

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2021

Call to Order: 1:17 PM

Attendance:

PSCHC Members Present: CM Kinnear; CP Beggs; CM Stratton; CM Wilkerson; CM Burke; CM Cathcart; and CM Mumm (arrived at 1:19pm).

Staff/Others Present: Mike Ormsby, Chief Craig Meidl, Sargent Nathan Spiering, Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren, Major Eric Olsen, Tracie Meidl, Dave Singley, Mark Griffiths, Brad Arleth, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Tim Sigler, Tija Danzig, Graig Butler, Michael Schneider, Steven Wohl, Mike Sparber, Maggie Yates, Dusty Fredrickson, Eric Finch, Lili Navarrete, Toni Lodge, Maureen Rosette, Carly Cortright, Jason Ruffing, Luis Garcia, Delaney Howard, Michael Diamond, Matthew Antush, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

Approval of January 4, 2021 minutes: Motion to approve by CM Wilkerson; M/S by CM Stratton. The committee approved the minutes from the January 4, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Reports:

1. OPO Monthly Update – December 2020
2. Photo Red Update (SPD)
3. February Strategic Initiatives Report (SPD)
4. COVID-19 Vaccination Program Phase 1 Report (SPD)

Consent Agenda Portion:

1. Contract for Impound and Abandoned RV Disposal Services (SPD)
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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 January, there were 83 deployments, 39 people captured, and 1 contact. Sgt. Spiering highlighted a capture where a K-9 assisted in a zero use of force arrest.

Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Requests:

Senior Business System Analyst Position Discussion – Dusty Fredrickson (10 minutes)

Dusty Fredrickson presented to Council asking for approval for a new position in IT. He highlighted the leap the City has taken in technical and business management complexity recently. CM Stratton asked when the City purchased JustWare. Howard Delaney said it was purchased in 2008, purchased for the court in 2010, and full implementation occurred in 2013. Mr. Fredrickson talked about the current state of the JustWare environment and the FTEs necessary to support it. Mr. Fredrickson talked about the future automation that will occur in the eSeries environment and the additional support needed for the City to fully integrate its process across agencies. This position will do the necessary inter-agency management and product improvement road mapping. CM Stratton asked if current employees will have the opportunity to apply to this position. Mr. Fredrickson said he hasn't hammered out the details with HR but would like to see what individuals are out there as well. CM Wilkerson asked what some of the hiccups have been in the new solution. Mr. Fredrickson said the City got a discounted price on the eSeries solution because we are at the cutting edge of implementation, so we have had some trail and error scenarios. Mr. Delaney said a specific challenge has been data integration across agencies. CP Beggs expressed his support for this position.

CARES “By and For” Grant – Michael Diamond (5 minutes)

Michael Diamond and Howard Delaney presented on Spokane Municipal Court's historical access to pre-trial services. Mr. Delaney said that in December, 2020, the Spokane County Office of Pretrial Services reduced services and stopped providing pre-trial risk screening and information for those defendants in-custody for the Spokane Municipal Court. The loss of this service reduced the available information for the Judicial Officer to evaluate the defendant's risk to return for future court hearings and if any violent risk to the community existed when evaluating CrRLJ 3.2. The development of a City Pretrial Services Unit establishes a reliable source of information for the Judicial Officers while expanding upon pre-trial monitoring, pre-trial services, and assisting those defendants engaged in the Municipal Justice System. The grant is for up to \$250,000.00 with a run period of March 1, 2021 to December 23, 2023. CM Burke asked if any of this funding will be used for COVID relief for those in and out of jail and asked if there's anything Municipal Court is doing for vaccine distribution. Mr. Diamond said these funds are being used to fill a new service necessitated by COVID and that they do not provide vaccines. CM Burke said

providing vaccines to those who are required to be held in detention would be a good way to stop the spread.

Update on SPD's Community Outreach Unit – Chief Meidl (10 minutes)

Sgt. Mike Schneider, who oversees the community outreach unit, presented on the duties of the Community Outreach Unit. Sgt. Schneider said that he and his two other team members are committed to engaging with the community and always try to say “yes.” Sgt. Schneider talked about some of the many programs they operate and said he hopes to be back in schools by the end of spring. CM Wilkerson said that over the last year youth have seen many images of police. She asked if that has adjusted their approach. She also asked how they are tracking their outcomes. Sgt. Schneider said they use surveys in many of their programs to measure the effectiveness of their youth programs. He said SPD has a huge educational deficit that they need to combat. CM Wilkerson said there’s been a significant change in the leadership of communities of color recently and encouraged an effort to bridge that current disconnect. CM Kinnear asked for regular updates on metrics and data for the Community Outreach Unit.

Council Requests:

Lili Navarrete District 2 OPO Commissioner Interview – CM Wilkerson & CM Kinnear (5 minutes)

Lili Navarrete was nominated to fill a vacant District 2 spot on the OPO commission by CM Wilkerson and CM Kinnear. Ms. Navarrete spoke about her history and how she moved to Spokane. She spoke to her involvement with the Latinx community in Spokane. She said she thinks being a part of the OPO commission will be important for representation for Latinx community members in Spokane. CM Stratton asked what makes Ms. Navarrete interested in the OPO position. Ms. Navarrete said there is general concern and mistrust within the Latinx community and the police force and thinks being a part of the conversation will be instrumental to healing that relationship. CM Cathcart asked if there is a specific incident that drives mistrust and what she thinks members of the commission can do to address mistrust. Ms. Navarrete said there’s hesitancy within the Latinx community to call SPD primarily because of language barriers, immigration status, and the color of one’s skin. CM Wilkerson asked if there is an intersection of issues at the state level and the local level. Ms. Navarrete spoke to her experience working on state-level immigration issues on the Commission of Hispanic Affairs.

Discussion about Potential Renewal of MOU between SPD and The NATIVE Project – CM Wilkerson (15 minutes)

CM Wilkerson spoke about her opportunity to work with Toni Lodge and other Urban Indians and their work to renew an existing MOU between the City and the Urban Indian community. Maureen Rosette presented a new version of the MOU with some minor language adjustments. Ms. Lodge talked about how the MOU came to be. She spoke about the disproportionate number of Native Americans involved in officer-involved shootings. Out of discussions between the Native American community and SPD about these painful interactions, they drafted the original MOU. Ms. Lodge talked about previous conversations with SPD that didn’t yield many outcomes but was hopeful that there would be more progress in the future. Ms. Rosette emphasized that this is not a contract, but a handshake

understanding of how to treat each other and work together. CM Wilkerson talked about how this kind of understanding is needed now more than ever and asked to hear from Chief Meidl about his experience with this MOU. Chief Meidl said there is always conversation with Legal when signing agreements and wanted to make sure he was clear that SPD has an obligation to all communities within Spokane – especially those marginalized. He said he looks forward to getting together with community meetings. Ms. Lodge said they worked hard to do the community organizing necessary for these kinds of conversations. She pointed out that they have a large Native American network and emphasized that the specific needs of the Native community need to be operationalized. She said she would like to operationalize this agreement with more of a mutual lift. Chief Meidl noted that in post-academy they have invited marginalized communities and communities of color talk about their experiences. Ms. Lodge said that opportunities like this are the first step. CM Cathcart commented that he doesn't have any issues with the MOU but pointed out that a commitment to responding in a timely manner is not something we can guarantee across the City. Chief Schaeffer offered that SFD's door is open and would like to join into this conversation if appropriate.

Spokane Regional Law and Justice Department Update – Maggie Yates (15 minutes)

Maggie Yates shared with Council about the Intake and Release Center launched last week. The center was funded with CARES dollars and was designed to handle the book and release population by moving them out of the jail and directing them to this new center. Ms. Yates presented on the goals of the project – including reducing the spread of COVID and offering individuals needed services (including a voluntary peer navigator). Ms. Yates presented on the intake process, the location, and partnership with SPD in getting the center stood up. Michael Sparber talked about the opportunities to offer a hand-up that this center provides. CM Cathcart asked, of the 13% eligible for book and release, what percent are first- or second-time offenders and what is the percentage that makes it to their court date. Mr. Sparber said the 13% is generally low-level crimes after about three arrests they are kept in jail. Mr. Sparber said getting people to show up to their court dates has been a longtime issue in Spokane. He said virtual hearings – located in the jail – would be the next step needed to help solve that problem. CP Beggs said the people coming into the center are people who would otherwise go into the jail and receive zero services. This solution frees up a crowded booking center and provides some meaningful contacts.

Pod Team Update – Carly Cortright & Luis Garcia (10 minutes)

Carly Cortright updated Council on COVID's impact on the Pod's ability to respond. The Pod was pretty much shutdown from March until the end of May. Ms. Cortright said that they still have their community partners. She said in mid-November we lost SPD going out with the Pod again because of their inability to enforce because of lack of shelter space. Ms. Cortright said with more shelter capacity, SPD will re-engage again. She said there are still some challenges being worked out with the Legal department, especially around whether or not enforcement can happen when there is capacity at a 24/7 shelter. Ms. Cortright emphasized the goal is to not need to enforce in the first place and the City is currently working with EWU to hire a social worker who could take the lead on outreach within the City. CM Burke said she thinks the social worker position is amazing. CM Burke noted the difficulty experiencing homelessness and mentioned how important it is to have a live count of shelter beds.

Update on Low-Barrier Shelter Vacancies – CP Beggs (10 minutes)

CP Beggs asked Tim Sigler to share with Council how we are tracking low-barrier shelter vacancies (particularly the outward facing dashboard) and our current bed capacity. Mr. Sigler said there has been progress in the last two years but emphasized that there’s more we need to do. He said he thinks a card system would be beneficial. Mr. Sigler said a study session with SPD to show Council what the dashboard looks like would be beneficial. He said they are having a meeting with their partners today to get buy-in for using the dashboard. Tija Danzig said that timing of the dashboard going live is dependent on getting buy-in from community shelter operators. CM Mumm clarified that this dashboard could help community shelter operators refer clients to other shelters that are safe and accessible to them. Ms. Danzig confirmed this. CM Cathcart said without real-time, it will not be that effective overall. He said frankly the City should try to crowd source a solution. CM Wilkerson expressed frustration that this is not a solution for those who are unhoused. CP Beggs said it is important for the perfect not to be the enemy of the good in this situation.

State Legislative Update:

NONE

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:

NONE

Action Items: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Adjournment: CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 3:01 PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, March 1, 2021.

Attachments/Briefing Papers: OPO Monthly Update – December 2020; Photo Red Update; February Strategic Initiatives Report; COVID-19 Vaccination Program Phase 1 Report; Contract for Impound and Abandoned RV Disposal Services; Senior Business System Analyst Position Justification; CARES “By and For” Grant Application; Lili Navarrete OPO Commissioner Application; MOU between SPD and The NATIVE Project; and Spokane Regional Law and Justice Department Presentation.

Respectfully submitted by:

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



Committee Chair Approval

Lori Kinnear

Spokane City Council – District 2