



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
October 11, 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 Vice Chair Wagner.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Robert Boyd, Amina Ghouse, Dan Judd, Stephanie Kitzhaber, Karen Wagner, and Leah Kuipers.

Members Absent: Commissioners Geoff Hollimon, 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 Kuipers, seconded by Boyd to approve the October 11, 2021 agenda as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Judd to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

V. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina Health. He thanked the New Brighton Public Safety Department for responding to several critical incidents that occurred in the community. He reported there has been an uptick in heroin overdoses which meant his EMT's were using NARCAN. He commented on how the 911 volume was increasing but staffing has declined and he appreciated how the response networks were helping each other out, especially given the fact some hospitals were going on divert. He then discussed the number of COVID cases that had occurred in September.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick discussed the fire division noting October was fire prevention month. He explained the 2022 fire prevention calendars were available at the Public Safety Center and City Hall. He discussed a recent fire that occurred at the Main Street Village Condominiums. He noted the fire division conducted the Fill the Boot Campaign in September for Muscular Dystrophy and he thanked all who participated. He invited the public to attend the Fire Division Open House on Monday, October 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Director Paetznick explained the Public Safety Department was in the hiring process at this time. He reported two more catalytic converter marking events would be held on Tuesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Further discussion ensued regarding the medical equipment that was carried by New Brighton Public Safety members, which included the LUCAS device.

Director Paetznick explained staff would be working with the 35W MNPASS contractor to ensure all traffic safety measures were put back in place within the City of New Brighton.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He stated the Council was working to create an Equity Commission, which involved the approval of an Equity Statement. He anticipated members would be appointed to the Equity Commission later this year. He reported the Tibetan Youth Conference was held at the Community Center this past Saturday. He discussed the Tails on the Trails event that was hosted this past Sunday in Hansen Park. He noted a City-wide garage sale would be hosted the weekend of Thursday, October 21 through Sunday, October 24. He noted a pumpkin walk would be held on Saturday, October 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He discussed the cyclocross event that was held at Hansen Park on October 2 and October 3. He reported the Mounds View School District and St. Anthony School District election would be held on Tuesday, November 2.

Vice Chair Wagner reported the League of Women Voters would be hosting a candidate forum on October 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the Mounds View School District. It was noted this would be an online event.

VI. Presentations and Business Items

A. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – Matt Farmer, Community Engagement Officer

Director Paetznick stated Community Engagement Officer Farmer had a presentation for the Commission on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

Community Engagement Officer Farmer discussed how UAV's or drones can be utilized by the Public Safety Department. It was noted there were approximately 100 UAV programs currently in Minnesota. He described how UAV's can enhance situational awareness through data collection, provide communication with victims or suspects, deliver items to victims, while also providing a safe search and rescue option. He explained potential UAV uses for NBPSD would be to assist with search and rescue, fire scene assistance and investigation, and with traffic accident reconstruction. Other options would include large area crime scene

investigation, natural disaster response and damage assessment, City infrastructure inspection and surveying, along with City promotional media content. He commented on the legal limitations on use per State Statute. He stated if the NBPSD were to pursue a UAV program the drones would have to comply with established policies and procedures, must comply with FAA regulations and would be restricted from flying over private property. It was noted annual reporting would be required if a drone program were pursued along with a public comment period. Staff was of the opinion the pros outweigh the cons in a program like this.

Discussion included:

- It was noted drones would be used on an on demand and not in a proactive manner.
- The data collected from the drones would be managed in the same manner as the data collected from body worn cameras.
- It was reported Ramsey County has a robust drone program and Roseville was pursuing a UAV program.
- Staff reported the use of drones would be faster than waiting for a State Patrol helicopter.
- The cost for a UAV program was discussed. It was noted federal funding could be used to assist with getting the program established.
- It was estimated a drone would last three to five years.
- Staff reported this item would be coming back to the Public Safety Commission for public comment at a future meeting.
- The Commission recommended this topic be posted on the City's website as well.
- The Commission thanked Officer Farmer for his presentation.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Ghouse, seconded by Kitzhaber to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

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