



**City of Cedar Rapids
Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Minutes
Police Department Community Room, 505 1st Street SW
Monday, June 13, 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 and Pat Shey; Fire Chief Mark English, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Area Ambulance Executive Director Keith Rippey, Duncan McCallum with Building Services, and Annette Lorenz with SAFE-CR.

The May 9, 2016, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Building Services Report – Duncan McCallum

Permits:

- Total permits issued are down 5% from this time last year.
- The total residential building permits are down 3% from this time last year.
- The total number of permits issued is up 9% from this time last month.

Inspections:

- Building inspections are down 22% from this time last year.
- Electrical inspections are up from this time last year.
- Mechanical inspections are down from this time last year.
- Plumbing inspections are down from this time last year.
- Overall, the total number of inspections is down 12% from this time last year.
- The total number of inspections is up 19% from this time last month.

Complaints:

- The total number of open complaints is up 22% from this time last year.
- The total number of open cases is up 2% 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 12% from this time last year.
- The total number of open zoning cases is up 62% from this time last year.

In the month of May, there was a slight decrease in overall building permits, and that is being reflected in inspection numbers also. They issued less permits and performed less inspections. Overall, they are seeing a slight decrease.

Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy

Area Ambulance Services' Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary reports are attached.

They are in the process of finalizing their 2017 FY budget, which will be presented to their Board on Wednesday. The first three of six new ambulances are in production, and they are expecting completion by around the middle of July. Also, they are preparing for the biggest event of the year, which is the Freedom Festival. They have met with the Freedom Festival representatives to find out where they need ambulances this year. Certain places they need them every year, and other times it varies. The Fire Department is helping them out, manpower-wise by providing them with the paramedics to work with one of their people in different events, which is very helpful for manpower staffing. They are also working on a couple of projects with the Fire Department, which are works in progress. Also, they are upgrading their service area mapping with the way in which the city has grown, and they are having their software provider upgrade their maps, which will be finished by the end of this month.

In looking at the call volume for the year, they are projecting about 300 more calls for service this year than last year. Last year, they had 800 more than the prior year.

Some of the reasons for the uptick in calls for service is because of population shift and also an aging population. Also, the flu season had an impact on calls for service. There's been an increase in the amount of times that police officers will call them to come check out people on the street for a medical condition before they take any kind of action.

Fire Department Report – Chief Mark English

No reports from the Fire Department were available.

Chief English discussed the Critical Incident Stress Team, which the Police and Fire Departments have developed. Officers and firefighters often deal with death, and see things that are very traumatic that they don't want to see that could lead to post-traumatic stress. It's not just for police and fire; it is for any city employee if they have something they need help with.

They started the program in January 2015, in partnership with Dr. Jim Coyle with Cedar Memorial, to train 20 firefighters on different aspects of Critical Incident Stress, how to deal with it, and how to recognize the signs.

There are three different levels of response:

- Phone call to see if the person is all right

- De-briefing -- where you get those who want to be involved and get them together to talk about the incident. If they want to talk, then they talk about what they are feeling, what they saw, what they think, etc.
- Meeting with Dr. Coyle with people involved.

There have been 90 level ones, 17 de-briefings, and 19 meetings with Dr. Coyle. The main reason that they are doing this is that suicide is one of the biggest killers among Fire, Police, and EMS personnel. In Fire service, there were more suicides last year than there were line of duty deaths.

Youth Services Update – Cristy Hamblin with CRPD

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

A 13 year old was arrested on a sex offense for forcible fondling. Burglaries and shoplifting were down; however, now that school is out for the summer shoplifting will probably go up for June, July, and August. Vandalism was up a little, but not by much from the previous month. There was an increase in Disorderly Conduct, which could be attributed to the end of the school year. For Juvenile Arrest at Schools, Polk was up 18.2% from the previous month.

On June 15th, Sgt. Hamblin will be attending the Equal Justice for Juveniles: Developing Action Plans to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice, which will be held in Altoona, IA. It is a state conference, and it is based on the Georgetown Project. Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Dubuque are the cities that have attended Georgetown, so they will be reporting on what they have done so far. The first year, they had the kids, but didn't have the mentors, and then this school year, they had the mentors, but didn't have the kids. They will discuss their project and take another look at it.

Youth Services Update - Sandi Fowler

The youth employment initiative is the idea that if you get youth to work, they are contributing to the community, and to their families. Amy Eldred Hernandez from Iowa WORKS will present information regarding the Creating Futures Program, and David Connolly with Economic Development will discuss how the City will partner to help connect with businesses.

Sandi also discussed the Family Self-Sufficiency Program that is through the Cedar Rapids Community Development Housing Program that works with the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Family Self-Sufficiency is working with current clients in the Section 8 Program to enable individuals to obtain their own house. It's a pretty involved process, one on one with different families who are eligible. The goal is to get families off of federal paid programs and housing programs and into self-sufficiency.

The City of Cedar Rapids hires many seasonal employees and could work with the Creating Futures Program to fill some positions. The City of Cedar Rapids hasn't done a lot with employment of youth, so this is a little bit new for the City.

Amy Eldred Hernandez, Iowa WORKS – Creating Futures Program

It is a voluntary program that provides case management services and assists individuals with meeting their education goals and their employment goals.

High School & GED Completion/Post-Secondary Education & Continuing Education

- Tuition assistance for HiSET exams and some fees
- Financial assistance for tuition & books (based on financial aid award)
- Childcare reimbursement for attendance at school
- Transportation assistance to get to and from school either by mileage reimbursement or bus pass
- Gift cards to Target for earned A's and B's and HS/HiSET Graduation
- Help completing financial aid and scholarship forms
- Determine where to go for needed services

Employment

- Participate in a paid work experience if you have little or no work history
- Participate in a paid internship to develop skills in an interest area
- Participate in workshops or one-on-one activities to develop skills around job-searching, interviewing, writing a resume, etc.
- Financial assistance for interview clothing and uniforms

Who Qualifies

- In-School youth ages 16-21 that is low-income AND meets one of the following:
 - Basic Skills Deficient
 - English Language Learner
 - Offender
 - Homeless/runaway/foster care/aged out of foster care/out of home placement
 - Pregnant or parenting
 - Has a disability
- Out of school youth ages 16-24 AND meets one of the following:
 - High school dropout
 - Offender
 - Homeless/runaway/foster care or aged out of foster care
 - Pregnant or parenting
 - Has a disability
 - Low income AND Basic Skills Deficient / English Language Learner

Economic Development - David Connolly

David primarily works with existing industries, and he recently conducted a survey on youth employers in the city of Cedar Rapids. In talking to employers, he found that one-third of employers were having difficulty retaining employees, and about half were having difficulty attracting employees. The potential of the Creating Futures program is really two-fold from the economic development perspective. There's a short term need, that is especially amongst small businesses, for entry-level employees and these are usually positions where the small businesses find that they are having difficulties in acquiring an adequate supply of workers of these positions. There's high turn-over, and there are many specific issues that small businesses face in trying to fill these positions. So Creating Futures would be increasing the number of individuals transitioning into the workforce, and they could match some of these individuals that need it most. There's no risk to the business because they are not the employer. From a long-term perspective, because the participants in this program are working towards earning a credential, there's also a possibility to transition some of these individuals into a mid-skill level job – a machinist, a welder, critical areas of occupation, where small businesses are having trouble finding an adequate supply of workforce. The three specific ways that Economic Development staff can be of assistance with the Creating Futures Program is first, information exchange. They have a marketing data base, and they know which small businesses are looking for employees of the type that this program could be making available to the market. Secondly, they can assist in outreach to the business community to a private-sector participation. They are working with the Creating Futures staff on a panel discussion. Lastly, because the City of Cedar Rapids has an on-going retention services program, there is an opportunity for to make that information available to employers in the future.

SAFE-CR Update – Annette Lorenz

Annette presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety Update (attached). Since the implementation of Chapter 22A there have been 2,786 Founded Calls for Service, which have affected 1,972 properties. Of those, 388 have met the threshold of 22A and have been deemed Nuisance Properties. We have brought 259 properties back into compliance. Of the 129 active nuisance properties, 1 is commercial, 77 are owner occupied, and 51 are rental properties. SAFE-CR conducted 75 background checks in May, for a total of 23 registered landlords. Overall, there have been 3,844 background checks, ordered by 402 landlords. 33 of the 75 individuals screened in May 2016 yielded at least one reportable hit on their criminal history. Because they are getting all of those hits, property owners are continuing to use the background check service.

SAFE-CR has billed out \$41,839.31 for Police Calls for Service, and Finance has collected \$14,915.36. They have been working with Building Services, and they have looked into the property owners who aren't paying those bills that have been invoiced by City Finance. They have provided Building Services with packets to request them to revoke their rental unit registration on any of the properties that were rental that had received an invoice that had not been paid yet. Also, they have sent out letters to all of

those property owners prior to the packets going over to Building Services, and they have received funds just from doing those additional letters.

Regarding owner-occupied properties that are delinquent on their invoices, they are working with the City Attorney to file small claims action on those that are outstanding.

The majority of the property owners or the properties that become nuisance property are going into compliance before they receive an additional bill. There aren't that many property owners that have been billed; it's been the same repeated landlords and same property owners. The majority of the property owners are getting their property into compliance or addressing the nuisance activity to not even be billed.

Police Department Report –Chief Wayne Jerman

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

Regarding offenses of violent crime, there has been an increase of 13 incidents between last year at this time and this year, and 8 of those incidents are aggravated assaults. One of the reasons for the difference in the increase, is that the Police Department is being more aggressive in charging individuals. As of May 31, there have been 44 shots fired call for the year.

Also, Chief Jerman highlighted several arrests which occurred directly because of citizen assistance (report attached).

The heroin problem that is plaguing eastern Iowa is also plaguing the rest of the country. The CRPD has a very good working relationship with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and they were able to obtain a grant through HIDTA, which has funded an officer position. Al Fear is the Cedar Rapids HIDTA officer, and he has given Town Hall Meetings in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Dubuque, and he is working very closely with treatment centers and providing information regarding drug addiction. It's a three-prong approach of prosecution (the US Attorney's Office), and then prevention and treatment are the other two prongs. Last week there was a town hall follow up at the Library. How most people become addicted to heroin is through the prescription of opioid medication for OxyContin, Oxycodone, and Vicodin. Those individuals are taking the medication to handle some sort of injury or surgery and it's very easy to become addicted to them. When the prescription is no longer provided by the physician, the person ends up trying to obtain opioids through the black market. Those medications are very expensive on the black market, so it is cheaper to obtain and use heroin. Chief Jerman plans on working to help with some legislation in Iowa, which mirrors legislation that was approved in Massachusetts where physicians are limited to the amount of opioids they can prescribe to their patients. He is working with the Iowa Chief's Association and U.S. Attorney's Office to reach out to physicians to work in partnership to help put an end to this epidemic.

The Chief discussed the recent change in legislation regarding the use of Narcan. Previously, Narcan could only be administered by a paramedic and not a responder. Now the law has been changed where a prescription can be given to a family or caretaker, and police officers. If they have the drug, they can administer it. It's widely administered and carried by law enforcement on the East Coast, and it is totally safe. When an individual is located and the drug administered, if the person is suffering from an opioid overdose, the drug works almost immediately. The person regains consciousness and begins breathing. If they are unconscious from another issue, whether it be medical and not opioid related, it's harmless. Narcan costs approximately \$12 a dose, and police departments all across the country are documenting the saving of many lives. In many instances, police are the first on the scene of a heroin overdose.

The Chief met with Dr. Corrine Peek-Asa, who oversees the Injury Prevention Center at the University of Iowa, College of Public Health. She has a lot of experience dealing with injury and violence prevention. Also, the Chief has met with Pramod Dwivedi, who is the Director of Linn County Public Health, and they are researching exactly what all the CDC has to offer in terms of the request that 1 Strong has made. The Linn County Director of Public Health has a meeting this Friday with the CDC. They are looking to identify the risk factors that are present here in Cedar Rapids that can be identified, and compare them with the risk factors that were identified in the Wilmington, DE study that the CDC conducted. The Chief has apprised 1 Strong, as well as the SET Task Force of the status of the CDC request.

JULY 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*)
- August Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak
Administrative Assistant
Cedar Rapids Police Department