



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
May 10, 2021 City Hall
Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 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 (joined the meeting at 6:39 p.m. and left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.), Geoff Hollimon, Tanya Kessler, Stephanie Kitzhaber, Karen Wagner, Leah Kuipers, 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 Boyd to approve the May 10, 2021 agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Winkels to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. Introduction of New Commissioner

Director Paetznick welcomed Commissioner Leah Kuipers to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Kuipers introduced herself to the Commission stating she was a mother of three that worked as a nurse practitioner in family medicine in Shoreview. She explained she was interested in public safety for a number of reasons noting she was interested in making New Brighton as safe and equitable as it could be.

Chair Hollimon welcomed Commissioner Kuipers to the group.

B. Traffic Stop Outcomes – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director

Director Paetznick stated as a follow-up to the annual review that occurred for the 2020 traffic stop data at the February 2021 Public Safety Commission meeting, staff has looked further into a request from Commissioners to learn more about the outcomes of these interactions in terms of enforcement (i.e., warning, citation, arrest, etc.). Currently, that is not one of the pieces of information collected and reported on in the annual traffic stop data report. Staff has done some analysis of the limited data available from 2020 to produce a draft report. As a reminder, the COVID-19 global pandemic impacted law enforcement operations throughout a majority of last year, with a significant numerical difference in traffic stops performed in 2020 compared to prior years. Most notably, during the initial stay-at-home order of 2020, traffic stops were 90% lower than the same period for the previous year in 2019. This additional information on enforcement outcomes contains data from both the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS). As separate pieces of software, there is some data lost in translation between the two independent operating systems. In a few instances, incomplete or duplicate data was manually removed. Further, consistency of clearances has not been fully verified to be accurate due to differences in coding. Staff encountered some limitations in developing this data set, and reminds Commissioners that it is just one year of data. However, based on the data available from 2020, staff created several graphs for the Commission to view that show some of the following information:

- White and Black drivers were within 5 percentage points of similarity for citations
- White and Black drivers were within less than 1 percentage point of similarity for arrests
- White and Black drivers were within 5 percentage points of similarity for warnings

Director Paetznick indicated he was pleased to report the City Council would be pursuing an Inclusive Community Task Force in 2021. He went on to describe the numerous ways the Public Safety Department connected with the community through Santa Cop, Cops and Bobbers, Safety Camp, as well as volunteer programs that include VIPS, Explorers, Neighborhood Watch programs, the Police Reserve Auxiliary, Crime Free Multi Housing program, and faith based community partnerships. Further discussion ensued regarding the partnerships the Public Safety Department had with the community. He discussed how he was working to hire a more diverse workforce in order to be responsive and reflective of the community. The departments internal efforts, the dedicated LISTEN webpage and police training were then described in further detail with the Commission.

Discussion included:

- The number of arrests for the Native American population was further discussed.
- It was noted the race of the individual being stopped by the Public Safety Department was based on the officer's perception.
- A member of the Commission questioned why the traffic stop data was not more reflective to the demographics of the community.
- It was noted the individuals being pulled over may not be from New Brighton, but rather could be traveling through the community.
- A Commission member asked if the types of citations and arrests could be greater defined within the data collected. Director Paetznick commented this information was not collected.

- The Commission recommended staff define how the data was collected for the City's website.
- It was reiterated that the data collected was being done voluntarily by the departments in Ramsey County.
- The Commission questioned how the department interacted with the data collected. Director Paetznick reported the data was shared internally and conversations were held with patrol staff.
- Director Paetznick described how the department measures the impact or value of community engagement.
- The Commission supported finding a way to know where people come from because the numbers don't add up.
- Council Liaison Allen discussed the number of traffic stops that occur at night versus during the day and the factors that may be influencing the traffic data collected by the Public Safety Department.

C. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Director Paetznick requested the Commission select a Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion by Wagner, seconded by Boyd to nominate Geoff Hollimon Chair of the Public Safety Commission for 2021-2022. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion by Hollimon, seconded by Boyd to appoint Karen Wagner Vice Chair of the Public Safety Commission for 2021-2022. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update on EMS operations. He discussed how Allina was involved in mobile force operations in Brooklyn Center. He noted his ambulances now had TXA on board. He commented on the COVID+ numbers within the Allina system. He reviewed the first quarter calls for service, transport rates and response times for 2020 versus 2021. He discussed how a new response software would be used to assist in improving response times. He then described when NARCAN was used by paramedics.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick commented on the funding available for NARCAN. He noted his staff has used NARCAN 49 times in past four years. He discussed the overdose rates in 2020 versus 2019. He stated there has been a little spike in COVID numbers in April and May. He encouraged residents to get their COVID vaccine and noted clinics were being held every Wednesday at the New Brighton Community Center. He explained he was working on the 2022 budget and indicated he was in the middle of a hiring process. The number of parking citations was discussed with the Commission. He then commented on the use of force data from 2020 and discussed the use of force training the department has received in 2021.

Commissioner Kessler explained she got a new job and would be moving out of the community. She stated she has enjoyed her time on the Public Safety Commission and wished everyone well.

Commissioner Wagner thanked Commissioner Kessler for her service to the City of New Brighton. She sent her compliments to staff on the Commissioner training that was provided this year.

Director Paetznick reported the citywide garage sale would be held Thursday, May 13 through Sunday, May 16.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He discussed the road work that would occur this summer. He commented on the temporary lights that were in place in New Brighton due to the I-35 MNPASS project. He reported on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. a vaccine clinic would be held at the New Brighton Community Center. He discussed the joint worksession meeting that was held between the City Council, EDC, Planning Commission and the Urban Land Institute where affordable housing was the topic. He stated Old Highway 8 was a redevelopment area being considered by the City. He indicated a city wide cleanup day would be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at the Public Works Facility. Further discussion ensued regarding the cost for new construction in Minnesota and it was noted the cost for lumber and steel was on the rise.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Kessler, seconded by Boyd to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

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 legible.

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety