



MINUTES
Public Safety Commission
December 13, 2021 City Hall
City Conference Room 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, Geoff Hollimon, Dan Judd, Stephanie Kitzhaber, Karen Wagner, and Leah Kuipers.

Members Absent: Commissioner Amina Ghouse, 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 Judd to approve the December 13, 2021 agenda as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kuipers, seconded by Judd to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

V. Presentations and Business Items

A. Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

Director Paetznick stated Nancy Pass and Joe Dillenburg from the Ramsey County Communications Center were in attendance to provide the Commission with a presentation.

Joe Dillenburg, Manager for the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center, thanked the Commission for their time. He described who the ECC was and discussed the services provided to the community. The community organizational chart was reviewed along with the partner agencies involved in ECC. He reported approximately one million calls were handled annually by Ramsey County Telecommunicators (TC). He commented on the information TC's collect for each call in order to send the proper help. It was noted 90% of 911 calls were being made from cell phones.

Nancy Pass, Director of the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center, reported the ECC's technology was always changing and evolving to meet the needs of the community and the community's well-being. She reported the ECC wanted to engage with the community prior to needing to meet with a police officer. The County's Violence Prevention Priority Project was discussed and along with the Appropriate Response Initiative. She commented on how ARPA funding would be used to sustain these new programs through 2024.

Discussion included:

- The Commission appreciated the ECC's efforts to create an Appropriate Response Initiative.
- The Commission requested information regarding staffing, recruitment and retention of employees. Ms. Pass indicated she was down eight employees at this time, but noted she had seven employees in training at this time.
- The stakeholders involved in the ECC's new programs were discussed.
- The Commission asked if social workers would be imbedded in local agencies. Ms. Pass reported Maplewood, St. Paul and Roseville have imbedded social workers. She commented further on the challenges dispatch would be facing to know what group of individuals to send to each 911 call. She reported public education would be valuable in the coming months.
- Director Paetznick stated he was excited to see this new programming coming online.
- Data sharing challenges were discussed.
- The Commission believed the new response model would greatly benefit the community.
- The Commission thanked the members of the ECC for their detailed presentation.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Allina Health – Dave Matteson

Dave Mattson provided the Commission with an update from Allina Health. He discussed the number of COVID cases occurring at this time noting COVID was beginning to impact hospitals. He indicated hospital staff was getting COVID, which was impacting staffing. He reported there was also bed and supply shortages. He discussed how ambulances were taking more time on calls due to the fact they were being diverted to different hospitals. He reported Mercy and Abbott has the most COVID admissions. He reported there were no ICU beds in the Twin Cities at this time. He commented further on how 911 calls are dispatched to Allina. He anticipated that the EMS/EMT emergency call system would change in the near future in order to triage calls and to have the responses made appropriately.

B. Public Safety Update – Director Paetznick

Director Paetznick stated the New Brighton Public Safety Department had an officer involved shooting in conjunction with the Mounds View Police Department last Sunday. He reported he had no comment regarding the information but residents could check in with the BCA for further information. He explained COVID vaccine clinics were being held at the New Brighton Community Center noting those interested would have to schedule an appointment. He indicated 58 children from 21 families would be served through Santa Cop this year. He stated six new firefighters started with the department last week, along with

Public Safety Officer Matthew Moore. He encouraged residents to manage their packages throughout the holiday season. He stated there remains a shortage of licensed peace officers throughout the State of Minnesota. He encouraged residents to keep their fire hydrants free and clear of snow throughout the winter months in the event of an emergency.

Commissioner Wagner stated she understood Director Paetznick could not discuss the recent officer involved shooting, but requested he provide the Commission with an overview of how the public safety department addresses an officer involved shooting.

C. City Council Update – Graeme Allen, Councilmember

Councilmember Allen provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. He stated he attended the employee appreciation event last week. He reported he also attended the ground breaking ceremony for the new apartments being constructed on the US Bank site. He explained the Council would be approving contracts with the sergeants and patrol officers at its meeting tomorrow, along with reviewing a spending plan for the ARPA funding. He then discussed the levy and budget that would be considered by the Council for 2022 and commented on the programs available to help residents in need of assistance.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Judd to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 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 a large initial "A" and a stylized "P".

Tony Paetznick
Director of Public Safety