



**City of Cedar Rapids
Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Minutes
Police Department Community Room, 505 1st Street SW
Monday, October 24, 2016
4:00 p.m.**

Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Scott Overland; Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Area Ambulance Executive Director Keith Rippey, Duncan McCallum with Building Services, and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR.

The September 12, 2016, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Building Services Report – Duncan McCallum

Permits:

- Total permits issued are up 2% from this time last year.
- The total residential building permits are up 6% from this time last year.
- The total number of permits issued are down 16% from this time last month.
- Building inspections are up 1% from this time last year.

Complaints:

- The total number of open complaints are up 45% from this time last year.
- The total number of open cases are up 1% from this time last month.
- The total number of pending investigations have increased 22% from this time last year.
- The total number of open nuisance cases are up 24% from this time last year.
- The total number of open zoning cases are up 115% from this time last year.

Building Services Flood Report – Duncan McCallum

- September 23rd - Building Services management staff ordered all staff on stand-by for any needed operations.
- September 24th through September 25th - Various staff members were called in off stand-by to assemble HESCO barriers and fill sandbags in support of temporary wall construction.

- September 24th through September 25th - Staff worked on the logistics to create a contractor registration. The management of this registration transitioned to the Community Development Department to manage.
- September 24th through September 25th - Building Services management preliminary assembled 10 teams, 2 members each team, to perform damage assessments when needed. An additional 10 teams, 2 members each team, were also on stand-by if the damage levels were beyond the initial 10 teams. The teams assembled were made up of Building Services staff, various City staff, building inspectors from surrounding communities and members of the Iowa Association of Building Officials.
- September 26th through September 28th - Various members of the Building Services Department assigned to walk locations along the temporary wall on 12 hour shifts to monitor for potential breaches.
- September 28th - Staff proposed to Mayor (which became a Mayoral Proclamation) to waive building permit fees associated with any work related to repairs caused by the flood. This included any equipment reconnects, such as furnaces, water heaters and commercial kitchen equipment.
- September 28th through September 29th - Staff began performing inspections in various areas of the City. Staff focused on areas where flood water damage was probable. This included but was not limited to Ellis Blvd. (wet side of temporary wall), Ellis Blvd. west of Edgewood Road, the Boat Harbor, Cedar Valley Neighborhood, Time Check Neighborhood, Czech Village, Newbo area, Old River Road and the Otis Road. Staff found minimal visible over land damage.
- September 28th through September 29th - Staff spent a great deal of time in the Newbo area and Czech Village performing inspections and assisting business to return to operation. The businesses included, but is not limited to Brewhemia, Tornado's, The Newbo Market, Parlor City, Kick Stand, Lion's Bridge Brewery.
- October 1st through October 2nd - Staff worked 8 hour shifts each day issuing permits and performing inspections. A majority of these inspections were related to furnace and water heater reconnections. Staff coordinated with Mid-American Energy to perform inspections.
- October 3rd through present - Continue to issue permits related to flood damage.
- To date a total of 108 permits have been issued.

Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy

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

Area Ambulance Flood Report – Keith Rippy

- They added two additional units to the street beyond normal staffing.
- All personnel was on call 24/7 until the emergency was over.
- Power shifts were moved from 10 hours per day to 12 hours per day.
- One unit was placed at the Central Fire Station in case there was a rapid response needed for any City worker or Public Safety injuries, if there were any.

- Upon opening up the New Bo, Check Village area to return, they posted an ambulance in New Bo, because they had hundreds of people down there removing sandbags, re-opening their businesses, etc.
- On the first day of everyone's return, on 3rd St. across from Bottleworks, they also assigned a staff member to the City Incident Command Center for each day that the Command Center was open.
- Director Rippy participated in the briefings at the Emergency Management Command Center, and also at the City Incident Command Center as well.
- They deployed ambulances in response to the changing conditions and street and road closures. As they came along, they used dynamic systems status management. As streets, bridges, and roads closed or if conditions changed, they moved ambulances accordingly in response to those changes.
- Director Rippy had personal direct contact with both hospitals for any issues that were related to either hospital.

A lot of lessons were learned from 2008, and they had no flood related ambulance transports this year. They had additional call volume, but it had nothing to do with the flood incident itself.

Fire Department Report

A representative from the Fire Department was not in attendance; however, reports from the Fire Department are attached.

Youth Services Update – Sgt. Hamblin

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

From January through the end of September, the number of black juvenile arrests, and the number of white juvenile arrests are pretty equal (49.63% and 49.78%). In September, there were 19 arrests from 8:00 AM to noon, and overall for the entire year, 41.5% of the kids that were arrested was during school days.

There was a significant rise in arrests of kids from 8 to 11 years of age. For juveniles arrested at schools in August to September, the number jumped from 4 to 15. There were a total of 72 arrests, and 6 kids were arrested two times each, and some of the charges that they had were significant. One 13 year old male was arrested twice that month, and one was arrested for Assault, and a second time with Interference with Official Acts and Involuntary Manslaughter and Carrying Weapons as well. Also, in the month of September, there were two 12 year olds that were arrested two different times. One was for Criminal Mischief and the other one was for Assault with Injury and another with Criminal Mischief. Also, a 13 year old and 17 year old were both arrested two times. One 17 year old had 7 warrants, and he was also charged with Carrying Weapons and Trafficking Stolen Property.

CR Youth Status and Progress – Sgt. Hamblin

Sgt. Hamblin has taken this over for Kirsty Sanchez. Right now, they have five projects that are definite projects and either have been presented by CR Youth or are working on the projects. Several others will be presented to IOWA Big students for their decision. Here is an overview of the five:

- The Cedar Rapids Skate Park Facility. They are working with Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation on this. The goal is to obtain public input specifically for youth ages 10 – 18 for future construction of a new skate park. The current skate park is next to Penford Products, and part of the skate park was under water during the September flood. They are also going to be looking at demographics, as well as what are some successful policies and designs. They are looking to get it finalized and wrapped up January through May of 2017.
- Another project they are working on is at the Public Library on a laser tag game, focusing on the scientific aspect of it.
- They are also working on a project of looking at the history of civil rights in Linn County, specifically in Cedar Rapids. They are hoping to be able to have a travelling display, as well as a virtual display, so it would also be on the website.
- They are working on Law Day 2017 in Cedar Rapids. Dr. Carlos Grant from Washington High School has been one of the key people involved, as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Cedar Rapids Police Department, and others. This year the theme is 14th Amendment Transforming American Democracy, and this will be the third year. The first year was Selma to Cedar Rapids, and last year's was Knowing the Miranda Rights. The first year they had roughly 500 students that participated, and last year they had about 150-200 students that participated. They haven't set a date yet for this event.

Other projects that are being proposed are:

- Paint a Plow, with the Cedar Rapids Streets Department.
- Making a more modern day looking City flag.
- A mural at Old McDonald's Farm.

Sgt. Hamblin will be meeting with IOWA Big later this week to talk about their projects.

SAFE-CR Update – Amanda Grieder

Amanda presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety Update (attached). Since the implementation of Chapter 22A there have been 3,202 Founded Calls for Service, which have affected 2,241 properties. Of those, 439 have met the threshold of 22A and have been deemed Nuisance Properties. They have brought 302 properties back into compliance, and there are 137 active nuisance properties.

A project that they have been working on, is suspending some of those rental registrations for landlords that have continuously refused to pay their fees and fines.

Only one of them has been appealed, and the Housing Board of Appeals ruled in SAFE-CR's favor. Overall, landlords have been very receptive, and most of them have been paying their bills.

They had three or four incidents where Leased Housing reached out to SAFE-CR, and they have been working with them quite a bit in the past month to get them reports, or information that they need.

Police Department Report – Chief Wayne Jerman

Chief Jerman reviewed the Activity Comparison and the Neighborhood Activity Summary (attached). Violent crime has decreased .76% from one year ago. This continues to be a downward trend. Beginning at the end of June, it was 6.5% above the same period the previous year. In July, it declined down to 3 1/3% above the same time period. In August, it increased to 1.29%.

Property crimes are up from the previous month, fueled by the increase in burglaries, which the Police Department is addressing. Last week, the Police Department conducted a Neighborhood Watch Town Hall Meeting at the Cedar Rapids Library. The meeting was well attended, and they received positive feedback. A City Council goal will be to revitalize the Neighborhood Watch Program. With the Neighborhood Watch Program, they hope to re-engage the neighborhoods. Neighbors will keep an eye out for their neighbor's property, call police and report suspicious activity; hopefully preventing a crime before it occurs.

Theft from motor vehicles has increased. The Chief reiterated that residents should not leave items of value in their vehicles, and if they do, the items need to be kept out of sight, locked in the trunk, and lock the vehicle doors.

The auto theft rate is up again, and a large percent of that (half) are because of keys being left in vehicles.

The next area of concern is the theft of guns from vehicles. As of last week, they have had 18 firearms that were stolen from vehicles. Recently, an automatic handgun was stolen from an unlocked vehicle that was parked outside of a residence. Out of these 18 guns, 2 were AK-47 automatic rifles.

Also, Chief Jerman highlighted several arrests which were made as a result of citizen assistance. Four of the nine involved some sort of drug possession, coupled with another crime such as criminal mischief or public intoxication. In one case, a woman was carrying a knife, and she was also in possession of a controlled substance.

Police Department Flood Report – Chief Wayne Jerman

- On September 22nd, the Police Department was notified of the impending rise in the river. At that time, it was projected to be about a 25 ft. crest.

- The Incident Command Center was initiated at the Central Fire Department on September 23rd.
- On September 24th, the Police Department invoked emergency staffing, which was basically all hands on deck. All officers, including detectives and investigators were back into uniforms and were assigned numerous duties on Saturday afternoon. The Criminal Investigative Division assisted with traffic control while the Public Works Department and its contractors constructed the HESCO barriers.
- A curfew was put into effect on Sunday, September 25th at 8:00 PM. That curfew went into effect in the areas designated as an evacuation zone for a 28 foot flood area. A 28 ft. evacuation zone involved 73 checkpoints around the evacuation area on both sides of the river.
- At noon on September 26th, the National Guard arrived on site, and they took over the majority of the checkpoints throughout the evacuation area. They worked 24 hours in two shifts. The rest of the agencies and Cedar Rapids officers worked 12 hour shifts to supplement, not only the evacuation zone and the evacuated areas, but we still had to operate the Police Department and respond to calls for service.
- The river crested on September 27th. At that time, they estimated that 6,000 residents and businesses had evacuated for the 28 ft. evacuation zone.
- On September 28th, they reduced the evacuation zone to a 24 ft. level and allowed residents and businesses that were between 24 ft. and 28 ft. to return to their homes and businesses.
- At noon on September 30th, the area was opened to allow businesses and residents to begin moving back into their areas. On Saturday morning, the City was fully opened.
- The National Guard was demobilized, and the State Patrol and other agencies were dismissed.
- On September 30th, the City began to remove the HESCO barriers, and they reduced the Incident Command Center to personnel from Police, Fire and other City departments.
- At 7:00 AM on October 1st, the curfew and the evacuation zone is totally lifted and cleared.
- The Police Department maintained extensive patrols throughout the flood areas through October 8th.

JANUARY 2017 AGENDA ITEM FORECAST

- Approval of October Draft Minutes
- 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*)
- Panhandler's Ordinance

- April Agenda Forecast Items

Councilwoman Weinacht reported that the Public Safety & Youth Services Committee will not be meeting in November or December. Our next meeting will be held in January, and the Committee will meet quarterly in 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak
Administrative Assistant
Cedar Rapids Police Department