

# **Public Safety & Community Health Committee**

## ***Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2021***

Call to Order: 1:17 PM

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### **Attendance:**

**PSCHC Members Present:** CM Kinnear; CP Beggs; CM Stratton; 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, Craig Hamilton, Jay Kernkamp, Julie Humphreys, David Lewis, Paul Ingiosi, Tonya Wallace, Nathan Groh, David Paine, Ryan Campanella, Jordon Dixon, David Goldbloom, Sara Reijonen, Mary Lee McJimsey, Cindy McMahon, Charlie Moore, Leah Riedi, Craig Madsen, Brian McClatchey, Shauna Harshman, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

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

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### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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#### **Monthly Reports:**

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

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

1. Police Commissioned Computers Replacement (SPD)
  2. WTSC – FY21-FY23 Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety ILA (SPD)
  3. Sexual Assault Kit Grant Amendment SBO (SPD)
  4. Contract with Summit Law Group for SPD ULP Matters (Legal)
  5. Amendment of Contract with Summit Law Group for Labor Negotiations (Legal)
  6. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Contract Renewal (IT)
  7. Purchase of 12,000 96-gallon Single Stream Recycling Carts w/ Assembly, Delivery & Removal Services (Public Works)
  8. Request to Install Security Camera (IT)
  9. WA Auto Theft Prevention Program FY2021-2023 Grant Application (SPD)
  10. Sole Source Declaration with Infor Public Sector for Their CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) System (SFD)
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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 March, there were 84 deployments and 1 contact. Sgt. Spiering compared deployments and captures to this time last year. The statistics were on par with last year. Sgt. Spiering highlighted a capture where a K-9 assisted in an arrest without use of force.

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

NONE

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## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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### **Staff Requests:**

#### **Ambulance Transport Agreement Discussion – Chief Schaeffer (5 minutes)**

Chief Schaeffer gave a brief overview of SFD's recommendation to extend the contract between the City of Spokane and American Medical Response (AMR). CM Kinnear asked if there is still a discussion about SFD doing transport. Chief Schaeffer said that there is not yet a legal path forward for that and, even if there were, it would be cost prohibitive to do so.

#### **Cold Case Unit Presentation – Major McNab (10 minutes)**

Major Michael McNab presented to Council on where SPD is now and what it would take to stand up a complete Cold Case Unit. Major McNab reviewed current statistics on unsolved cases. He pointed out that there doesn't appear to be a drop in unsolved cases as a result of DNA and CODIS technology, but there has been a noticeable drop in unsolved cases over the last 20 years. Major McNab briefed Council on the potential tasks, structure, and budget of a Cold Case Unit. Major McNab concluded that Cold Case Units provide justice for victims, closure for families and the community, and strengthen local confidence in the Police Department. He mentioned that there are staffing challenges even with adequate funding. He said it would take 1-2 years to stand up a Cold Case Unit. CM Cathcart asked if it would be possible to put out a job listing for someone already experienced and trained in this work. Major McNab said that would be something they would have to bring up with their Guild. CM Mumm pointed out that the cost to the community if someone is not caught is too large. She asked if SPD knows how many folks are in custody when they do clear the cases. Major McNab said from anecdotal experience it is a mixed bag. CM Stratton said she likes the concept of using retired detectives if SPD can make that work. She also encouraged SPD to utilize the C.O.P.S. Shops if possible. CP Beggs said that he thinks the funding for this unit is probably there and encouraged SPD to go through labor negotiations first. CM Kinnear said that this unit would be a tremendous benefit to the community.

### **E-Bike SBO Discussion – Sergeant Hamilton (10 minutes)**

Sgt. Craig Hamilton, who works out of the Downtown Precinct (DTP), presented to Council on SPD partnering with Bulls Bikes, USA to pilot the use of electronic bikes (eBikes) in the downtown core for the last two months. Sgt. Hamilton said that overall, the eBikes were a game changer in patrolling downtown. Officers were able to cover more mileage per day than with conventional bikes, they were more visible to the public, and officers were ready to perform whatever duties needed without being exhausted or fatigued. The eBikes allow the DTP bike unit to patrol the downtown core, Riverfront Park, portions of the Centennial Trail, the University District, and other neighboring areas including Peaceful Valley, Kendall Yards, and the lower South Hill. Sgt. Hamilton said that SPD also found that eBikes allow access to areas not accessible by car. He said that officers on eBikes are much more approachable, accessible, and accountable to the public, especially compared to officers in cars. Sgt. Hamilton highlighted that the eBikes are substantially more cost effective over patrol cars patrolling the DTP area. He said that SPD can outfit 5 eBikes for half the price of one patrol SUV. Sgt. Hamilton gave Council an overview of Bulls Bikes, USA and outlined SPD's current need, which he determined to be 5 eBikes. CP Beggs said that he is excited by this and that SPD has his full support. CM Mumm said this looks to be affordable and asked if they need a backup eBike. Sgt. Hamilton said they would take as many as they could get. CM Mumm suggested outfitting all 9 officers out of the DTP with an eBike and ordering an additional eBike as a spare. Sgt. Hamilton thought that would be a great idea. Sgt. Hamilton noted that SPD can do most maintenance in house and that there would be savings for ordering 10 eBikes. CM Cathcart said that he would like to see this program expanded across the City. He also asked if SPD has a policy for engaging with the community on eBikes. CM Cathcart expressed concern that with eBikes officers might buzz by community members instead of engaging. Sgt. Hamilton said there is not a formal policy but finds that there is naturally much more engagement on eBikes. Chief Schaeffer thanked SPD and the eBike team for assistance on a mental health call. He said there was a marked difference between the community engagement because the officers were on bikes.

### **Council Requests:**

#### **Community School Presentation on Goat Vegetative Management Pilot Project – Ryan Campanella & Community School Students (15 minutes)**

Ryan Campanella introduced the Community School students. Char Moore explained the mission of the Community School and the brief for this project, which is titled "Promote the Goat." Jordon Dixon explained more about the community partners, including Neighborhood Councils, that were engaged in this project. David Goldbloom and Leah Riedi detailed their interactions with specific Neighborhood Councils on the topic. Char Moore explained the future of their project and the additional scientific research, collaboration, and communication needed to make this project successful moving forward. CM Stratton thanked the students for joining Council and encouraged Council Members to visit the Community School if they can. Chief Brian Schaeffer thanked the students for all their hard work and said it has been an honor to work with them. CM Kinnear told the students to keep up the good work.

### **Update on SFD COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach – CM Mumm (10 minutes)**

Chief Schaeffer reviewed the tiers of potential future COVID-19 vaccination efforts. CM Mumm highlighted the potential to eventually do pop-up vaccination clinics at fire stations across the City.

### **Status of Percentage of Vaccinated Uniformed First Responders – CM Mumm (5 minutes)**

CM Mumm thanked Chief Schaeffer for his team's work with the community on COVID-19 vaccination outreach. Chief Schaeffer mentioned that he and his team are going to continue to partner with SRHD and encourage members of his team to get the vaccine as soon as possible. CM Mumm and Chief Schaeffer both noted that the number of uniformed first responders that are actually vaccinated is probably greater than the numbers SFD reported because staff are also getting their vaccines from their personal provider.

### **Discussion about Increasing Value Blanket for SPD Handguns – CM Kinnear (5 minutes)**

CM Kinnear asked what happens to the weapons that are decommissioned. Major Michael McNab mentioned they have around \$49,000 per year to spend on handguns. Last year, they did not spend nearly all that money. He said because of new hires this year, they would like to extend the value blanket by \$15,000. Major McNab said that the firearms that are decommissioned are given back to the wholesaler from which they were purchased. CM Stratton asked if the company will destroy them. Major McNab said that SPD will get a small credit for giving them back to the wholesaler. Major McNab said they are either sold to another licensed retailer or are sold to another law enforcement team.

### **Discussion about SPD Mental Health Position – CP Beggs (5 minutes)**

CP Beggs expressed support that the City is continuing to explore innovative ways in responding to mental health related calls. CP Beggs expressed concern with reducing a public records position and asked if that could be avoided. Major Eric Olsen said if they were able to add that staff without cutting the public records position, that would be ideal. CP Beggs said he would support keeping the public records position. CM Cathcart questioned whether a records specialist meets the intention of the public safety levy. CM Kinnear said that she will send CM Cathcart a memo from Chief Meidl that provides more clarity on that front.

### **Discussion about Fleet Vehicle Leases – CP Beggs (5 minutes)**

CP Beggs asked David Paine if the City has switched policies so that the City is now purchasing vehicles when someone could potentially be reimbursed for mileage on their personal vehicle? Mr. Paine said that these specific vehicles are additions to the fleet and that the City is leasing because in the future, Ford will have an electric vehicle available. Mr. Paine also mentioned that there was some analysis done about the benefits of using City-leased vehicles rather than City employees using personal vehicles and getting reimbursed for mileage. CM Stratton clarified that these are annual leases. Mr. Paine said that after 13 months, the City can terminate the lease at any time. He pointed out that this is critical for transitioning to an electric fleet. CM Cathcart asked what is included in the lease. Mr. Paine said the Fleet Department believes that since the vehicles aren't used enough to the point where they need major

maintenance, they have said the Fleet team would like to see them at least once per year. CM Cathcart asked why the City's price is so high compared to what an average citizen can find online. Mr. Paine said that under Enterprise, the City has a guaranteed return on the vehicles.

**Discussion about Purchase of SFD Response Vehicles – CM Kinnear (5 minutes)**

CM Kinnear said that she has already received an answer to her question on this item.

**State Legislative Update:**

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**ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:**

NONE

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**Action Items:** NONE

**Executive Session:** NONE

**Adjournment:** CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:39PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, May 3, 2021.

**Attachments/Briefing Papers:** Police Commissioned Computers Replacement (SPD); WTSC – FY21-FY23 Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety ILA (SPD); Sexual Assault Kit Grant Amendment SBO (SPD); Contract with Summit Law Group for SPD ULP Matters (Legal); Amendment of Contract with Summit Law Group for Labor Negotiations (Legal); Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Contract Renewal (IT); Purchase of 12,000 96-gallon Single Stream Recycling Carts w/ Assembly, Delivery & Removal Services (Public Works); Request to Install Security Camera (IT); WA Auto Theft Prevention Program FY2021-2023 Grant Application (SPD); Sole Source Declaration with Infor Public Sector for Their CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) System (SFD); Ambulance Transport Agreement (SFD); Value Blanket for Handguns (SPD); Mental Health Position (SPD); Fleet Vehicle Leases (Fleet); and Purchase of Response Vehicles (SFD).

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**Respectfully submitted by:**

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



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**Committee Chair Approval**

**Lori Kinnear**

**Spokane City Council – District 2**