



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
March 8, 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, Geoff Hollimon, Stephanie Kitzhaber, Karen Wagner, and Jack Winkels.

Members Absent: Commissioner Amina Ghouse, Tanya Kessler and Ache Wakai

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Wagner, seconded by Kitzhaber to approve the March 8, 2021 agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. 2020 Crime Stats – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director

Director Paetznick reviewed the Public Safety Departments mission statement. He then discussed the 2019 and 2020 crime states with the Commission. He stated 2019 had record lows for burglaries and thefts. He reported Part One Crimes increased by 37.3% in 2020 from the previous year, from 474 to 651 total incidents. He stated this was a significant increase. He noted property crimes really drive the increase in 2020, stating burglaries were up 56%, and auto thefts were up 59%. The factors that are known to affect the volume and type of crime occurring from place to place was discussed. He described how the location of the city could influence crime given its close proximity to major highway intersections. He summarized the crimes that occurred in neighboring communities for 2020 and reviewed the average annual crime rates for New Brighton, broken down by category.

Director Paetznick discussed how the theft of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts was on the rise, especially catalytic converters and license plates. He encouraged residents to take simple crime prevention measures to make sure overhead garage doors are closed, to remove valuables from cars, to lock car doors overnight, along with doors to the house and garage to reduce crimes of opportunity. He reviewed a crime map for thefts and thefts of vehicles for the City of New Brighton. He encouraged residents with a Toyota Prius to park their cars indoors overnight. He recommended residents get back to the basics by getting to know their neighbors, maintaining situational awareness in neighborhoods, reporting suspicious activities to 911, reducing the opportunity for crime to occur and to “target-harden” their property against thefts and burglaries.

Director Paetznick encouraged residents to stay informed by taking part in the Public Safety Departments Facebook page, the opt in to receive weekly incident reports via email, to visit the City of New Brighton’s website, read through quarterly newsletters, and to participate in neighborhood oriented policing.

Discussion included:

- The Commission asked what kind of outreach was being done to welcome new residents into the community. Director Paetznick stated the City has a new resident packet with information from all municipal departments. He explained the City had a very active association with the licensed multi-family property owners.
- The Commission questioned how much the population of the City would increase with the new development occurring and would this lead to an increased need within the Public Safety Department. Director Paetznick anticipated there would be an increase in calls for service due to the increase in the population and density within the Midtown Village development.
- The Commission thanked Director Paetznick for the detailed presentation.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson discussed several high profile events that occurred in February, noting five employees were shot at a clinic in Buffalo, Minnesota. He explained this was a very difficult event for the hospital staff. He stated he was very proud of the communication center and all of the Allina staff that responded. He noted he responded to this event in order to provide after action review. He commented further on a car chase that occurred in Blaine that then ensued up to Braham, Minnesota. He indicated his staff was preparing for civil unrest given what was occurring in Minneapolis. He commented on how the number of COVID cases was on the decline, which was good. He was hopeful the vaccinations continue to bring these numbers down. He then discussed the call volumes and response times for February. Further discussion ensued regarding the incident that occurred in Buffalo.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick reviewed the preliminary February 2021 crime states with the Commission compared to 2020, 2019 and 2018. He reported thefts and auto thefts were still higher than normal. He explained Operation Safety Net was on the forefront of law

enforcement personnel due to the case being tried in Minneapolis. He discussed how he has been working with public safety personnel on this matter. He indicated he was focused on prioritizing the City of New Brighton and its residents. He explained additional support would be offered to other agencies if required. He commented on the favorable drop in the COVID-19 cases noting only 90 new cases were reported in February. He encouraged residents to continue to social distance and wear masks.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen discussed the COVID relief bill that may be passed by the federal government. He explained the Ramsey County Library would be opening the public computers and printers for use during regular business hours 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Wednesday through 7:00 p.m. He stated the weather was getting better and the City's Parks Department has a family friendly venture called the Gnome Hunt at Long Lake Park. He commented on the City's inclusivity efforts noting the Council was moving forward with an Inclusivity Commission. Lastly, he updated discussed the interviews that were being held for the open Commission positions.

The Commission supported the City Council seeking youth members in the community to serve on the City's Commissions.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety