

**CITY OF BRENTWOOD, MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
JULY 21, 2016**

Alderman Plufka called the Public Safety Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Deputy Clerk Pittman called for attendance.

Alderman Plufka – Present  
Alderman Kramer – Present  
Alderman Lochmoeller – Present  
Alderwoman Sims – Present

Also present were: City Clerk/Administrator Bola Akande, Police Chief Dan Fitzgerald, Interim Fire Chief Terry Kurten, and Deputy City Clerk Pittman.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Alderman Kramer and seconded by Alderman Lochmoeller to approve the agenda as submitted. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Meeting Minutes June 16, 2016**

Hearing no objections, by acclamation meeting minutes were approved.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT**

**None**

**CHAIRMAN COMMENT**

Alderman Plufka announced that several pending items will be taken up at the August committee meeting; the crosswalk at Strassner, YMCA, and Memorial Park; and the introduction of a new stop sign at Pine and Hatton. Plans were also announced for sidewalks along a portion of Hanley Industrial Courts with anticipated completion next year, via an STP project grant. Due to concerns of safety, adjacent fitness centers will be contacted to advise of the potential liability of encouraging or allowing patrons to run in the streets. An update was also provided regarding the crosswalk at McKnight; in conjunction with the city of Ladue, signs will be ordered and Ladue is scheduled to begin updating the stripping in September.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Presentation on City-Wide Traffic Calming Solutions – Stop Sign at Pine Avenue and Hatton Avenue**

This discussion will be held at the August meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UPDATES FROM POLICE CHIEF FITZGERALD**

### **Responses to Public Safety Concerns**

Due to recent acts of crime and public concerns, several forums have been held to address the public. Chief Fitzgerald provided an overview of measures the police department has undertaken.

Officers have increased their patrol presence in neighborhoods, especially after dark. The department has ceased the utilization of bicycle patrol, due to the latest increase in violence toward police. Overtime detail has been initiated since July 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until Aug 30<sup>th</sup>. An extra officer is also on duty from 12:00am – 6:00am and is dedicated to neighborhood patrol. On July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>, an officer interrupted car break-ins in progress. The result in both instances was the suspect(s) left the area before taking anything from the vehicles. Both suspects were driving stolen cars and both suspects failed to stop for our officers. The car break-in problem continues to be a recent problem in neighboring communities (Clayton, Richmond Heights, Kirkwood). Detectives are working with these communities, sharing information and a proposal is being made for the hiring of more officers. Our officers are stopping vehicles that appear to be suspicious but must have a valid reason for each stop. A checkpoint approach is not suitable for this type of neighborhood enforcement for a number of reasons, including manpower, lighting, traffic flow and overall safety. Much research is being done on Neighborhood Watch, of which the department is in the process of putting together a plan using Nextdoor neighborhoods; setting-up neighborhood meetings with police officers, using those opportunities for safety education; enlisting the help of volunteer community members to assist with tasks related to safety, such as crosswalk assistance during school transit and looking after elderly neighbors; this should be completed within the next couple of weeks and should also tie-in very well with National Night Out.

The committee discussed and questioned if there would be a need to reevaluate overtime levels, which is done monthly; the deployment of officers, of which the focus has been geared toward residential neighborhoods; officer fatigue, of which steps are being taken by the department and there is none currently apparent; the goal for officer cameras, of which body cameras may be pursued based on the legislation recently passed but \$75,000 has been budgeted in 2017 for car cameras.

Chief Fitzgerald presented a request for 2 additional officers, outlining statistical information of calls, patrols, traffic and usage. After Aldermen questions, Alderman Kramer commented that while the commercial entity contributes a certain amount of revenue, some may be able to be more responsible for their security. He also requested to review a 24 hour snapshot of the police GPS data on the day of the Sonora occurrence. Alderman Plufka expressed the desire to schedule a special meeting to discuss the request for additional police officers to make a recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee in August.

### **General Police Department Updates**

An update was provided regarding the CALEA process; the city has enrolled in the program and the consultant firm has been in contact. They expect it should take 3 weeks to get the process going.

### **UPDATES FROM INTERIM FIRE CHIEF KURTEN**

#### **General Fire Department Update**

In light of recent incidents, medical control is urging use of safety vest; the department implemented their policy making it a requirement for fire fighters during the past weekend. There was also a command staff collaboration meeting held between Brentwood, Maplewood, Richmond Heights, Clayton, and Rock Hill to discuss the possibility increased efficiency. It is anticipated that a resolution would be needed for staff to proceed and it is anticipated to be on

the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for Board discussion and consideration. It was also noted that the fire fighter wellness/fitness medical evaluations are being set up to begin in August.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jim Martin, 9416 Sonora**, questioned a rumor that the city may be considering blocking the street entry from McKnight and added that the district would support such a change for increased crime prevention. He recommended against the concept of people walking the streets at night if they are unsafe for bike patrol. He added that the city needs a more aggressive approach given the level and manner of recent crimes and suggested that officers should be assigned to neighborhoods.

**Louise Charbonneau, Madge**, offered comments of speed humps in St. Louis City and suggested use by the city. She stated that she is in favor of recently suggested crosswalk signs and stated that she has viewed some similar crosswalk. Lastly she stated that the city needs to find a balance between day and night patrol for resident safety.

**Kathy Martin, 9416 Sonora**, questioned recent incidents of crime and safety in city parks and offered comments of the importance of communicating with citizens to keep confusion and worry down.

**Rich Bauer, 9131 Lawn**, offered comments of the city's safe history. He noted concerns with recent activity and the appreciation in knowing that conversations are being held to increase patrols.

**Matt Ghio, 49 Whitehall Court**, offered comments that Highway 40 is being used as a crime gateway. He suggested issuing tickets to speeders and using plate cameras @ McKnight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Alderman Kramer and seconded by Alderman Lochmoeller to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**Approved as submitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.**

Attest:

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Bola Akande, City Clerk/Administrator