



**MINUTES**  
**Public Safety Commission**  
**June 14, 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, Amina Ghouse, Geoff Hollimon, Dan Judd, 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 Wagner, seconded by Kitzhaber to approve the June 14, 2021 agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Wagner, seconded by Wakai to approve the May 10, 2021 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

**V. Presentations and Business Items**

**A. Introduction of New Commissioner**

Director Paetznick introduced newly appointed Commissioner Dan Judd to the Public Safety Commission.

Commissioner Judd discussed his background noting he worked for Hennepin County Human Services in computer support and training. He explained he applied to serve with this Commission because he had an interest in public safety.

## **B. Fire Division Overview - Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director**

Director Paetznick provided the Commission with an update on the Fire Division. He reviewed the organizational staffing model within the Fire Division noting there was only one full time staff member and 38 paid on call members. He discussed the diversity and experience coming from within the organization for the paid on call firefighters. He commented further on the firefighting and technical rescue service delivery model that was followed in New Brighton. He indicated he was proud of the fact the department had an average of 21 firefighters turning out for each incident in the community. The benefits of having cross-trained municipal firefighters were discussed. The number of incidents from 2020 was reviewed with the Commission along with the incidents that required mutual aid both inside and outside the community. He commented on the proactive and reactive operations within the Fire Division and described the fire apparatus and rescue vehicles within the department. The recruiting standards and firefighting personnel costs was then reviewed.

Discussion included:

- Staff reviewed the coverage map for the Fire Division.
- Staff commented on how the Fire Division works to recruit new members.
- Staff discussed how Allina provides EMS services for the community.
- The City's ISO rating was reviewed with the Commission.
- The cost to the community for false alarms was discussed.
- The benefits of replacing smoke detectors were described to the Commission.

## **VI. Reports and Updates**

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

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina Health. He discussed the various levels of certifications and hours of training EMT's and paramedics receive in the State of Minnesota. He explained his volumes over the past month have been extremely high due to various medical conditions and not solely based on COVID. He stated May was the highest month of the year for New Brighton with 202 calls for service. The response times for calls was discussed along with Allina's response time reliability (RTR). The top destinations for patients in New Brighton was Unity Hospital, followed by Mercy and Regions Hospitals. He discussed how COVID numbers were on the decline and there was talk about removing the Code 36 pandemic classification. He commented on the opioid overdoses that have occurred in New Brighton and commended the Public Safety Division for distributing NARCAN in an effort to save these individuals. He stated he was pleased to report he would be having 11 new paramedics starting with Allina next Monday.

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

Director Paetznick reported vaccinations were winding down but noted residents ages 12 and up could still receive a Pfizer vaccine on Wednesdays at the Community Center. He explained his department was heavily enforcing parking at Long Lake Park for safety purposes. He discussed the roadwork projects that were occurring around town and how this was impacting traffic volumes in the community. He reported National Night Out would be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. He commented on the staffing changes that have occurred

within the department and noted the department was completing an audit on its body worn camera material.

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

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He explained the Council passed an Ordinance that created an Inclusion Commission. He noted this Commission would be established over the coming months. In addition, the City would be hiring a diversity, equity and inclusivity staff member. He commented the Council recently passed an Ordinance for the City's mobile home communities and received a report on the City's communication efforts with the public. He indicated the Council approved a contract to upgrade the HVAC system at the Community Center which would improve the air quality for the entire building. He explained the Council would begin discussing the 2022 budget in August.

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion by Ghouse, seconded by Boyd to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony & Paetznick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "P".

Tony Paetznick  
Director of Public Safety