



**City of Cedar Rapids**  
**Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Minutes**  
**Police Department Community Room, 505 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW**  
**Monday, March 14, 2016**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht and Scott Overland; Assistant Fire Chief Curtis Hopper, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippey, and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR.

The February 8, 2016, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

**Building Services Report – Kevin Ciabatti**

**Permits:**

- Total permits issued are down 4% from this time last year.
- The total residential building permits are up 21% from this time last year.
- The total number of permits issued is down 4% from this time last month (typical drop for February).

**Inspections:**

- Building inspections are down 11% from this time last year (for the month of February).
- Electrical inspections are up 38% from this time last year (for the month of February).
- Mechanical inspections are down 17% from this time last year (for the month of February).
- Plumbing inspections are up 7% from this time last year (for the month of February).
- Overall, the total number of inspections are up 4% from this time last year (for the month of February).
- The total number of inspections are down 5% from this time last month.

**Complaints:**

- The total number of open complaints are down 4% from this time last year.
- However, the total number of open cases are up 9% from this time last month.
- The total number of pending investigations have been reduced 7% from this time last year.  
(2015 = 54; 2016 = 50)
- The total number of open nuisance cases are up 10% from this time last year. (2015 = 183; 2016 = 203)
- The total number of open zoning cases are down 38% from this time last year. (2015 = 249; 2016 = 154)

**Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy**

Rippy reviewed the Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary for February 2016 (attached). So far in calendar year 2016 AAS calls for service are tracking higher than calendar year 2015. AAS is preparing for increased community standbys in the next couple months. AAS provides a standby medic at all home Kernels games and Kernels stadium events, at all events at Hawkeye Downs at Motocross events, and at all US Cellular Center events for a fee. AAS also provides standby at some non-profit events, runs and high school athletic events for no charge. The Cedar Rapids Titans and Cedar Rapids Roughriders agree to advertise that AAS is providing a standby medic and AAS provides the medic at no charge.

AAS is having 6 new ambulances built to their specifications. They expect delivery of a few of these new ambulances in June and a few in August/September. These new ambulances will have a power lifting system installed so that crews no longer have to lift the stretchers into the back of the ambulance hopefully eliminating any future back injuries. A road safety device will also be installed in the new ambulances which will track speed, braking, acceleration and turning. Current ambulances have a camera/audio system installed. All controls in the new ambulances will be in front of the driver (some controls now are in between the driver and passenger seats currently). The new ambulances will also add 6" to the cab area. These new ambulances will cost between \$225,000 and \$250,000 each.

**Fire Department Report –Assistant Chief Curtis Hopper**

The Fire Marshal Inspections/Fees totaled \$28,970.65 in January and \$38,503.36 revenue in February (attached).

The February, 2016, Fire Department EMS performance metrics, performance metrics and customer survey card results are attached.

The Fire Department currently has one arson investigator and K9 but currently in the process of training a second. There are currently two Fire Department employees at a two week arson investigation class in Ames.

**Youth Services Update – Cristy Hamblin with CRPD**

Cristy reviewed juvenile arrest data for January and February 2016 (attached). This week is spring break for the Cedar Rapids Schools. In February there was a 7 year old arrested for shoplifting/theft. Cristy stated that there had to be some extenuating circumstances that lead to the juvenile being charged. According to the February statistics, 15 year olds have the greatest arrest rate. The age for shots fired incidents is trending down, in other words the suspects in shots fired cases are getting younger and younger. Cristy is going to pull names of top /repeat offenders (also taking into consideration truancy, grades and other problems) and talk to the school district about wrap-around programs for these juveniles.

There are currently 8 matches for the Georgetown Project and more coming in.

In 2015 there were 2,147 juvenile arrestees, some of which had multiple charges. Cristy is working on analyzing this data for statistics on age, race, charges, etc. There was a legislative change that will take effect in July making it so that school districts cannot release juvenile names.

**SAFE-CR Update – Amanda Grieder**

Amanda presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety update (attached). Since the implementation of Chapter 22A there have been 2,614 founded calls for service which have affected 1,863 properties. Of those, 366 have met the threshold of 22A and have been deemed Nuisance Properties. SAFE-CR has billed out

\$46,476.69 for police calls for service and finance has collected \$7,719.66. There is a success story about the homeowners of 1733 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE, which is a great example of how SAFE-CR can help members of the community.

#### **Police Department Report –Chief Wayne Jerman**

Chief Jerman reviewed the Activity Comparison and the Neighborhood Activity Summary comparing 2014 to 2015 (attached). There is a rise in crime in the first two months of 2016. There was a 47.83% increase in aggravated assaults. There was a 36.36% increase in robbery crimes in 2016. Analysis indicated 40% of these robberies are tied to use or selling of drugs. There is a 400% increase of cases which are unable to close due to lack of victim cooperation. There was a 21.43% increase in auto theft and additional analysis shows that 96% of victims report leaving keys in vehicles. The majority of these vehicles are eventually located. Theft from vehicle crimes are down 6.76%.

Drugs and alcohol are keeping the Police Department very busy. There is constant outreach being conducted by the Police Department but substance abuse is widespread.

The shots fired incident at a house at 1400 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is still under investigation.

Chief Jerman highlighted several arrests which occurred directly because of citizen assistance (report attached). 10 out of the 14 citizen assists from January 26 to February 25, 2016, were substance abuse related.

The pilot for the body camera initiative has concluded and the cameras have been leant to the Sheriff's Office. The CRPD has approximately \$20,000 in grant funds and will have an additional \$30,000 on July 1, 2016 to purchase approximately 50 body cameras to be worn by police officers. There is currently a policy in draft form as to the storage and use of these body cameras.

The hiring process is underway at the Cedar Rapids Police Department. There were 87 applicants who took the written test. After the written test, physical test and pre-polygraph there are 35 applicants remaining. The next step in the process is the full polygraph and background checks. The Civil Service Commission will certify a list of approximately 8 candidates for the department to hire from. The CRPD currently has 2 positions open. There were 6 African Americans who took the written test (1 female and 5 males). Three passed the written and the 3 remaining did not pass-the physical. There are still 2 Latinos remaining in the hiring process. The CRPD has conducted extensive recruiting and outreach. Last year there were 10 (or 10%) African American applicants.

The CRPD awards banquet and promotion ceremony will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Vets building.

#### **Section 8 Housing Report – Sara Buck**

Sara Buck presented on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HSC) Program (attached). Currently there is approximately \$5 million in rent assistance payments made to Linn and Benton County landlords annually with approximately \$4.15 million staying in Cedar Rapids. This program has been administered by the City of Cedar Rapids for approximately 39 years. There is currently a waiting list to receive assistance and the wait time is approximately 2 ½ years. Currently there are 704 families on the waiting list. 14% of families helped by this program are 62 and older; 46% of families have a head of household member with a disability; 73% of families have an annual income under \$15,000; and the average length of time a family is on the program is 3.75 years. Crime does occur in poverty areas and the families that participate in this program are urged to look for suitable housing outside these areas. 90.2% of families participating in this program are households of 4 or less persons. Once a family is on the program, they can stay on it until their income increases enough to bump them out or if they are terminated for

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program violations. If a family moves out of the area, we will continue to pay until the area can absorb them into their program. There are currently 8-10 people who have moved out of the Cedar Rapids area that we are still paying on. All families who have moved into Cedar Rapids have been absorbed into Cedar Rapids' program.

**APRIL AGENDA ITEM FORECAST**

- Building Services Report (*Ciabatti*)
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report (*English*)
- Area Ambulance Service Report (*Rippy*)
- Youth Services Report (*Hamblin/Leff*)
- Police SAFE-CR Report (*Grieder*)
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report (*Jerman*)
- May Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Mason  
Fire Specialist  
Cedar Rapids Fire Department