

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2021

Call to Order: 1:18 PM

Attendance:

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

Staff/Others Present: City Administrator Johnnie Perkins, Mike Ormsby, Kurtis Reese, Justin Lundgren, Eric Olsen, Chief Brian Schaeffer, Howard Delaney, Mary Muramatsu, Rick Giddings, Kevin Picanco, Brian McClatchey, Katherine Miller, Giacobbe Byrd, and Hannahlee Allers.

Approval of July 12, 2021 minutes: Motion to approve by CM Wilkerson; M/S by CM Stratton. The committee approved the minutes from the July 12, 2021 PSCHC meeting unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Monthly Reports:

1. OPO Monthly Update – June2021
2. Photo Red Update (SPD)
3. August Strategic Initiatives Report (SPD)
4. Sit and Lie Report (SPD)
5. 2021 2Q Forfeiture and Expenditure Report (SPD)

Consent Agenda Portion:

1. Funding Acceptance for WASPC Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Program 2021-2022 (SPD)
2. Purchase of Ballistic Body Armor (SPD)
3. Annual Value Blanket Renewal for Backflow Prevention Devices (Public Works)
4. SBO for Two Planning Specialist Positions to the Development Services Center (Community and Economic Development)
5. SBO for Historic Preservation Second Position (Community and Economic Development)
6. Renewal of Risk Management Insurance Coverage (Legal)

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Strategic Priority: Integrated 911/Dispatch

NONE

Strategic Priority: Integrated Response

NONE

Strategic Priority: Criminal Justice Reform

Sgt. Spiering Update (5 minutes)

Kurtis Reese filled in for Sgt. Spiering and presented K-9 unit data from the last month. In July 2021, there were 58 deployments, 19 captures, and 1 contact. Mr. Reese gave a narrative example of one of the deployments. CM Kinnear suggested making these updates quarterly instead of monthly.

Strategic Priority: City-Wide Clean & Safe

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Requests:

Rebranding of Probation to Community Justice Services – Howard Delaney (5 minutes)

Howard Delaney briefed Council on a series of changes to the Spokane Municipal Code in anticipation of the launch of the supportive release project, which Council funded pre-COVID and will launch soon. The program re-brands Probation to Community Justice Services. This change has garnered some positive attention nationally and will ideally help change behavior to avoid both pre- and post-conviction resistance to supervision and reduce recidivism.

Ordinance Incorporating Revised Drug Possession Offenses and Penalties into the SMC – Mary Muramatsu (10 minutes)

Mary Muramatsu gave a legislative history on the state-level drug possession statute. Ms. Muramatsu said that the proposed ordinance incorporates the revised drug possession offenses and the corresponding penalties into the Spokane Municipal Code, ensuring that these crimes may be prosecuted in the Spokane Municipal Court. She reviewed the Possession of Controlled Substance Referral form and noted that prosecution could take place after the third offense. CM Wilkerson asked how soon the documentation of the first, second, and third encounters could be stood up. Ms. Muramatsu said the department is ready to implement immediately after these revisions go into effect. CP Beggs thanked Ms. Muramatsu for her work and expressed a concern with the form. He said the treatment list on the form is a static list and he is not convinced that the list is within the spirit of the law. He proposed a more proactive approach to finding appropriate treatment for each contacted individual. Ms. Muramatsu said that CP Beggs' concern was great feedback and there may be ways to fill in the follow-up gaps. She said she will take this feedback back to the City Prosecutors. CP Beggs said he would appreciate a follow-up on this prior to implementation. Major Eric Olsen noted that other agencies in the state are implementing this the exact same way in order to comply with the statute. Major Olsen noted that the BHU will not have the capacity to fill that referral gap. CM Cathcart asked Major Olsen to walk through the process for engagement for each of the three potential contacts. Major Olsen walked through a hypothetical scenario for all three contacts. CM Cathcart asked if officers are going to engage on those first two contacts and wondered if it will be perceived as time well spent by officers. Major Olsen said that this is dicey because what was previously a felony is not even a misdemeanor on the first two contacts. Major Olsen said that officers will probably take the time to cite when it is part of a co-occurring arrest, but that it will depend highly on the circumstances when it is the primary reason for contact.

Contract for Green Fleet (EV & Biofuel) Implementation Plan Development – Rick Giddings (10 minutes)

Rick Giddings updated Council on the RFP for the City's Green Fleet. He said that this will help the City get to its goal of 100% electric or green fuel purchases and leases by 2030. Mr. Giddings walked through the parameters of this plan. He said that eight responses to the RFP were received. An Evaluation Committee, consisting of members from multiple departments across the City, evaluated all responses. He said Frontier Energy's proposal was scored the highest and they are excited to work with them. CP Beggs thanked Rick for moving this along and for getting the City an outside vendor to support our work. He requested that Council stay updated on their process. Mr. Ormsby talked about a specific scenario of having difficulty getting the delivery of electric vehicles for parking enforcement and suggested an alternative way forward to quickly get those electric vehicles out on the road. Mr. Giddings talked about the difficulty getting electric vehicles in this market. He talked about setting up a process to streamline the purchasing process, so we don't run into these issues in the future. CP Beggs asked if we are leasing or buying these vehicles. Mr. Giddings said the City sourced through Enterprise on this for an open-ended lease. He noted that it is part of a pilot so there will be analysis of this process. He said what's good about the Enterprise agreement is that we get our equity back if we decide to buy at the end of the lease period. Mr. Ormsby said he will work with his legal team to come up with a streamlined process.

Transportation Improvement Board Grant Program Discussion – Kevin Picanco (5 minutes)

Kevin Picanco updated Council on the State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant opportunity. Mr. Picanco said TIB does an annual call for projects. He said the City frequently submits applications under the Urban Arterial Program and the Urban Sidewalks Program. Mr. Picanco said that all applications for these programs are looking for a 20% minimum local match, that construction obligation is 2023, and that applications are due mid-August. He talked about the projects under consideration for both programs. CM Mumm asked if the arterial grant prevents spending on sidewalk improvements. Mr. Picanco said it could, but it will likely be on a case-by-case basis for these particular projects and the primary scope of the projects will be the pavement.

Council Members approved all these discussion items to move on to the agenda docketing process.

Council Requests:**Financial Support for Way Out Shelter – CM Wilkerson (5 minutes)**

CM Wilkerson requested a brief discussion on this topic. She asked for clarity on the City's funding commitment for this shelter. Mr. Ormsby provided background on the bridge housing concept and the County and City collaboration on this type of housing. The City and County committed to spend \$500,000 per year each to provide support for the Way Out Shelter operated by the Salvation Army. This Resolution memorializes this commitment. Mr. Ormsby provided an overview of the financial picture and committed to gather more information on how the City's prior commitments were memorialized. CM Kinnear asked if CM Wilkerson was asking about whether this funding was general fund or pass-through money. CM Wilkerson said yes, her initial concern was that this money would be coming from the City's general fund and that it was a five-year commitment. CP Beggs talked about his attendance at a regional leadership meeting on housing and homelessness. He noted that the County's money is pass

through money (grant and CARES funding). He said we really need to agree to a per capita amount from local jurisdictions so that it's not just the City committing its general fund dollars. CP Beggs lauded this shelter and pointed out that the bottom floor should be available for lower-barrier night-by-night beds. CP Beggs proposed paying them more for that additional capacity. CM Wilkerson said that she is supportive of this bridge housing model and that she needs more clarity on the financial end. CM Wilkerson asked if there has been a meeting between the administration and the Emerson-Garfield neighborhood. City Administrator Johnnie Perkins said that a meeting has been scheduled. City Administrator Perkins also asked if the finance piece of this discussion could be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. CM Wilkerson agreed that this would be a good idea. CP Beggs said that for every neighborhood there should be good neighbor agreements for these types of contracts. CM Cathcart agreed with CP Beggs on this. CM Stratton recommended talking about other City match funding commitments at the next Finance Committee meeting.

CM Kinnear took a point of privilege to talk about the unnecessary panic and fear that is circulating the community around the State Legislatures updated laws around policing. CM Stratton echoed the idea that there is community fear around this topic. She talked about the community-wide perception that the police won't come if you call them. CM Wilkerson also talked about the challenges of the current community narrative. CM Stratton said that she received an email saying that a citizen was ready to take the law into their own hands. Assistant Chief Justin Lundgren said that there is a disconnect in what the changes in the laws do. He said that there will be a change law enforcement tactics and it makes particularly proactive police activities more challenging. CM Kinnear said while she doesn't necessarily disagree, she noted that we need to see how this all unfolds factually and not with fear-based information. Assistant Chief Lundgren said he agrees but that the laws are already in effect for their officers. He said his officers need to change now, and it is having an impact on their services. CP Beggs said that police are going to have to adjust and said Chief Meidl gave a great presentation where he was positive about the changes. CP Beggs said he would like to see more balance and thought it was disturbing that the police is using its media outlets to take a political stand. CP Beggs commented on the merit of the state legislative changes and said he is committed to working on clarifications. Major Olsen said that there is a lot of ambiguity in these changes. He said they are operating the best they can with the legal advice they have. He said their officers are eager to get out there and support their community and are also concerned with these changes. CM Cathcart said that the most contentious debates are often when there's not a shared understanding of facts. He asked if the City could put together a scenario-based FAQ so we could get agreement on facts. CM Kinnear said that she agrees with that idea.

City Administrator Perkins reminded the community that National Night Out Against Crime is tomorrow (Tuesday, August 3rd).

State Legislative Update:

NONE

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS:

NONE

Action Items: NONE

Executive Session: NONE

Adjournment: CM Kinnear adjourned the meeting at 2:29PM. The next PSCHC meeting will be held Monday, August 30, 2021.

Attachments/Briefing Papers: Funding Acceptance for WASPC Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Program 2021-2022; Purchase of Ballistic Body Armor; Annual Value Blanket Renewal for Backflow Prevention Devices; SBO for Two Planning Specialist Positions to the Development Services Center; SBO for Historic Preservation Second Position; Renewal of Risk Management Insurance Coverage; Rebranding of Probation to Community Justice Services; Ordinance Incorporating Revised Drug Possession Offenses and Penalties into the SMC; Contract for Green Fleet (EV & Biofuel) Implementation Plan Development; Transportation Improvement Board Grant Program Briefing Paper; and Financial Support for Way Out Shelter Briefing Paper.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Kinnear", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Committee Chair Approval

Lori Kinnear Spokane City Council – District 2