



**City of Cedar Rapids
Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Minutes
Police Department Community Room, 505 1st Street SW
Monday, April 11, 2016
4:00 p.m.**

Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Scott Overland, and Pat Shey; Fire Training Chief Andy Olesen, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR.

The March 14, 2016, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Building Services Report – Kevin Ciabatti

Permits:

- Total permits issued are down 6% from this time last year.
- The total residential building permits are up 11% from this time last year.
- The total number of permits issued is up 40% from this time last month.

Inspections:

- Building inspections are down 18% from this time last year.
- Electrical inspections are up 25% from this time last year.
- Mechanical inspections are down 10% from this time last year.
- Plumbing inspections are down 15% from this time last year.
- Overall, the total number of inspections is down 5% from this time last year.
- The total number of inspections is up 11% from this time last month.

Complaints:

- The total number of open complaints is down 1% from this time last year.
- The total number of open cases is up 7% from this time last month.
- The total number of pending investigations has increased 44% from this time last year.
- The total number of open nuisance cases is up 14% from this time last year.
- The total number of open zoning cases is down 37% from this time last year.

Director Ciabatti presented information regarding Insurance Service Office (ISO) analysis, and his report is attached. ISO is primarily used as a consulting agency for

insurance companies. They evaluate building departments, as well as fire departments, on a five-year cycle. The last time they were here was in early 2011. They look at your operation and assign a BCEGS number, which stands for Building Code Effectiveness Grading Scale. They have been doing fire departments for a long time, and they started doing building departments in the late 1990's. Generally speaking, there is a steady increase in the number of cities in the analysis, and there are upwards of 20,000 cities now that take part. Director Ciabatti has included some frequently asked questions to his ISO report. For detailed information regarding ISO, please see https://www.isomitigation.com/downloads/ISO-BCEGS-State-Report_web.pdf.

We scored a 4 for residential, and a 3 for commercial for the last rating, and we have not received the analysis of the recent visit that took place on March 22nd. We are awaiting that information. Receiving a score of 3 or 4 is good, but 1 and 2 are much better. What they do in terms of the analysis is they grade building departments on a number of different things. Some of the things that they measure is your training, your typical data, how many permits and inspections you do, how detailed is the training of your staff, how many hours are spent on training, what's your budget for training, your job descriptions, and your codes. They analyze all that information, and then they come up with a score. It's really free consulting advice on how you can improve your department.

Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy

Executive Director Rippy was not present at the meeting; however, his reports are attached.

Fire Department Report – Training Chief Andy Olesen

Reports from the Fire Department are attached.

Chief Olesen highlighted several high profile fires which recently occurred:

- An apartment fire which started because of discarded smoking materials
- Residential fire with fatality
- Commercial fire ruled incendiary
- Residential fire because of lightning strike
- Large residential home fire

Also, discussion was heard regarding the last code update relating to large residential homes, townhouses, and apartments. Now we have a threshold of 5,000 sq. ft. on one floor, or a total of 10,000 sq. ft. for the home, it must have a sprinkler system. Previously 4 units or less did not have to have sprinklers, but now with the last code update, they are required to have a sprinkler system.

The Fire Department is in the process of recruiting to hire firefighters, and Chief Olesen states they have been on a recent recruiting trip to Omaha. Also, Fire and Life Safety Camp is coming up in April, so the registration is on-going for that.

Julie Popelka, from the Fire Department's Life Safety Division, presented information regarding a senior housing program called Remember When. This program was created by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). It is a group and home-visit training program for older adults on how to reduce their chances of falling, or having a fire in their home. This program has been around for a long time, and it just got instituted in the last year in Cedar Rapids. Julie's job is to get together with seniors and talk and do a walk-through of their homes. She goes over fall prevention tips, as well as fire prevention tips. She might point out to them a rug that they might trip over, a hand towel that's right on their stove that could catch fire, etc. She also will check out their smoke detectors, and she explained that smoke detectors are only good for 10 years. Last year she went into about 100 homes and placed about 160 smoke detectors. So far this year, she has gone into 30 homes and placed about 60 detectors. The State Fire Marshall's Office has supplied the Fire Department with about 300 detectors with 10 year batteries. Julie will also replace the batteries on the battery operated smoke detectors. If it's a wired in detector, she explains to them that they are going to need to get the unit replaced. Many of them do not know that they have to have them replaced. Also, Julie does large group presentations.

Youth Services Update – Cristy Hamblin with CRPD

Sgt. Hamblin reviewed juvenile arrest data (reports are attached).

Last month it was reported that we had arrested a 7 year old for shoplifting; however, Sgt. Hamblin clarified that this youth is in the 7th grade at Harding Middle School. Looking at the statistics for juvenile arrests by race, sex, age, time, they are still disproportionate for the number of African American kids versus Caucasian kids. There were more males than females arrested, and 30% of the arrests occurred between 8:00 and noon. For juvenile arrests at school, Polk is the highest, with 29% of the arrests. Prairie had 10, and Jefferson had 6 arrests. The number one crime for the month of March was shoplifting, with 23 arrests. There were 22 arrests for Disorderly Conduct, and then for All Other Group B Offenses there were 21 arrests.

A question was raised regarding what is the wrap around services for these kids when they are continuing to be charged and arrested? Sgt. Hamblin stated at school, there's wrap-around services that can be provided. When it occurs out of school, the schools are to be notified because that can affect their extra-curricular activities. But, most often, wrap around services are between the schools, juvenile court, and juvenile probation. If it's for shoplifting, and it's their first offense, they can attend the Hands Off Program.

In June, Sgt. Hamblin will be attending an Equal Justice for Juveniles: Developing Action Plans to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice. The conference focuses on reducing minority contact with the juvenile justice system. There are nine different communities that are being asked to attend this conference. The other cities are: Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Sioux City, and Waterloo.

Youth Services Update-Angie Cole with Recreation Dept.

The Recreation Department is in the process of hiring for seasonal employment, and they have over 200 openings right now. 75% of those are for Aquatics. They hire 15 year olds, and push it out to the high school. Also, they conduct job fairs, and they do between 8 – 15 job fairs each year, as well as use the Gazette.

Angie stated that they are doing a survey of citizens for the NW Rec Center to see what they would like to have there, what ages that will be attending, etc. to get feedback and get them more involved in the Rec Center to begin with, so they are more engaged with it.

Ambrose will be closing this fall, and they are looking at non-profit organizations to see where they might have areas where they can continue some programs on the SE side. They are looking at the programs that are highly attended by youth and adults on the SE side, and where there might be gym space available.

SAFE-CR Update – Amanda Grieder

Amanda presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety Update (attached). Since the implementation of Chapter 22A there have been 2,660 Founded Calls for Service, which have affected 1,889 properties. Of those, 371 have met the threshold of 22A and have been deemed Nuisance Properties. We have brought 244 properties back into compliance. Of the 127 active nuisance properties, 1 is commercial, 75 are owner occupied, and 51 are rental properties. In the past few months, we have seen that the owner occupied and rental properties have been even, and now the owner occupied properties has surpassed the rental properties. This shows that landlords are actually taking some ownership in the program and buying into it to ensure that their properties are safe and clean. SAFE-CR conducted 92 background checks in March, for a total of 31 registered landlords. Overall, there have been 3,538 background checks, ordered by 393 landlords.

SAFE-CR has billed out \$41,516.70 for Police Calls for Service, and Finance has collected \$7,719.66. SAFE-CR will be sending out letters (final notices) this month to let people know that they have outstanding bills and make them aware that they need to pay their bills for their Calls for Service. Some of those will go to small claims court, and then the rest of those will go through the Housing Board of Appeals to try to collect the money. Housing and Building Services have been really crucial in that collaboration, because they are the ones who will hold the ability to suspend a rental registration.

Amanda highlighted (on page 2 of the Public Safety Update) a success story about how SAFE-CR works with the Section 8 Housing Program.

Police Department Report –Chief Wayne Jerman

Chief Jerman reviewed the Activity Comparison and the Neighborhood Activity Summary (attached).

Aggravated Assaults are up 20%, due to an increase of domestic related calls. Auto thefts are up 30%; however, in 90% of the incidents, the keys are either left in the vehicle, or the vehicles are left running by the owner.

Burglaries are up over 40%, and burglars are breaking and entering into predominantly residential homes during the daytime hours in all quadrants of the city. They will go to a home during the daytime, knock on the front door, and when they don't get an answer, they will go around to the back and force their way in. Sometimes they will enter through an unlocked door. Also, on other occasions, they will knock on the door when a resident is home and then they will make up a fictitious excuse to be there. Investigators have identified some subjects who we believe have been committing most of these offenses.

Chief Jerman highlighted several arrests which occurred directly because of citizen assistance (report attached). Thirteen involve either OWIs and/or public intoxication, or the use of drugs, and disorderly house. Substance abuse is a problem that warrants more attention, intervention, prevention and treatment. There was a burglary arrest that occurred as a result of a citizen involvement. The citizen reported individuals who were in his driveway who weren't supposed to be there and called the police. Also, we were able to make an arrest of a 16 year old with a gun as a result of a lot of cooperation from the citizens.

Update on PCAT

PCAT went operational on January 9th, and since that time through the end of last month, they have made some tremendous arrests, and are performing in a superb manner. In just that short time, they've already taken three guns off the street, stopped over 200 vehicles, served 36 arrest warrants, made 24 arrests for possession of drugs, seized up to \$700 in cash, stopped over 285 individuals, conducted 30 field interviews, and conducted 108 foot patrols. Both of the vehicles that the PCAT team utilizes are both outfitted with automated license plate readers. Since going operational, we have been able to recover two stolen automobiles with the use of the license plate readers. They have scanned over 85,000 license plates, and of those scans, they have had 202 hits. The PCAT team recently visited the Kansas City Police Department, where they were briefed on their No Violence Alliance Program. Our PCAT officers shadowed the Kansas City team while they were there, and they brought back a lot of their strategies and techniques. Kansas City has been very successful with their No Violence Alliance Program.

Chief Jerman also shared a couple of success stories of the PCAT team:

- The first night they were operational, it was less than two hours that they hit the street and they were involved in a foot chase. They not only made an arrest for the subject who had a firearm in his waistband, but this person was also prohibited from carrying a firearm, and he was in possession of marijuana.

- Early in the month of March, we had signed complaints for a number of individuals who committed a robbery in the first degree, a firearm was used in this robbery, and during this robbery an additional firearm was stolen. The PCAT officers were very familiar with the suspects. They developed an abundance of intelligence and we were able to identify possible locations where some of these suspects were located. They worked closely with a team of investigators and based on the intelligence, a vehicle was identified, located and stopped. One of these suspects was arrested, and located in the vehicle was the stolen firearm from the robbery.
- The PCAT team was responsible for the foot chase of the individual where a 16 year old was in possession of a gun during a chase, he fired off a round. He was located, charged, and this firearm was also located and seized.
- The PCAT officers were in the area prior to a recent homicide, and had stopped the vehicle with the suspects that were eventually involved in this incident. Based on their prior stop of the incident happening, they were able to assist investigators with developing the information that led to an arrest.

This week is National Crime Victim's Week, so we want to make sure we always remember victims of crime. Also, it is National Telecommunicator's Week, and we need to thank, recognize, and appreciate the dispatchers who answer the 911 calls and dispatch police, fire and rescue units.

MAY 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*)
- Diversity Status Report (*LaSheila Yates*)
- CR Youth Status/Progress (*Kirsty Sanchez*)
- June Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak
Administrative Assistant
Cedar Rapids Police Department