



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
August 9, 2021 City Hall
Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Hollimon.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Robert Boyd, Amina Ghouse, Geoff Hollimon, Stephanie Kitzhaber, and Karen Wagner.

Members Absent: Commissioners Dan Judd, Leah Kuipers, Ache Wakai and Jack Winkels.

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kitzhaber, seconded by Ghouse to approve the August 9, 2021 agenda as presented.
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Kitzhaber to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes as presented.
Motion carried 5-0.

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director

Director Paetznick discussed the Public Safety Departments recruitment and retention policies with the Commission. He commented on the current staffing model noting the department should have 30 sworn officers. He discussed the current policing environment and how this has impacted resignations and early retirements. He stated all law enforcement agencies across Minnesota were facing this same challenge noting 40+ different law enforcement agencies in the State were advertising job openings. He noted New Brighton currently has four openings and commented on the hiring process outcomes. He explained his officers would continue to enhance community-oriented policing and community engagement efforts, including crime prevention and proactive measures to reduce calls for service and criminal incidents. He commented on how important it was to meet legislative mandates and community expectations for police officer training with administrative and

supervisory oversight. He described how police services were allocated and deployed within the community and commented on the difference between being a reactive versus proactive department. He explained New Brighton's population has increased by nearly 10% since 2010 and has seen a 12.5% growth in housing units over the past 20 years. The roles of public safety officers was discussed, along with the departments ongoing recruitment efforts. He commented further on the recruitment efforts and training required for the departments paid on call firefighters. He explained he was always looking for reserve police officers to serve the community.

Discussion included:

- Staff discussed the difference between licensed peace officers, reserve officers and public safety officers.
- The information posted on the City's Listen page on the website was discussed.
- The assistance provided by the VIPS (Volunteers in Public Safety) program was described.
- Staff commented on the budget for sworn officers in the Public Safety Department.
- The Commission thanked Director Paetznick for the thorough report.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina Health. He explained he was seeing a shortage in EMS employees. He noted he was down quite a few paramedics within his organization. He was hoping to boost EMT's into paramedic school in order to meet this need. He discussed Allina's new deployment method and noted there were several challenges in month two of the trial which impacted response times. He explained the mapping software may not be as good as the organization promised. He reported he would be transitioning back to VisiMobile for mapping purposes. He commented further on how partnering agencies were assisting with mutual aid given the decreasing number of paramedics. He provided the Commission with an update on COVID-19 and noted there has only been a mild increase in hospital admissions. He stated the challenge right now at the hospitals was with ER capacity. He indicated the 3M Open was held in Blaine two weeks ago and noted he saw 74 patients. He explained the development of a Special Event Team was being considered for large events in the area. He reported his clinicians would be completing mandatory training on pediatric sepsis, cardiac arrhythmia, different types of fibrillation, and discussing legal matters.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick reported last week the City celebrated Night to Unite. He explained the City had 110 block party celebrations. He thanked all who hosted and showed up at these community events. He stated he also appreciated all of the donations that were made to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. He noted the Stockyard Days parade would be held on Saturday, August 14 at 10:00 a.m. He commented the Commission would be discussing the departments body worn cameras in September. He discussed an upcoming catalytic convertor marking event that would be held in the community. He reported the City's COVID dashboard has a great deal of up to date information available for residents.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He thanked everyone who participated in National Night Out. He noted he was able to attend eight or nine events and appreciated seeing neighbors speaking to neighbors. He thanked all of the residents who were able to make donations to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. He explained the Council would be holding a budget discussion on Tuesday, August 10. He reported the Council approved a \$10 million bond that would be used for park improvements. He encouraged residents to participate in Stockyard Days. Further discussion ensued regarding the marking events planned for catalytic convertors.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Kitzhaber, seconded by Ghouse to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety