



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
September 13, 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.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Robert Boyd, Amina Ghouse (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), Geoff Hollimon, Dan Judd, Karen Wagner (left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.), and Leah Kuipers.

Members Absent: Commissioners Stephanie Kitzhaber, Ache Wakai and Jack Winkels.

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Wagner, seconded by Kuipers to approve the September 13, 2021 agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Wagner to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. Police Body Worn Camera (BWC) Audit – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director

Director Paetznick stated an independent audit of the New Brighton Police Department's Portable Recording System (body-worn cameras (BWCs)) was conducted on May 25, 2021. The objective of the audit was to verify New Brighton Police Department's compliance with Minnesota Statutes §§13.825 and 626.8473. It was noted the New Brighton Police Department is located in Ramsey County, Minnesota and employs thirty (30) peace officers. The New Brighton Police Department utilizes Panasonic Arbitrator body-worn cameras and software and stores the BWC data on a local file server. The audit covers the time period from May 1, 2019, through May 10, 2021. The audit requirements were further reviewed in detail with the Commission and staff explained no discrepancies were noted.

Discussion included:

- Staff described how data requests can be made to the department. It was noted that body-worn camera footage was generally considered not public or private data and in some cases the footage was confidential.
- The differences between BWC footage and private video footage was described.
- The City's effort to have residents voluntarily register their private cameras throughout the community was discussed. It was noted it was completely voluntary for the public to provide private footage to the Public Safety Department.
- Staff discussed the type of training that was provided through BWC footage.
- The Commission questioned the amount of data that was collected by the department and staff noted this would have to be investigated further.
- Staff thanked the IT department for all of their assistance with the BWC program.
- The technological issues with the BWC's was discussed with the Commission and it was noted each officer within the department has their own BWC.

B. Traffic Stops – Tony Paetznick, Public Safety Director

Director Paetznick stated in addition to the annual review that occurred for the 2020 traffic stop data at the February 2021 Public Safety Commission meeting, staff 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.) and presented that information in April. Over the past month, significant action by government at the local, regional, and federal level have again highlighted the issue of law enforcement traffic stops. These include but are not limited to the release of 2020 United States Census Data, a prosecutorial policy related to nonpublic traffic stops as announced by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, and the City of New Brighton's initial work on developing an Equity Framework, the latter of which most recently included an invitation for Commissioners to provide feedback on a draft Equity Statement. Given the new data and initiatives, Public Safety believes that it is timely to check-in with the Commission on this topic to review the additional information and further discuss procedural and/or policy changes related to traffic safety enforcement in the City of New Brighton. He provided further information on the driver diversion, driver's education and Lights On! programs. Staff recommended the Commission consider endorsing the driver diversion program, explore offering a free six-week driver's education class for adults who are learning English and engage in the Lights On! Program.

Discussion included:

- The recommendations from the County Attorney regarding drug and traffic stops were discussed with the Commission.
- The Commission appreciated the information provided regarding the new Lights On!, diversion and drivers education programs.
- Staff described how grants were applied for within the Public Safety Department.

Motion by Ghouse, seconded by Boyd to recommend the City of New Brighton endorse the driver diversion program, explore offering a free six-week driver's education class for adults who are learning English and engage in the Lights On! Program. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina Health. He discussed the staffing changes that have occurred at Allina and commented on the recent retirement of Gene Johnson, who founded the cardiac survivor network. Overall he reported he was down 30 EMT's at this time, but just started 10 new paramedics. He anticipated he would lose some employees from the COVID vaccine mandate. He described the presentation that would be given to the Roseville Police Department later this week. He provided an update on the number of COVID cases in the County and encouraged residents to get vaccinated. He discussed the challenges hospitals were facing right now with staffing and bed shortages. He commented on the positives and negatives from the automatic software routing system and noted he was still evaluating milage and fuel savings. Year to date calls for service was reviewed. Upcoming training efforts for EMT's was discussed, along with the potential benefits of holding tele-health calls with patients prior to heading to the hospital. Further discussion ensued regarding the ambulance shortage in Minnesota.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick provided the Commission with an update on the recent fire fighter hiring process. He stated all candidates would have to attend agility testing the first weekend in October. He explained the department has an active police hiring process as well, noting the department had two vacancies at this time. He indicated the SRO officers were back in schools. He commented the recently held catalytic convertor marking event was successful. He reported the National Night Out was a tremendous success again this year. He stated the City's website has up to date information on COVID for residents seeking information. He then discussed the County's Appropriate Response for Persons Initiative with the Commission. He indicated it may benefit the Commission to have a presentation from the ECC.

The Commission welcomed Officer Yang to the Public Safety Department.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He stated the City Council would meet next on Tuesday, September 14 and would discuss the US Bank redevelopment and the Midtown Village park would be named. In addition, the preliminary budget and tax levy would be set at this meeting. The potential redevelopment efforts along Silver Lake Road were discussed. He reported cleanup day would be held on Saturday, September 18 at the Public Works Facility from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He explained at the recent council worksession the Equity Statement has been discussed and noted the Council was still soliciting feedback.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Ghouse, seconded by Judd to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. 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 a large initial "A" and a stylized "S".

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety