

# **Public Safety & Community Health Committee**

## ***Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2021***

Call to Order: 1:17 PM

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### **Attendance:**

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

**Staff/Others Present:** Mike Ormsby, Chief Craig Meidl, Sargent Nathan Spiering, Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren, Dave Singley, Eric Olsen, Michael McNab, Jacqui MacConnell, Mike Lopez, Julie Humphreys, Maggie Yates, Paul Ingiosi, Michelle Hughes, Tonya Wallace, Nathan Groh, David Paine, Tim Sigler, Tija Danzig, Jamie McIntyre, Thomas Williams, Brian McClatchey, Tim Dunivant, Shauna Harshman, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

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**Approval of February 1, 2021 minutes:** Motion to approve by CM Stratton; M/S by CM Burke. The committee approved the minutes from the February 1, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

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### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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#### **Monthly Reports:**

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

#### **Consent Agenda Portion:**

1. Contract for Diverse Fiber Route from City Hall to New CCB Datacenter (IT)
2. Purchase of Caterpillar H120 Hammer (Public Works)
3. HP-CMV FMCSA-DOT 20.237 FY21 Safety Grant (SPD)
4. Grant Application for Fire Prevention (SFD)
5. Department of Ecology SBO/Grant Amendment (SFD)
6. SBO 2021 DOE Grant Amendment (SFD)
7. Approval of a 1-Year Renewal for Aluminum Sign Blanks, from National Barricade and Sign Co. (Streets)
8. Requests from Various Departments for Vehicle Purchases/Leases (Fleet Services)
9. Amending Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program (SPD)
10. Approval of Value Blanket with LN Curtis for 5 Years to Provide PPE to the Fire Department (SFD)

Council Member Kinnear announced that consent item #8 will be removed from this agenda and added to the next Urban Experience meeting.

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### **STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

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#### **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 February, there were 73 deployments and 1 contact. Sgt. Spiering highlighted a capture where a K-9 assisted in an arrest.

**Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe**

NONE

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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**Staff Requests:**

**SPD 2020 Stats Overview – Chief Meidl (15 minutes)**

Chief Meidl gave Council an overview of crime statistics from 2020. Chief Meidl’s presentation focused on a comparison of 2019 and 2020 statistics. He highlighted the challenges and trends in 2020 – a unique year because of COVID-19. Chief Meidl also noted that when looking at this data, it is important to keep long-term context in mind. Short-term comparisons, while sometimes useful, can also give a skewed perspective on long-term crime trends. Chief Meidl talked about some internal variables, including proactive efforts and innovative programs. Chief Meidl presented on homicide rates in Spokane and provided some national context for our local increase in homicides. He also highlighted statistics related to drive-by shootings, other shootings, sexual violence, commercial robbery, person robbery, aggravated assault, domestic violence, and property crime. CM Mumm talked about the supervision bill that passed over a year ago and asked Chief Meidl if he is seeing any positive effects from it. Chief Meidl said it is not really a tool that is being utilized by the prosecutors right now and said he would get some more info to Council about why that is. CM Kinnear said that Council Members worked for over three years on that and would hope that it is being used. CM Mumm pointed out that Spokane is supposed to be a pilot in this effort and it’s important that we actually use the tools from the bill in order to get the data necessary to understand if it works. Chief Meidl highlighted some notable strategies SPD has implemented around domestic violence. Chief Meidl then talked about additional COVID-19 related impacts including early jail and prison releases. CM Cathcart asked about the state of pod camping enforcement. Chief Meidl said the number one hurdle is having enough shelter space in the daytime, which makes enforcement problematic. Chief Meidl said that officers have still been going out with code enforcement to clean up camping sites that have been vacated. Major Eric Olsen confirmed that this is the case. CM Wilkerson asked if there will be follow-up on the early release numbers to understand if there was an impact on crime. Chief Meidl said that about half of those who were released were contacted by SPD at some level. CM Kinnear asked if those perpetrating gang

violence are from outside our community. Chief Meidl said that the biggest issue with drive-by shooting investigations is that SPD has trouble getting information out of survivors and others close to the incident. Major Michael McNab said they do not have any indication that there are people coming from out of town to commit these crimes. Major McNab said the most troubling aspect of these crimes is how young the perpetrators and victims are. CM Wilkerson asked how SPD is changing its approach based on the age of those involved. Major McNab talked about how SPD is trying to engage with families and other ways of community engagement. CM Cathcart asked if SPD has had conversations about a way to replace campus resource officers. Chief Meidl said these positions will still exist but will take on more of a counseling roll. CM Mumm highlighted the importance of creating partnerships with transportation portals (e.g. airports). CM Mumm also highlighted gang activities involvement with human trafficking.

#### **Update on Grant Received from MacArthur Foundation's Safety & Justice Challenge – Maggie Yates (10 minutes)**

Maggie Yates provided a brief overview of this recent grant award. This is a two-year grant award for \$700,000. Ms. Yates talked about how this current round of funding is primarily for sustainability planning in order to safely reduce the jail population, address racial and ethnic disparities, and increase community engagement long-term. Ms. Yates provided an overview of continued and new strategies that will be funded through this grant over the next two years. CM Wilkerson asked about providing free cell phones since the State of Washington already has a program that does this. Ms. Yates mentioned that this is meant to be for those who are court involved to have a cell phone available to them on site. CM Kinnear asked about caseloads for supportive release. Ms. Yates said they will issue an RFP to select a provider for supportive release and will establish case loads then.

#### **SBO to Temporarily Reclassify Some Positions from Fire/EMS to Fire Dispatch – Paul Ingiosi (10 minutes)**

Paul Ingiosi said that this temporary reclassification is a solution for the City's ILA with SREC expiring. Mr. Ingiosi provided additional financial context for this temporary change. He mentioned that all the dispatch costs will be centralized with this move. CM Stratton asked if this is for three or four positions. Mr. Ingiosi six positions total, three of which are current and three are the temporary reclassification positions. The SBO brings them all under one centralized fund.

#### **Police Fleet Analysis and Financial Projections – Tonya Wallace (10 minutes)**

Tonya Wallace presented on SPD's police fleet. She reviewed passenger vehicle type and make, how vehicles are used, vehicle replacement scenarios, and presented conclusions. Ms. Wallace walked Council through the numbers and uses of SPD's fleet. Ms. Wallace said where they would like to direct attention toward decisions around vehicle type and model is in the 405 vehicles that are more frequently used. CP asked if a K8 patrol vehicle would be considered a "utility" vehicle. Ms. Wallace confirmed this. She then talked about police vehicle costs. Prompted by CM Mumm, Ms. Wallace highlighted that SPD's "bearcat" is listed under the "pickup" section and skews the cost of that vehicle cost higher. CP Beggs asked if investigations and admin will use SUVs. Major Michael McNab said they are looking to stick with one or two vehicle platforms for admin going forward. Major McNab said admin don't necessary need SUVs but highlighted some specific examples where it is useful. Chief Meidl said

traditionally admin will drive vehicles for a couple of years and then transfer them over to investigations. Major McNabb said that the commissioning bill for hybrid vehicles are substantially higher. Ms. Wallace concluded that City funding is insufficient to keep pace with the need to replace vehicles. CM Kinnear expressed hesitancy with using SIP loan funding to purchase the vehicles needed. CM Mumm agreed that there need to be continued discussions about this. CM Wilkerson asked if Ms. Wallace could pull out the bearcat cost in an earlier table she presented. Ms. Wallace said she would get CM Wilkerson that cost. Ms. Wallace said that assuming City funding replaces 15 to 20 gasoline vehicles per year, the police fleet will be fully replaced in 20 to 27 years for those 405 vehicles. Ms. Wallace said this points to electric vehicles, right now, being more expensive. She also concluded that electric infrastructure and indoor storage is going to be required as the City moves to an electric fleet. CM Mumm asked about the indoor storage requirement and mentioned that European cites use covered outdoor storage. Ms. Wallace said that might be a great option. CM Kinnear said that she thinks this needs to be a study session topic going forward. CP Beggs asked for future data about the increased rate of funding needed for this fleet replacement strategy. CM Cathcart asked if the City has any cost-benefit analysis for take home vehicles. Ms. Wallace said there is a lot of anecdotal information about this. David Paine said he has been working on a take home vehicle analysis over the last six months and he can circle back to that work. CM Wilkerson asked if there has been any chatter about electric bikes in the downtown area. CM Kinnear asked if we could take all that was discussed today and give it more time in a study session.

#### **DERA Grant Update – Nathan Groh (10 minutes)**

Nathan Groh updated Council on the DERA Grant that the City applied for last year but did not receive. Mr. Groh said the City is applying again this year. This funding would be awarded in order to make a significant reduction in diesel emissions. Mr. Groh said they are applying for \$1M in funding to replace around 6 diesel vehicles. These vehicles were already slated to be replaced. These vehicles are not vehicles that can be replaced with electrified version, but they would be replaced with vehicles with CARB certified engines. David Paine asked a procedural question about the consent item that was moved off today's agenda. CP Beggs clarified.

#### **Treasury Rental Assistance Program Discussion – Tim Sigler (5 minutes)**

Tim Sigler briefed Council on COVID-19 related rental assistance efforts. Mr. Sigler talked about additional rental assistance funding coming down the pike. CM Mumm suggested that the City communicate clearly where community members can go to get these funds.

#### **Council Requests:**

##### **Discussion about SPD Community Service Opportunities within Juvenile Probation's Diversion Program – CM Burke (5 minutes)**

CM Burke asked SPD about the policy behind opportunities for community service with SPD, highlighting a specific case that was in the news. Jacqui MacConnell spoke to the specifics of the case that CM Burke wanted more information on. CM Burke asked why these opportunities aren't more standardized in order to make sure there is equity in these decisions. Ms. MacConnell said there is not specific policy to make these determinations but are working on brining more equity in these decision-making processes.

**Cold Case Action Plan Discussion – CM Stratton (5 minutes)**

CM Stratton highlighted the public engagement Council has received on this topic and asked SPD if there is an action plan in the works to handle the backlog of cases. Chief Meidl spoke to SPD’s interest in exploring a cold case unit. He mentioned the commission requirements involved and other investigative experienced required. He said they will have more information for Council on this in the coming weeks.

**COVID Immunization Outreach Plan Discussion – CM Mumm (10 minutes)**

CM Mumm mentioned how important it is for the City to lead the way on immunization outreach and implementation efforts. Mike Lopez from SFD provided some context for the current program that is a partnership with the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD). Mr. Lopez said that SRHD is an outstanding partner and is the lead agency in this effort. He mentioned that future vaccination efforts are dependent on continued partnership with SRHD, vaccine availability, staffing, cost of staffing, and locations suitable for vaccine distribution. Mr. Lopez said that the vaccination clinic model that we developed with SRHD has been highly successful. He said the model is replicable, scalable, and the delivery model can be applied to large clinics, or small, pop-up clinics – at a neighborhood center for example. Mr. Lopez highlighted the success of the First Responder Vaccination Clinic that was active during January and February 2021. Mr. Lopez spoke about the future vision for collaboration with SRHD in vaccine distribution. CM Mumm asked what Council can do to help SFD scale up operations. She said that in order to get more vaccinations, we need to wait for the next federal shipment. She asked how Council can help prepare for the next shipment. CM Kinnear mentioned how this is all new information to her and she has not heard any of this information from SRHD. Mr. Lopez said he is not fully prepared to answer CM Mumm’s question about what Council can do to help prepare but reiterated that this model can be scaled up and that will have a cost associated with it. CM Wilkerson commented that there is a lot of activity happening at SRHD and highlighted some of the partnerships in the vaccine roll out.

**State Legislative Update:**

CM Mumm mentioned that a key piece of state legislation, HB 1155, passed the House and will go onto the Senate.

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**ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:**

NONE

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**Action Items:** NONE

**Executive Session:** NONE

**Adjournment:** CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 3:04 PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, March 29, 2021.

**Attachments/Briefing Papers:** Contract for Diverse Fiber Route from City Hall to New CCB Datacenter; Purchase of Caterpillar H120 Hammer; HP-CMV FMCSA-DOT 20.237 FY21 Safety Grant; Grant Application for Fire Prevention; Department of Ecology SBO/Grant Amendment; SBO 2021 DOE Grant Amendment; 1-Year Renewal for Aluminum Sign Blanks, from National Barricade and Sign Co.; Requests from Various Departments for Vehicle Purchases/Leases; Amending Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program; Value Blanket with LN Curtis for 5 Years to Provide PPE to the Fire Department; SPD 2020 Stats Overview; Presentation on Grant Received from MacArthur Foundation's Safety & Justice Challenge; SBO to Temporarily Reclassify Some Positions from Fire/EMS to Fire Dispatch; and Police Fleet Analysis and Financial Projections.

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**Respectfully submitted by:**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Kinnear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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**Committee Chair Approval**

**Lori Kinnear**

**Spokane City Council – District 2**