



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
February 8, 2021 City Hall
Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Hollimon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Robert Boyd, Geoff Hollimon, Tanya Kessler, Stephanie Kitzhaber (joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.), and Ache Wakai.

Members Absent: Commissioners Amina Ghouse, Karen Wagner, and Jack Winkels.

Also Present: Director Tony Paetznick, Deputy Director Trevor Hamdorf, Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Council Member Graeme Allen and Dave Matteson (Allina Health).

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Boyd to approve the February 8, 2021 agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Wakai to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. Introduction from Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas introduced herself to the Commission and thanked the Commissioners for their dedicated service to the community. She reported the City was taking applications through February 9, 2021 for Commission positions and encouraged those interested to contact City Hall for further information. She noted the Council would be reinstituting student commissioners in 2021. She reported the Council was working to better integrate the work each Commission was doing. She noted the Council was working on its two year strategic plan and would be creating strategic scorecards. She discussed how valuable the Public Safety Department has been in creating the COVID dashboard on the City's website. She reported the City Council would be starting an Inclusive Community

Commission later this summer, and would be hiring a staff member to assist the community with inclusive initiatives.

B. 2020 Traffic Stop Data – Tony Paetznick, Director of Public Safety and Trevor Hamdorf, Deputy Director of Public Safety

Director Paetznick reviewed the 2020 traffic stop data with the Commission. He reported the City voluntarily began collecting this data in January 2017 along with 10 law enforcement agencies in Ramsey County. He stated this was initiated to create greater transparency and context for the public. He commented further on the five points of data that are collected for each traffic stop. He provided the Commission with comparative data for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 noting total traffic stops were down in 2020 due to the pandemic and subsequent stay at home orders.

Deputy Director Hamdorf commented further on the traffic data and explained how he charted calls as day or night. He described how race was perceived by ambient light that was available to officers. He stated it was more difficult for officers to determine race in the evening hours.

Director Paetznick discussed the City of New Brighton population through the United States census data. He estimated the population to be 23,427, which was an all-time high. He described how this population was broken down racially.

Discussion included:

- The Commission noted there was a disparity due to the fact that more black people were being pulled over in New Brighton when taking into consideration their percentage of the population in the community. However, the Commission understood this data does not reflect if those pulled over live in the community. Director Paetznick understood there was a disparity and commented further on the conclusions that could be drawn from data. He explained he has encouraged his patrol supervisors to talk with their officers regarding the data.
- The Commission discussed implicit bias.
- The Commission believed the data presented provides the City with an opportunity to dig into the data further.
- The Commission thanked the Public Safety Department for being transparent and for working to not let implicit bias sway their decisions.
- The Commission supported the department gathering City of residence data for all traffic stops. Director Paetznick indicated this would be difficult data for the department to gather given the system that was in place.
- The Commission commented on the number of traffic stops that were occurring along the Silver Lake Road corridor.
- The Commission asked how traffic stops were generated. Director Paetznick explained the City has collaborative efforts with Ramsey County (TZD) beyond the City's regular patrol strength. He commented further on the direction he gives to his officers regarding traffic safety issues and noted there were certain intersections that were hot spots for motor vehicle crashes. He explained officers were naturally in the area where crimes occur, stating this was driven by complaints. Further discussion ensued regarding neighborhood demographics.

- The Commission asked if a report could be run on the actions that were taken by officers, such as the number of warnings, arrests, warrants, moving violations, equipment violations and citations issued. Director Paetznick stated he would investigate this further. Deputy Director Hamdorf explained he had tried to collect this data but it did not export properly from the system. He indicated he would continue to work with Ramsey County to see if there was a way to gather this data.
- It was reiterated the race and gender of the driver pulled over were perceived by the officer.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Matteson stated there has been a significant downward trend for COVID admissions in recent weeks. He indicated the State of Minnesota surged with COVID cases mid-November through December. He estimated the hospitals were at 25% compared to where they were in mid-November or December. He commented further on the number of COVID cases that had been admitted to Allina hospitals in Minnesota. He noted the COVID vaccines have been out for about a month which was helping the State work towards herd immunity. He discussed the number of calls for service from New Brighton in January, which was 230, stating this was the highest ever. He indicated there was a greater number of falls and calls for people with breathing problems. He noted the RTR dropped to 88% due to the higher call volumes. He noted the average response time for January was 7:31, which was eight seconds higher than the 2019 average response time. He commented on the use of TXA for massive hemorrhage cases. He discussed the no transport rate for New Brighton compared to all Allina served communities.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick encouraged the public to visit the City's website if seeking the most up to date information regarding COVID-19. He stated he was proud to report another round of vaccine clinics was held at the New Brighton Public Safety Department and 388 more doses were administered to Tier 1A individuals. He explained 4th and 5th graders returned to school today and high school students would be returning to hybrid on February 22nd. He thanked his SRO officers for their service to the community throughout the pandemic. He discussed how the cold weather was impacting his officers and calls for service. He reported he continues to work to fill empty positions within the department. He commented on the rise in property crimes in the community and encouraged the public to not leave their cars running with the keys inside, even during the cold weather. He recommended residents not store valuables in their cars overnight. He explained he would continue to work with the public to reduce the crimes of opportunity.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen reported applications are due on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 for Commission positions. He encouraged residents in need of food assistance to visit the New Brighton Community Center for an Every Meal bag which includes four to five pounds of nonperishable food. He explained TUV SUD has applied for a grant with Ramsey County and was proposing to expand in New Brighton. He stated he has had residents reach out to

him regarding the number of property crimes that have occurred in the community and noted on February 23rd the Council would be discussing this matter in further detail.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Kitzhaber to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony S. Paetznick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Paetznick" clearly distinguishable.

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety