

# **Public Safety & Community Health Committee**

## ***Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2021***

**Call to Order:** 1:18 PM

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### **Attendance:**

**PSCHC Members Present:** CM Kinnear; CP Beggs; CM Mumm; CM Stratton; CM Cathcart (arrived at 1:24pm); and CM Wilkerson (arrived at 1:48pm).

**Staff/Others Present:** City Administrator Johnnie Perkins, Mike Ormsby, Marlene Feist, Albert Tripp, Kevin Anderson, Elizabeth Schoedel, Chief Craig Meidl, Nathan Spiering, Justin Lundgren, Eric Olsen, Michael McNab, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Tonya Wallace, Michelle Hughes, Paul Ingiosi, Cupid Alexander, Jan Tokumoto, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

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**Approval of May 3, 2021 minutes:** Motion to approve by CP Beggs; M/S by CM Stratton. The committee approved the minutes from the May 3, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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### **Monthly Reports:**

1. OPO Monthly Update – April 2021
2. Photo Red Update (SPD)
3. June Strategic Initiatives Report (SPD)

### **Consent Agenda Portion:**

1. Interagency Agreement between SPD and WTSC for DRE Program (SPD)
  2. Contract for Repair of Police Firing Range (SPD)
  3. SBO for WA Auto Theft Prevention Grant Award FY2021-2023 (SPD)
  4. Grant Application Approval for FY21-22 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program with Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (SPD)
  5. Garment/Linen Rental and Laundry Contract Renewal (Purchasing)
  6. Interlocal Agreement for Relicensing Program (Legal)
  7. Renewal of Contractor for Claims Management Services (Legal)
  8. Storm Debris Disposal Contract Amendment (Streets)
  9. Accela Annual Support and Upgrades (IT)
  10. Mitchell Humphrey & Co. Annual Support and Upgrades (IT)
  11. Meter Reading Support Services Contract Renewal (Public Works)
  12. Residential Microseal Overlay (Streets)
  13. Hoffman Well Upgrade (Public Works)
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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 presented K-9 unit data from the last month. In May 2021 there were 90 deployments, 24 people were located, and 1 person was contacted. All six of SPD's K-9s were re-certified this year. The K-9 unit also has two certified Master Trainers.

CM Kinnear thanked Sgt. Spiering for these updates and dispelled the notion that Council Members do not support SPD.

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

NONE

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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**Staff Requests:**

**Airway Heights Amended Water Supply Agreement and Emergency Water Service Agreement Council Requests – Marlene Feist (10 minutes)**

Airway Heights' CEO Albert Tripp presented on Airway Heights' requests for an amended supply agreement and an emergency water service agreement. Mr. Tripp reviewed the PFAS contamination history within Airway Heights – four of Airway Heights' wells were tested in 2017 and three of the four wells tested positive for PFAS contamination. Mr. Tripp talked about the Amended Water Supply Agreement with the City of Spokane and updated Council on the progress on water supply improvements and timeline. Kevin Anderson presented a list of partners that Airway Heights is working with on their water supply restoration project. Mr. Anderson reviewed the overall approach and progress on this project. Mr. Anderson highlighted Airway Heights' water use efficiency planning. CP Beggs asked if they could describe their preferred water replacement strategy. Mr. Tripp said they are trying to locate their water replacement outside of the contaminated area. Mr. Tripp said they do not have a specific location identified yet. CM Mumm congratulated Airway Heights on their work on this so far and for their conservation efforts. Mr. Tripp highlighted their tiered water rate structure as being an effective water conservation method. Mr. Anderson said agriculture doesn't really drive their water usage. He said there's a culture of water conservation in Airway Heights. He also noted that hitting people in their pocketbooks can be very effective. He also pointed out how water re-use is an integral part of their mission. CM Stratton said that she loves the idea of using reclaimed water and asked if the

City of Spokane is doing any of this. Marlene Feist said there have been a couple purple pipe pilot projects but that ultimately the river has a right to the City's treated effluent.

### **SBO for ARPA Administrative Support – Tonya Wallace (5 minutes)**

Tonya Wallace and Paul Ingiosi presented on the need for additional administrative and executive support to oversee the allocation management and reporting of the millions of dollars coming to the City from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The SBO is for \$1.1 million in three main parts for three types of positions. CM Cathcart asked if the plan is to vote on this tonight. He mentioned he was concerned that \$1.1 million is an obscene amount of money for these tracking purposes. CM Mumm asked if the administration expense is consistent with other grant tracking funding. Ms. Wallace said usually the cap on administration is around 10% and noted that this is an \$80 million program. She emphasized that there is currently not staff to administer this funding.

### **Homelessness and Shelter Update – CA Perkins & Cupid Alexander (10 minutes)**

City Administrator Johnnie Perkins and Cupid Alexander gave Council a brief update on homelessness and shelter capacity in the City. Mr. Alexander spoke about accomplishments – including flex shelter and day options, the work with the Salvation Army and VOA on the bridge housing model, winter sheltering, COVID response, and regional leadership. Mr. Alexander presented on next steps, including the 5-year plan update informed by the point in time count data. Mr. Perkins talked about the increased staffing (doubling from 5 to 10) and enhanced service associated with trash clean-up and graffiti abatement. Mr. Alexander gave a high-level overview of the point in time count data. The count indicates a slight reduction in overall number served in shelters – primarily due to COVID-19's impact. The data shows that the homeless population is dominated by single males and there is overrepresentation of communities of color. Mr. Perkins summarized the accomplishments and next steps. CP Beggs asked, in terms of estimating those who were unsheltered, what is the methodology and when did the City receive preliminary numbers. Mr. Alexander said that they finished the count in January and did analysis over the months of February and March for the information gathered. He said the longitudinal data had to be updated by our Partners and it would be available this week. CP Beggs noted from 2019 – 2020 it looks like the unsheltered numbers were up 50% or more and asked if we know if 2021 numbers are generally up from 2020. Mr. Alexander said in general they see a flattening but mostly due to COVID families were taking in individuals who would otherwise be unhoused. He said next year he anticipates we will see an increase because people won't have that generosity extended to them. CP Beggs said that he was trying to get these numbers for weeks, that the Mayor got these numbers in April, and he asked why Council had to wait to get them now. Mr. Perkins said that his briefing was June 1<sup>st</sup> and then he released the information on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and prior to that the numbers were under review to make sure the data were accurate before it was released to the Council. CP Beggs asked why the numbers were good enough for the Mayor to see but not the Council back in April. Mr. Perkins said the numbers were not finalized at that time and staff was doing their final due diligence and review. Mr. Perkins said that once that was completed, he asked for a briefing to make sure he understood what those numbers were conveying so he could communicate that not only to the Mayor, but also to the Council and public. CP Beggs said he appreciated that the numbers were better now than they were but asked why the staff

review didn't get done before the data were shared with the Mayor. CP Beggs asked what the difference is between the Mayor and the Council in terms of when we get to see numbers and will that continue in the future. Mr. Perkins said that he is always working to improve processes and communication, but he wanted to make sure that he was comfortable with the numbers before they got released so that he could articulate them and provide answers to the best of his ability. Mr. Perkins said he wanted to make sure the numbers were in a place where once he received them he could understand them and would be able to articulate that information and said that he did that in as timely a manner as he could. CP Beggs moved the conversation along. CP Beggs pointed out that the Way-Out shelter is soon being repurposed and asked what the plan is to replace those beds. Mr. Alexander said that the City is working to recapture those beds, but many providers that provide winter sheltering beds are not interested in extending contracts. Mr. Alexander said that staff has also looked at a hotel/motel strategy. CM Stratton said that she hopes that when we do bridge housing at the Way Out shelter that she hopes that the City is fully engaged and communicates with the neighbors. She said so far, a lot of harm has been done by not communicating effectively. She said the City can do better and she is willing to help in any way she can. CM Wilkerson said she was concerned when the comment was made about "re-checking" numbers and asked who does that work. She also asked for follow-up on how additional staffing impacts the existing open positions. Mr. Alexander talked about the point in time count being only a sheltered count and that a longitudinal analysis needed to be accomplished to achieve the point in time count of the unsheltered community – which couldn't be done by in-person counts because of COVID. Mr. Perkins said the ten positions will be new and temp seasonal to get them on-board as soon as possible. Mr. Perkins said that he is doing an in-depth look at hiring within the City. CM Cathcart said that he agrees there needs to be better communication to businesses and residents about what is happening in terms of sheltering in their neighborhood. CM Cathcart asked if questions about point of origin and reason for homelessness were left out in the point of time count this year. Mr. Perkins said his commitment is that they will communicate with the neighborhoods.

#### **Wildland Fire Preparation Update – Chief Schaeffer (10 minutes)**

Chief Schaeffer updated Council on the City's wildland fire preparation efforts. Chief Schaeffer talked about the current predictions, which indicate we are in unprecedented times in terms of dryness and lack of humidity across the entire landscape. He said the fuels they watch closely are dangerous. He gave examples of wildfires he and his team are seeing already are incredibly dangerous. Chief Schaeffer talked about the wildland-urban interface and the wildland-urban intermix, which are both areas where SFD is focusing its attention for wildland fire preparation. SFD is mapping the highest areas of urban interface and creating plans for those areas. He said the data they have from these maps and their interface with the public is incredibly valuable. Chief Schaeffer highlighted SFD's relationship with Avista wherein they are a first responder for downed power lines. Chief Schaeffer highlighted the success of the goat fire fuel mitigation project. He said reducing fuel reduces risk. CM Mumm asked if Chief Schaeffer could share his presentation with Council and said that the urban fire risk mapping would be impactful for citizens. Chief Schaeffer said he will get Council the live link to that map.

#### **Public Safety Capital Investment Plan Overview – Tonya Wallace, CA Perkins, Chief Meidl, & Chief Schaeffer (10 minutes)**

Tonya Wallace presented on the Spokane Investment Pool (SIP) Loan Program for Public Safety. She said this data is reflective of passed practices and is not necessarily reflective of the SIP Program going forward. Ms. Wallace talked about two 5-year funding plans – 2014-2018 and 2019-2022. Ms. Wallace pointed out that the debt service in 2021 exceeding the contribution from the general fund. Looking forward, Ms. Wallace reviewed revenues including 1% property tax and 1% match. CP Beggs talked about the previous plan to phase out borrowing. Ms. Wallace said she would like to see a long-term plan approved by Council going forward. CP Beggs asked how finance comes up with projections. Ms. Wallace said the numbers come from SPD's requests. CM Kinnear pointed out that Council has expressed a desire to continue the 1% general fund contribution going forward. CM Mumm asked about interest rates on the loans. Ms. Wallace said she would like to see Council take formal action on a way forward and provided options to increase the general fund contribution, strategically utilize SIP borrowing only when needed, decrease annual debt service, and combinations of all those options.

#### **Police Capital Budget for Vehicles – CA Perkins & Chief Meidl (5 minutes)**

This item was not discussed.

#### **Council Requests:**

##### **Behavioral Health Unit-Grant Application-2021-2022 – CM Cathcart (5 minutes)**

CM Cathcart requested a brief discussion on this item. CM Cathcart said that he recalled a month or so back that there was a situation where the BHU refused to send an individual out to a situation where there was a bomb scare, and asked if there was a better way to structure this contract so the BHU is responsive to the situation. Jan Tokumoto said their crisis unit operates 24/7 and respond when there is a request for their services. She mentioned that there might not be complete accuracy to the story CM Cathcart was referencing. CM Cathcart asked if BHU will show up if SPD makes a request. Ms. Tokumoto said they will respond but cannot guarantee how quickly they can be on site. CM Cathcart asked Chief Meidl if he likes the way this contract is structured. Chief Meidl said that he does and that, frankly, he was not happy with one of the quotes an SPD officer made in the article that CM Cathcart was referring to. He said Frontier Behavioral Health has been a phenomenal partner.

##### **Discussion about Moving Applicable 911 Calls to Mobile Response Team at Frontier Behavioral Health – CM Kinnear, CP Beggs, and Jan Tokumoto (15 minutes)**

Council President Beggs and CM Kinnear invited Jan Tokumoto from Frontier Behavioral Health to discuss the future of moving applicable 911 calls to a Frontier mobile response team. Chief Meidl started the conversation by saying they are on the right track in identifying calls that Frontier can manage. He said they are putting together a committee and establishing criteria for elements that Frontier is taking on and what calls will not be included in their work. Ms. Tokumoto said it is all about identifying the situations where diversion to a mobile outreach team would be the preferred first line of response. She noted that part of this work is also identifying how that team would be able to call in backup when needed. She highlighted how successful this type of team has been in other municipalities. CM Wilkerson expressed concern about the staffing necessary to make this team successful. Ms. Tokumoto acknowledged that additional staffing would be needed but the staff would be handling lower acuity

calls. Ms. Tokumoto noted that she has one Mobile Community Assertive Treatment (MCAT) team and that she has a total staff of around 20. CM Kinnear said that she has been in communication with Chief Meidl and other CMs about increasing staffing for Frontier, so they are not stretching their existing staffing too far.

**Discussion about Possibility of Using FEMA Reimbursement to Purchase Vacant or Underused Motels/Hotels to House Citizens Experiencing Homelessness – CM Kinnear (10 minutes)**

CM Kinnear began a conversation about potentially using FEMA reimbursement to purchase vacant or underused motels/hotels within the City to house citizens experiencing homelessness. She said she has been pursuing this for at least the last year. She asked Cupid Alexander if this is something the administration is considering. Mr. Alexander said one of the considerations when being innovative is what is the sustainability plan. He said it is something his department has thought about but it's about knowing sustainability piece before anything could move forward.

**State Legislative Update:**

NONE

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**ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:**

NONE

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**Action Items:** NONE

**Executive Session:** NONE

**Adjournment:** CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:59PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, July 12, 2021.

**Attachments/Briefing Papers:** Interagency Agreement between SPD and WTSC for DRE Program; Contract for Repair of Police Firing Range; SBO for WA Auto Theft Prevention Grant Award FY2021-2023; Grant Application Approval for FY21-22 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program with Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs; Garment/Linen Rental and Laundry Contract Renewal; Interlocal Agreement for Relicensing Program; Renewal of Contractor for Claims Management Services; Storm Debris Disposal Contract Amendment; Accela Annual Support and Upgrades; Mitchell Humphrey & Co. Annual Support and Upgrades; Meter Reading Support Services Contract Renewal; Residential Microseal Overlay; Hoffman Well Upgrade; Airway Heights Amended Water Supply Agreement and Emergency Water Service Agreement Council Requests; Homelessness and Shelter Presentation; Public Safety Capital Investment Plan Presentation; and Behavioral Health Unit-Grant Application-2021-2022.

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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, flowing style with a large initial 'L' and a decorative flourish at the end.

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**Committee Chair Approval**  
**Lori Kinnear**  
**Spokane City Council – District 2**