

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2021

Call to Order: 1:15 PM

Attendance:

PSCHC Members Present: CM Kinnear; CP Beggs; CM Stratton; CM Wilkerson; CM Burke; CM Cathcart; and CM Mumm.

Staff/Others Present: Mike Ormsby, Sargent Nathan Spiering, Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Mike Lopez, Satish Shrestha, Ryan Hidalgo, Melissa Morrison, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

Approval of December 7, 2020 minutes: Motion to approve by CM Burke; M/S by CM Wilkerson. The committee approved the minutes from the December 7, 2020 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Reports:

1. OPO Monthly Update – November 2020
2. Photo Red Update (SPD)
3. January Strategic Initiatives Report (SPD)

Consent Agenda Portion:

1. Supplemental Funds Grant for COVID-19 Impact (Public Defender)
2. Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Program 2020-2021 Contract (SPD)
3. Application for Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program (SPD)

Per CM Mumm's request, Major Michael McNab briefed Council on this application. This grant would allow staff to be assigned to a backlog of cases where these kits can be re-analyzed so that a spectrum of closure can be reached. CM Cathcart asked how big the backlog of kits is. Major McNab said around 700 kits. That goes back over 20 years. Of those that they got back, there were 90 cases that a Sergeant needs to investigate. CM Wilkerson asked when this funding runs out and we still have a backlog, what is the plan. Major McNab said that hopefully the state legislature will continue this funding. CM Mumm asked how many years this work will take. Major McNab said at least a couple years. CP Beggs asked if we are likely to get this money as long as we apply. Major McNab said yes.

4. Construction Contract for Centennial Trail Summit Blvd Project (Public Works)
5. Contract for Concrete Repair Services (Public Works)
6. Purchase of Miscellaneous Waterworks Products (Public Works)
7. Ductile Iron Service Saddles – Annual Value Blanket (Public Works)
8. Settlement Agreement for Personal Injuries (Legal)
9. Memorandum of Understanding with Spokane County Relating to Purchase of Robot for Use by the Emergency Disposal Unit (SPD)
10. Contract to Add CAD Mobile Licenses to SFD Cell Phones (SFD)

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Strategic Priority: Integrated 911/Dispatch

NONE

Strategic Priority: Integrated Response

NONE

Strategic Priority: Criminal Justice Reform

Sgt. Spiering Update (5 minutes)

Sgt. Spiering gave Council an update on how K-9s were deployed last month. In the month of December, there were 99 captures with 3 contacts. 2 out of the 3 contacts were off shift call outs. Sgt. Spiering updated Council on the 2020 deployment, capture, and contact numbers. Sgt. Spiering noted some of the abnormalities he looks for when analyzing this data. Generally, nothing sticks out as particularly abnormal in 2020. CM Wilkerson asked what the lowest requirement for deployment is. Sgt. Spiering clarified that a deployment is when a K9 and its handler are brought to a call – it is not considered a deployment if it is a routine call. CM Kinnear thanked Sgt. Spiering for his time.

Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Requests:

Discussion of Extension of Interlocal Agreement with SREC for Back-Up Fire Dispatch Services – Chief Schaeffer (10 minutes)

Chief Schaeffer said that SREC has denied the City's application to be included in an ILA that was up for extension recently. SPD has a plan for continuity of service. Chief Schaeffer thanked the Council for its support in this plan. Chief Schaeffer said that SPD is working on an automatic aid agreement in the dispatch realm. CM Mumm asked what the vote split was in the extension denial. Chief Schaeffer said he didn't know for sure, but he thought it was unanimous. CM Mumm asked when our current agreement ends. Chief Schaeffer said January 31st. CM Mumm asked what the savings will be. Chief Schaeffer said around \$50-60K, which will need to be used to cover overtime right now but eventually could be used to hire the two necessary additional dispatchers. CM Cathcart asked how far away the City is from being fully staffed on its own. Chief Schaeffer said this is a complex question but ultimately more than 11 people. Chief Schaeffer gave a rundown of the investment necessary to get to this goal.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update – Chief Schaeffer (10 minutes)

Chief Schaeffer updated Council on the work of a task force that is working to get first responders vaccinated. They have vaccinated 150 first responders (with the first of two doses of the Moderna vaccine) so far. The goal is to have over 2,000 first responders vaccinated in the coming weeks. CM Mumm asked how we assure the public if first responders who are vaccinated aren't wearing masks. Chief Schaeffer said that he anticipates that there will still be personal protective equipment, but will forward this concern along to the task force. Chief Schaeffer said he would always want to err on the side of safety.

Council Requests:

Bicycle Advisory Board Appointment Interviews – CP Beggs (10 minutes)

Satish Shrestha and Ryan Hidalgo spoke with Council about their willingness and excitement to join the Bicycle Advisory Board. Ryan is a junior at Lewis and Clarke High School and is interested in environmental sustainability. CM Stratton thanked Ryan for applying and asked what they think the biggest issue for their generation is. Ryan said that bike lanes, better routes (especially to school), and more accessible bike locks were the biggest things that came to mind. CM Burke thanked Ryan for applying and encouraged them to reach out if they need anything. Satish has been living in Spokane since 2008. Satish bikes around town frequently and is excited to support increasing cycling across the City. CM Stratton asked what they think the biggest issue for their generation is. Satish said they think infrastructure is mostly in place, and so it's about getting people excited about biking. CM Wilkerson asked their thoughts about having bike lanes in the middle of the street. Satish said that because they have been riding bikes for so long, the scare factor has gone away, but in reality, bikers are only as safe as the cars around them.

SPD Behavioral Health Unit Update – CM Burke (15 minutes)

Sgt. Jay Kernkamp said that the first year of the BHU has been a success. They have reached 1,900 people with a 70% success rate of diverting people from jail. CM Burke said that those are really great statistics and asked if they are seeing the same people over and over again. Sgt. Kernkamp said that recidivism is an issue, but that follow-up helps to build rapport, build trust, and reduce recidivism. CM Burke appreciated the data provided and asked if the officers going out in these units receive any special training. Sgt. Kernkamp said that SPD interviews for this position and also receives extensive training particularly tailored to the issues officers will see related to mental health crises. CM Burke asked where the general population of the calls are coming from and wondered if a lot of the calls were downtown. Sgt. Kernkamp said it's a regional unit, so there aren't as many calls downtown as one might expect. CM Burke asked if SFD also turns up to these calls. Sgt. Kernkamp says that 911 triages these calls and sometimes that result in both SPD and SFD on site. Chief Schaeffer expanded on the partnership between SPD and SFD in responding to these calls. CM Wilkerson asked if there has been any specific emphasis or training around engagement with communities of color. Sgt. Kernkamp said currently SPD does not track behavioral health unit interactions by race. He said this is something he could run a report on to find out. CM Wilkerson thanked him for that and said that her biggest concern is whether people of color are getting the same opportunity for diversion as those who are part of dominant culture.

Discussion about Participation in National League of Cities – Cities and Health Systems: Community of Practice – Melissa Morrison (5 minutes)

Melissa Morrison updated Council on the National League of Cities – Cities of Opportunity. This is a grant opportunity to receive expert coaching and technical assistance. Spokane was one of 12 cities selected nation-wide. The first session is scheduled for January 27th. Next steps for the City of Spokane is to work with partners before the January 27th meeting to shape the discourse. CM Mumm congratulated Ms. Morrison and asked if there was any way to engage community members and even the Plan Commission in some of these sessions. Ms. Morrison said she would investigate what’s possible. CM Wilkerson echoed CM Mumm’s congratulations.

State Legislative Update:

NONE

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:

NONE

Action Items: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Adjournment: CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:18 PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, February 1, 2020.

Attachments/Briefing Papers: OPO Monthly Update – November 2020; Photo Red Update; January Strategic Initiatives Report; Supplemental Funds Grant for COVID-19 Impact; Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Program 2020-2021 Contract; Application for Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program; Construction Contract for Centennial Trail Summit Blvd Project; Contract for Concrete Repair Services; Purchase of Miscellaneous Waterworks Products; Ductile Iron Service Saddles – Annual Value Blanket; Settlement Agreement for Personal Injuries; 2021 Cisco SmartNet Renewal; Memorandum of Understanding with Spokane County Relating to Purchase of Robot for Use by the Emergency Disposal Unit; Contract to Add CAD Mobile Licenses to SFD Cell Phones; and National League of Cities – Cities and Health Systems: Community of Practice Overview

Respectfully submitted by:

Giacobbe Byrd, Legislative Aide to Council Member Lori Kinnear (PSCHC Chair)



Committee Chair Approval

Lori Kinnear

Spokane City Council – District 2