

Council Public Safety Committee

2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall

August 23, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Members:

Councilmember Gutiérrez
Councilmember Cousens
Councilmember Funk

Staff:

Cliff Moore, City Manager
Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager
Dominic Rizzi, Police Chief
Aaron Markham, Deputy Fire Chief
Scott Schafer, Public Works Director
Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor
Tony Miller, Director of Emergency Mgt.
Chad Stephens, Police Lieutenant
Det. Mike Durbin, Police
William Doyle, Legal Intern
Terri Croft, Police

Others:

Executive Minutes

Gutiérrez called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. July 30, 2018 minutes

It was MOVED by Cousens and SECONDED by Gutierrez to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Department reports

a. Fire Department

Markham provided a monthly report of calls for service and fire inspections.

The committee discussed the recent arson fires and the investigation of them. Tip lines are available for anyone with information regarding suspicious activity.

b. Police Department

Rizzi presented the community policing report.

Stephens advised of parking issues on 18th Street between Walmart and Sarg Hubbard Park, and also on W. Chestnut Avenue between 19th Avenue and Stanley. Suggested prohibiting parking on 18th Street in areas and restricting parking times on Chestnut.

The issue on 18th Street is primarily homeless subjects living in RVs. The committee discussed what prohibited parking would do regarding displacement to other areas. The committee requested information on the capacity of Camp Hope for RV parking, as well as the possibility of utilizing city-owned property for RV parking.

c. Legal

Martinez discussed the domestic violence reports distributed at the previous meeting. There was discussion regarding the domestic violence statistics and DV referrals to Legal, which occurs when the offender is gone when the officer arrives on scene. Discussed a "Gone on Arrival" project, which would provide quicker relief for victims. Funk inquired if the Legal and Police Departments currently had capacity to initiate this program. Staff advised the departments do not. There was additional discussion regarding various funding opportunities to increase capacity for the police and prosecutor's divisions. Staff advised the committee of various aspects of domestic violence arrests, investigations, and prosecution. The committee suggested authorizing the police and prosecutor to compare our current DV resources with national best practices, and will report this to the full council during council reports. Gutierrez would like to see a full time victim advocate and additional prosecutors added, and made a MOTION to add the addition of a victim advocate to the 2019 budget discussion. Motion was SECONDED by Cousens. Motion PASSED.

Boyle presented a proposed amendment to the shopping cart ordinance. It was MOVED by Gutierrez to recommend option 3 of the proposal, with the elimination of the Saturday/Sunday exclusion, to the full council. Motion was SECONDED by Cousens. Motion PASSED unanimously.

d. Public Works

i. Safe Routes to Schools

Cortez gave the report on Safe Routes to Schools with a proposal for the next 5 years. The committee discussed what Safe Routes to Schools grants covered. The committee requested a list of the existing infrastructure and needs for all elementary schools in the city. The also requested to have areas that have TIB/TIP projects overlapping them. Gutierrez requested a timeline for working with the Yakima School District on their suggestions.

f. Yakima County Emergency Management

Tony Miller advised there would be a full-scale airport exercise on September 15. He updated the committee on grants that had been applied for.

Miller presented the Everbridge flyer that was discussed at the previous meeting.

3. New Business

None

4. Other business

a. Analysis of input from Public Safety Forums

Reviewed the four most commonly discussed topics at the forums and proposed to focus attention on those four times. Recommended modifying item 1 to improving communication with the City of Yakima, as that is more focused and within our ability to control.

1 – Improve communication and protocols with residents, victims, witnesses and the City of Yakima.

3 – Increase patrolling and presence of uniformed officers, positive interaction incentives.

6 – Implement a clean campaign approach: streets, alleys, sidewalks, crosswalks, graffiti, trees, lawns, potholes, poles.

15 – Organize neighborhoods so they know each other, events, contacts.

Funk requested public safety staff identify positive activities and programs for youth that the city might look for grant funding for.

The committee agreed to prioritize these forum topics.

5. Recap of future agenda items

Public Safety Report

Inventory of DV resources

Report back from staff on capacity at Camp Hope for motorhomes, use of 2 acre city-owned lot for motorhomes, and code issues with using a motorhome as a residence.

Shopping cart ordinance – on September 11 full council agenda

6. Audience participation

None

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:17.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2018 at 3:00 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.


Dulce Gutiérrez, Chair