

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021

Call to Order: 10:03 AM

Attendance:

PSCHC Members Present: CM Kinnear; CM Mumm; CM Stratton; CM Cathcart; and CM Wilkerson (arrived at 10:05).

Staff/Others Present: Mike Ormsby, Chief Craig Meidl, Nathan Spiering, Justin Lundgren, Eric Olsen, Michael McNab, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Seth Hackenberg, Sarah Nuss, Lance Dahl, Patrick Striker, Brian McClatchey, Erik Poulsen, Mary Machtolf, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

Approval of June 7, 2021 minutes: Motion to approve by CM Stratton; M/S by CM Cathcart. The committee approved the minutes from the June 7, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Reports:

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

Consent Agenda Portion:

1. Funding acceptance for FY21-22 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program with Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (SPD)
 2. SBO for Sexual Assault Kit grant award FY21-22 (SPD)
 3. Spokane County and Spokane Police Department Joint Justice Assistance Grant Application (SPD)
 4. ESO Solutions Annual Subscription Renewal (SFD)
 5. Department of Ecology 2021 – 2023 HazMat Grant (SFD)
 6. Sole Resolution & Contract with Rebound (SFD)
 7. Field Engineering Building Cabling (IT)
 8. SBO for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (SFD)
 9. Assistance to Firefighter Grant through FEMA (SFD)
 10. Purchase of Two (2) Type VI Rapid Attack Brush Vehicles (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 presented K-9 unit data from the last month. In June 2021. There were 69 deployments, 20 people located, and 1 contact. Sgt. Spiering gave a narrative example of one of the deployments.

Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Requests:

Spokane Community Court Female Only Respite Bed Program – Seth Hackenberg (5 minutes)

Seth Hackenberg updated Council on the respite bed program and stated that this is simply an expansion of the program to include a female only bed program. The VOA Hope House will be the operator and will utilize the Catholic Charities men program model. Mr. Hackenberg said that if this program is deemed successful it could be expanded even further. Right now, this expansion is the in between step – an extension of the pilot program. CM Stratton said that this is wonderful and appreciates the current efforts on data collecting. CM Kinneer asked Mr. Hackenberg to check-in with Council to give an update over the next coming months. CM Wilkerson asked how many beds are being allocated. Mr. Hackenberg said right now there is only one male bed and one female bed.

Spokane County Department of Emergency Management ILA – Sarah Nuss (5 minutes)

Sarah Nuss discussed her recommendation to Council to re-join in the joint emergency management organization. She provided an overview of why she is making this recommendation. CM Mumm asked, if we are participating with the County, could we split use or cost on emergency projects like the cooling centers. She noted that the County was relying on non-profits in the City of Spokane to meet their cooling center needs during the last heat wave. Ms. Nuss said the City's requirement to operate a cooling center is set through municipal code. She also noted that the County did their duty through their own legal requirements. CM Mumm suggested that if the County is shuttling their residents to use City resources, that there is a pro-rata sharing of that cost. CM Wilkerson asked for clarification about what will be different when the City re-joins this agreement. Ms. Nuss said the withdrawal happened in 2019 and the new ILA has been updated with requests for more quantifiable and measurable requirements. She said it was a more thorough ILA with more explicit requirements for both parties.

Fee Study Increase and FTE Increase – Fire Marshal Lance Dahl (10 minutes)

Fire Marshal Lance Dahl began the conversation by pointing out that there was already a Council conversation on this topic at a recent study session. Mr. Dahl said that, until now, the Fire Department

had not completed a Fee Study on Permitting and Plan Review fees since 2009. He said that to balance the City's budget in 2004, the Prevention Division's inspection staffing was reduced by 30% (one Assistant Fire Marshal, two Deputy Fire Marshals) and Clerk staffing by 33%. Between 2004 and the fall of 2020, the City of Spokane has increased its building square footage by 20 million square feet. This increase accounts for an additional 22.5% of the City's commercial building inventory. The growth has been dramatic and increased the workload for the limited staff. The lack of inspection staff to handle the additional work has lengthened the time required for plan review, delayed construction inspections, and extended wait time for required annual inspections. CM Kinnear noted that this ultimately ties into insurance rates. CM Mumm said this is not just homeowners but building owners and expressed her support. CM Cathcart pointed out that the Inlander did a report debunking the insurance decrease claim.

Adopting Wildland-Urban Interface Code Sections Missing from the State Model Code – Fire Marshal Lance Dahl (10 minutes)

Fire Marshal Lance Dahl said that this adoption of code regarding department access and Fire Department water supply would give the Spokane Fire Department the tools it needs to ensure that we evaluate the WUI according to National Standards. It would also allow the Spokane Fire Department to hold developers and citizens accountable for mitigating the Wildfire Risk to the Spokane Community.

Council Requests:

Update on Unfilled NRO Positions – CM Stratton (5 minutes)

CM Stratton requested a brief discussion on this item because she heard on the north side that there are two NROs who are reporting up. She asked for the timeline for replacing those NROs. Chief Meidl gave background on retirements, officers on probation, etc. He said that there are about 40 positions on the books that they are currently unable to use. He said while the numbers they are authorized for are looking good, they are having a hard time filling those positions. Chief Meidl said that one of the northside NROs has been taken off the team to strengthen the homeless outreach team. Chief Meidl said they are trying to ramp up recruitment, but there is about a year lag time because of the training required between the time of hiring a new officer and when SPD can have them in a position. He noted that they are also trying to hire laterally. CM Stratton said the thing that concerns her the most is the way SPD is – or in this case isn't – communicating these changes out to the neighborhoods. Major Olsen echoed the Chief's comments and said in terms of communication, he will talk to Captain Griffiths about how to communicate better. CM Wilkerson asked what the coordination is between ONS and SPD to serve the needs of neighborhoods. Major Olsen said the communication is open but he wasn't aware how thoroughly communicated these NRO shifts were. CM Stratton suggested working with Carly Cortright on communicating adjustments.

SBO for C.O.P.S. Crime Advocate Positions – CM Stratton (5 minutes)

CM Stratton began the conversation on the proposed SBO for C.O.P.S. Crime Advocate Positions. Patrick Striker and two C.O.P.S. crime victim advocates presented on. He said usually these positions are state grant funded. This year, C.O.P.S. did not receive the grant and so Mr. Striker is asking that the City fund

these positions until he can utilize state funding again. These positions are advocates for those who have been victimized. CM Kinnear expressed support for the work these advocates do. CM Stratton asked Mr. Striker to talk about how crime advocates shifted their model during COVID-19. Mr. Striker gave a rundown of how the pandemic created a perfect storm for victims. He talked about the increase in computer and telephone-oriented crime. The advocates helped walk victims through the information and resources available to them. CM Stratton said she would like to fund these two positions for two years via an SBO and that these positions would also take on some additional graffiti mitigation duties. CM Mumm said Council may need to check on whether we need to do a competitive process. Brian McClatchey said the ARP does have applicable eligible uses of funds, but he will check with City Legal about CM Mumm's competitive procurement process. CM Stratton noted that there is a hurry because the previous grant ended at the end of June. CM Mumm said that maybe Council could do a patch under \$50K to cover any potential gap.

Cold Case Unit Update – CM Kinnear (10 minutes)

CM Kinnear asked for a brief update on the status of the creation of a cold case unit. Major McNab said there aren't any additional updates on where were at for standing up a cold case unit, but there will be a SBO for Sexual Assault Kit grant award before Council tonight. He said the biggest barrier continues to be staffing.

Discussion about SPD Food and Beverage Reimbursement – CM Mumm (15 minutes)

CM Mumm began a discussion about SPD food and beverage reimbursement based on testimony from a citizen who pointed out there were two catering bills for 600 and 400 people that amounted to thousands of dollars. Chief Meidl noted that these purchases were the result of mutual aid agreements. He said that when the National Guard is called in there is a requirement that food and water are provided. CM Mumm asked if the food was provided to law enforcement and not to the public. Chief Meidl said that was correct. CM Mumm asked if the existing policy is clear on this. Chief Meidl quoted from the existing policy and pointed out that there may be some vague language. CM Mumm said that there may be room to make it explicitly clear that money can be spent on food and water for those providing assistance to SPD through mutual aid agreements.

Downtown Precinct Update – CM Kinnear (5 minutes)

CM Kinnear requested an update on the accessibility of the downtown precinct to the public. She pointed out that currently it is not a readily accessible area for the public. Major Olsen said that the precinct is now open and staffed with one officer and has been for weeks. He mentioned that C.O.P.S. volunteers have reviewed the space and SPD is trying to work through some logistical issues. CM Kinnear clarified that she and other members of the public would be able to access the precinct if they went down there today. Major Olsen confirmed this. CM Wilkerson asked if there will be access issues at precincts across the City as new community policing models are adopted across the City. She pointed out that it's important that these precincts are citizen friendly. Major Olsen said that the downtown precinct is staffed and there is an opportunity for face-to-face interactions with citizens. CM Cathcart

asked if it is still a priority to have officers out walking and biking. Major Olsen said that officers are split between the desk and being out on bikes.

Update on Wildfire Season – Chief Schaeffer (5 minutes)

Chief Schaeffer gave a brief update on wildfire season. He mentioned that as of today there are 1,700 fires across the state of Washington. There were 47 new fires over the weekend. Chief Schaeffer commented on the City’s vulnerability when it comes to fires along the urban wildlife interface. He shared photos of two fires within the urban wildlife interface that happened over the weekend. He shared that we are at preparedness level 4, which is one away from the worst place we could be – level 5, which is where we were in 2015. CM Mumm asked if we could amplify and educational program. Chief Schaeffer said that SFD is trying to ramp up partnerships with local media on a “Ready, Set, Go” wildfire preparedness campaign. CM Mumm said that it’s also important for citizens to inspect the safety of their own property. Chief Schaeffer thanked CM Mumm and said they would try to ramp up that messaging. CM Kinnear noted that she and CP Beggs have made a video in the past about preparing personal property to be wildfire safe. She also encouraged Chief Shaeffer to use Council Members to help with their messaging whenever they can. CM Cathcart asked about the Fire Wise campaign. Chief Schaeffer said that we are participating in this program and there are two or three neighborhoods that are Fire Wise certified. He said this program is important for pointed community risk reduction. CM Kinnear added that the goats will be back late summer and it’s a resource that we should continue to expand and use across the City.

State Legislative Update:

NONE

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:

NONE

Action Items: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Adjournment: CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 11:06AM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, August 2, 2021.

Attachments/Briefing Papers: Funding acceptance for FY21-22 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program with Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs; SBO for Sexual Assault Kit grant award FY21-22; Spokane County and Spokane Police Department Joint Justice Assistance Grant Application; ESO Solutions Annual Subscription Renewal; Department of Ecology 2021 – 2023 HazMat Grant; Sole Resolution & Contract with Rebound; Field Engineering Building Cabling; SBO for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant; Assistance to Firefighter Grant through FEMA; Purchase of Two (2) Type VI Rapid Attack Brush Vehicles; Spokane Community Court Female Only Respite Bed Program Briefing Paper; Spokane County Department of Emergency Management ILA; SFD Fee Study Increase and FTE

Increase; Wildland-Urban Interface Code Sections Missing from the State Model Code; and SBO for C.O.P.S. Crime Advocate Positions.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Kinnear". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Committee Chair Approval

Lori Kinnear Spokane City Council – District 2