

MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
June 4, 2013

ROLL CALL: The meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were Dr. Laura Kressler, Cynthia Comproni, Stan Zirkin, Mary Thomas and William James. City Liaisons Captain Kemp and Mary Johnson and Councilmember Ed Putens were also present.

MINUTES: The minutes with changes were approved for the May 7, 2013 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – CITY SIGNAGE - Continued discussion regarding the signage at the police station and fire station – Mrs. Comproni contacted the Director of Safety for the Washington Hospital Center. Hospital signs are regulated by the State Highway. Mrs. Comproni stated in Section 20.1 or 20.2 general service signs are not required in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement agencies, etc. The question was asked if law enforcement signage is regulated by the State does that apply to the City. Dr. Kressler said in order to place signs on Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road, we may need the State's permission. Council and the City's legal council will have to work with the State Highway.

It was agreed that the City needs better signage on all City buildings, including the fire house. The Police Department's signage sits too far back from Crescent Road and is not easily visible due to location and poor lighting. It was mentioned that perhaps the recommended signage could be art deco which would fit in with the City's architecture.

It was discussed that in addition to new signage on the City's buildings, signs directing people to the Police Department be placed at:

- Two signs placed at Southway and Greenbelt Road
- An additional sign on Southway
- Two signs be placed on Kenilworth Avenue
- Two or possibly three signs by the Police Department.

Dr. Kressler said she would draft a letter to Council.

DOG LAWS – Mr. Zirkin researched vicious dog statutes and gave articles he had found in his research to PSAC members. Mr. Zirkin said in his opinion, the California statute is a good one.

Dr. Kressler said that Prince George's County needs to revise its vicious dog laws. What determines if the dog is labeled a pit bull? Dr. Kressler would forward the articles to Celia Craze, Director of Planning & Community Development.

RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM – Captain Kemp said many places use a Reserve Officer Program however Greenbelt Police have never had such a program. Questions

ensued if this is a paid or volunteer position. Captain Kemp said we would need look into the scope of the program further. Councilmember Puten said they would relieve our officers of certain full-time duties and would be armed and on the street, i.e. Roosevelt Center. It was decided to look into this program further.

CRISIS COUNSELORS – Discussion ensued about looking into a Crisis Counselor Volunteer Program for the Greenbelt Police Department. Councilmember Putens said some Cities in the Midwest have such a program and they typically volunteer for one year. It was decided to look into this program further.

NEW BUSINESS – REVIEW OF WORK SESSION ON MAY 8, 2013. Dr. Kressler attended the work session and read the statistics for the Police Department's review of Public Safety for 2012.

- Violent crime down 30% in 5 years
- Property crime is up
- Crime in Franklin Park is down by 49%
- 5400 calls for service by on-call officers
- CALEA – Greenbelt Police Department received CALEA's highest rating only 5% of departments obtain this rating
- Perfect score for NCIC audit
- 250 DUI's
- 11,000 traffic stops
- Now have digital fingerprinting – thumps only
- City undergoing an organizational assessment
- Police Department needs a dedicated I.T. professional
- Patrol Officers need to be increased
- Public Information Officer has been civilianized
- Police receive 1 complaint per 1500 calls
- Police need a larger station
- Six bilingual officers – there is a need for more

BRUSH AND FOREST FIRE CONCERNS – Dr. Kressler witnessed a brush fire in the Northway woods. Please watch out for brush fires. Mrs. Comproni suggested that PSAC suggest a public service announcement on access television. Dr. Kressler also suggested a public service announcement in the Greenbelt News Review.

CROSSWALKS – Mrs. Comproni said she would like to add the crosswalks on Ridge Road, specifically at Mowatt Church to the next agenda. Councilmember Putens said that certain rules and regulations apply to crosswalks. Dr. Kressler will ask Celia Craze.

NEXT MEETING: The next PSAC meeting will be held on July 2, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.