



**City of Cedar Rapids
Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Minutes
Police Department Community Room, 505 1st Street SW
Monday, September 12, 2016
4:00 p.m.**

Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht and Scott Overland, Police Captain Steve O’Konek, Fire Chief Mark English, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Jennifer Peden with Area Ambulance Service, and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR.

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

The Public Safety Committee will begin meeting on a quarterly basis after the October meeting. The dates for future meetings are set for October 24, 2016; January 23, 2017; April 17, 2017; July 17, 2017 and October 16, 2017.

School Speed Zone Signs Report

Carrie and John with Traffic Engineering presented on the school speed zone signs. Currently there are approximately 40 flashing school zone signs in 15 different locations throughout the City. These were installed in 2009 using approximately \$240,000 from auto enforcement funds. Traffic Engineering was informed that the 2G network that these signs currently run off of was going to be phased out of this area by January, 2017; however, in July, 2016, this networks was phased out early.

Currently the City has two different options for these signs. The first option is to purchase retrofit kits for \$875 per unit for a total cost of \$16,625 to bring them up to the current networking. There would also be an annual charge of \$120 per unit for a total annual fee of \$2,280. The second option is to remove these flashing signs and install static time limit signs. Research shows statistically there is no difference in compliance in low speed areas; however, in high speed areas there is a little more compliance with the flashing signs versus the static signs.

Traffic Engineering recommends removal of the flashing signs and installation of static signs. This was scheduled to go before council on Tuesday, September 13th for approval.

Building Services Report – Kevin Ciabatti

Permits

- Total permits issued are up 3% from this time last year.
- Total residential building permits are up 9% from this time last year.
- Total number of permits issued is up 27% from this time last month.

Inspections:

- Building inspections are down 3% from this time last year.
- Electrical inspections are up 27% from this time last year.
- Mechanical inspections are down 8% from this time last year.
- Plumbing inspections are down 3% from this time last year.
- Overall, the total number of inspections is up 3% from this time last year.
- Total number of inspections is up 3% from this time last month.

Complaints:

- Total number of open complaints is up 39% from this time last year.
- Total number of open cases is up 3% from this time last month.
- Total number of pending investigations has increased 11% from this time last year.
- Total number of open nuisance cases are up 23% from this time last year.
- Total number of open zoning cases are up 84% from this time last year.

Area Ambulance Report – Jennifer Peden

Peden reviewed the Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary for 2016-2017 year to date compared to FY 2015 (attached). AA had 1,698 calls for service in August, 2016, which is up from last year.

Area Ambulance has 6 new hires starting soon. They have lost several employees in the past couple months to CRFD and CRPD which is a good thing.

Keith Rippy is in Alabama looking at the 3 new ambulances they are building and when he returns he should have a more definite delivery date.

Fire Department - Chief English

Chief English presented the Fire Department and Fire Marshal's Performance Metrics for July, 2016 (attached).

The Fire Department has hired 4 new recruits (3 paramedics and 1 EMT) who will start on October 3, 2016. The training division conducted a training burn on 6th Street which went very well.

When firefighters arrived on scene of the fire at Reilly's on 1st Avenue they noted high heat and no visible flames which means that the flames are in the ceiling. The fire occurred on a very hot and muggy day which resulted in 4 firefighters down for heat. Three are currently back to work and one is still awaiting a cardio evaluation.

Youth Services - Cristy Hamblin

Cristy reviewed the juvenile arrest data from August (attached). The data shows that of the juveniles arrested so far in 2016, 48% were black and 50% were white. For adults, the arrest rates are 67% white and 31.8% black. The ages of 15, 16 and 17 make up 73.5% of all juvenile arrests. For statistical reasons, a juvenile is considered anyone 17 and under. On a juvenile's 18th birthday they become considered an adult. Cristy will be breaking down arrest data for adults too to compare the ethnic disparity. According to the Metro Economical Alliance in 2014 the population of Cedar Rapids was 90.6% white and 4.4% black.

SAFE-CR Update – Amanda Grieder

Amanda presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety update (attached). There are currently 144 active nuisance properties with 78 being owner occupied and 64 being rental properties.

Police Department Report –Captain O’Konek

Captain O’Konek reviewed the Activity Comparison and the Neighborhood Activity Summary comparing 2015 to 2016 (attached).

Captain O’Konek highlighted several arrests which occurred directly because of citizen assistance for August, 2016 (report attached).

The CRPD is getting ready to increase patrolling during the holiday shopping season.

The CRPD is reviewing the suicide at Jefferson High School last week. They believe that the response was appropriate and on target.

Diversity Status Report –LaSheila Yates

Civil Rights Status Report –LaSheila Yates Civil Rights Executive Director LaSheila Yates presented the City Diversity Efforts Update (attached). Director Yates also wanted to note that there is a Veteran’s Employment Rights Education seminar on November 9th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building that she encourages anyone to attend. This seminar will include topics such as rights under the ADA & USERRA, Home Base Iowa Initiative and employment resources.

Additionally, September will start a quarterly series of presenters for diversity. There will be a Legacies series event featuring Black Women on September 22nd and then a series on November 10th featuring immigrants. Please attend if you are available.

The case load for the Civil Rights Department is staying the same but the investigators are now properly trained and are more effective and efficient.

OCTOBER AGENDA ITEM FORECAST

- Approval of September 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*)
- Public Comment (10 min.; 2 min. limit per person)
- January Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Mason
Fire Specialist
Cedar Rapids Fire Department