

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

October 9, 2012
11:30 AM
City Council Chambers (Hosted by FECC)

PSC Members:	Vacant (Seat A - 2014)	Robert Fox (Seat E - 2012)
	Bill Satterberg (Seat B - 2012)	New – Seat F (2013)
	Peter Stern (Seat C - 2013)	New – Seat G (2014)
	Buzzy Chiu (Seat D - 2014)	John Eberhart (Council Representative)

Meeting Minutes

CALLED TO ORDER: 11:38 am

ATTENDANCE: Peter Stern, Buzzy Chiu, Robert Fox, John Eberhart, Bill Satterberg (1145 – quorum achieved)

MINUTES: The July 10, 2012 minutes held due to lack of quorum, and then approved unanimously later in the meeting when a quorum was achieved (Fox/Satterberg).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Turney – expressed concerns about the new traffic quotas initiated at FPD, and that quotas were unconstitutional. Vandalism to the downtown flowers was not visible on the Festival Fairbanks cameras due to poor lighting, and he thinks this should be addressed, as if a more serious crime was committed in that area the cameras would not be of any use.

COF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

FECC:

- Director Johnson reports they have been approved to conduct a trial program of part-time non-permanent call takers through the end of the year. So far it seems to be working out. They were fortunate to have two previous dispatchers filling the current position so their training time was minimal. Peter Stern asked what the function of these call takers is – Ms. Johnson clarified that they focus on telephone interaction only, and are working during the peak call in times (late afternoon and early evenings). They do not dispatch. Having them handle the phones allows dispatchers to focus on radio traffic. A follow up question revealed that the training time for someone with no public safety background to being able to function as a call taker is about 2 months.
- The CAD system is being revised to have a single run for each agency. Currently FFD and other customers have separate fire calls and EMS calls generated for events in which both functions occur. This creates a whole host of problems in records management.
- Currently waiting on signatures for agency contracts for dispatching services.

FFD:

- Chief Cummings reviewed the FFD statistics and discussed the Lowe's fire.
- Ron Templeton has taken a position as Asst Chief/Fire Marshal at UAF so our Deputy Fire Marshal position is currently open. He reports that two Battalion Chiefs have retired in the last few months, Rich Meyer with 30 years and Mark Drygas with 21 years, of service to FFD.
- Three new hires are in a recruit academy and should could toward minimum manning on Nov 1st.
- He reviewed the status of several grant projects, including radio Narrow-Banding required by the FCC, new SCBA's & turnouts, confined space training and a new medium duty ambulance.

- He reported that the transmission is going out on one of the platforms and the engine in Engine 1 will need to be rebuilt soon.
- A question about the two types of smoke detectors was asked, and Chief Cummings recommended either a dual detector or having one of each type, as they respond differently to various situations.

FPD:

- Chief Zager reviewed the FPD statistics and answered a question about the relationship to alcohol. There is no way to document alcohol involved with various citations except for alcohol related offenses. This led to discussion regarding frequency of calls to “trouble locations” and whether this should be considered during approval of liquor licenses. Several members discussed the importance of not penalizing bars who are calling for law enforcement as a proactive measure. A follow up question regarding the effectiveness of the Housing First project led Chief Zager to say that it is too soon to know. A question regarding the effectiveness of the proxy buying ordinance was answered by Lt. Jewkes, who indicated that it is used occasionally but requires committed time to observe the buy and then follow the buyer back to the group.
- Chief Zager indicated that quota is an improper characterization of the requirement that all patrol officers be involved in traffic activities. It is a part of their job and it is simply a mechanism to get officers back in the habit of doing that part of their job – in effect setting a work standard. These contacts do not have to result in a citation, and all stops must meet the probable cause requirements and he said he would fire anyone who stopped a car for no reason. The reason for instituting this standard is that there is a direct correlation between traffic incidents and crime rates. Additional comments by PSC members are that a higher police visibility is beneficial, and should hopefully reduce the serious number of red light violations, and that it is nice that officers have the option to give warning. Mr. Turney repeated his position that these quotas are illegal.

OLD BUSINESS.

Public Safety Officer Concept

Chief Zager distributed a binder as a starting point of reference material on the subject, and the contents were reviewed. Peter Stern said that in recognition of having new PSC members, that he would propose that each Chief give a presentation on how the current system works in their department so they can more fully understand what the changes would be under a PSO model. The employee reps could do the same from the employee perspective. After this is done then the commission can move into reviewing the PSO concept for Fairbanks. Comments regarding the PSO concept are that this is only one type of public safety combination, and concerns expressed about HIPAA issues when an individual who is a police officer is wearing their EMS hat. Pat Cole will email a recruitment video done by Sunnyvale. Chief Zager indicated that in successful PSO programs, there are always individuals who are fully police or fully fire. It was agreed the first presentation will be done by Fire and be at the Fire Department in November, and the next presentation will be done by Police and will be held at the Police Department in December. Further scheduling will be determined after that. In the meantime, Mr. Stern strongly encourages new PSC members to do ride alongs with both the Police and Fire departments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reappointment/Appointment of Commission Members

Mayor Cleworth indicated he has three appointments to go before the City Council on October 22nd for confirmation. They are Thomas Carter, Carl Cox and Nathan Smoot. He will also reappoint Bill Satterberg and Robert Fox at that meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Moved up to November 13, 2012 and will be hosted by Fairbanks Fire Department.

CLOSING COMMENTS

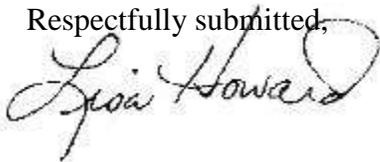
Discussion regarding status of fire service by contract. There are currently about 12 properties that boundary Van Horn road that have contracted with the City for fire protection. These areas are logically covered by the COF rather than UFD. The city already provides ambulance service in those areas. The council has approved offering this protection to anyone in that three square mile area, as it is primarily a human safety issue.

School Resource Officer (SRO) is in its fourth year and per the grant is on the schools to fund. There does not appear to be any new grants to fund these types of activities. It has been well received and beneficial. SRO's are responsible for activities on campus as well as various mentoring and counseling activities. Mr. Stern feels the PSC should do what it can to help keep the program alive.

Mr. Turney asked about the status of the "old dairy building" and is concerned it causes a safety issue for neighboring residents.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Howard".