indicated she primarily works at United and River Falls Hospitals. She reported she has joined the Allina Medical team in the past year and a half. She encouraged the Commission to contact her with any comments or questions they may have.

Commissioner Ghouse thanked Dr. Duran for her attendance at the meeting. She asked what the COVID numbers were for New Brighton for December. Mr. Mattson stated he does not have this information. He reported this information comes from the Department of Health.

Further discussion ensued regarding COVID vaccines for health care workers. Public Safety Director Paetznick explained New Brighton had the good fortune to serve as a site to provide 1A first responder vaccines. He indicated 234 first responders came through the clinic last week. He estimated 90% of his staff received the Moderna vaccine.

Commissioner Wakai questioned if there were any known side effects to the vaccine. Dr. Duren discussed possible side effects from the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. She reported minor side effects were common but explained no major vaccine reactions have occurred in Minnesota to date. She commented further on the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Commissioner Ghouse asked if the City would be having any special requirements in place for staff members that elect to not get the vaccine. Public Safety Director Paetznick reported no special requirements have been put in place. He reiterated that the vast majority of his staff members received the vaccine.

Councilmember Allen commented on the Coronavirus Response Act that allowed for governments to provide paid sick leave for impacted employees. He reported this act expired at the end of 2020. He explained New Brighton has elected to continue offering up to 80 hours of sick time if COVID related. Dr. Duren commended the City for having this safety net still in place for its public works and first responder employees.

**B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick**

Director Paetznick stated 2020 was an unusual year but noted the number of fire calls remained average. He reported Sergeant Terry Nelson would be recognized by the City Council on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> after 30 years of service. He explained the department was in the middle of a hiring process at this time and noted SRO's would be returning to schools in the coming weeks.

**C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember**

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He thanked Sergeant Nelson for his 30 years of service to the New Brighton Public Safety Department. He explained the new Mayor and Councilmembers met with department heads on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> in a strategic planning session for 2021. He reported the newly elected Councilmembers and Mayor would be sworn in at the Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Ghouse to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Paetznick  
Director of Public Safety