



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

5:00 PM

Madison Police Department
211 South Carroll Street
Room GR-22 (City-County Building)
Central Community Room

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Bryon A. Eagon; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott;
Chan M. Stroman and Matthew J. Phair

Excused: 3 -

Christopher P. Klein; Bret M. Gundlach and Julia S. Kerr

Eli Judge resigned from PSRC effective August 6, 2010.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alder Skidmore, seconded by Alder Eagon, to approve the minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

19265

Amending Secs. 3.20(1)(b), 3.20(2)(h) and 3.20(4)(a), creating new Sec. 3.20(2)(e) and renumbering current Secs. 3.20(2)(e) through 3.20(2)(m) to Secs. 3.20(2)(f) through Secs. 3.20(2)(n) of the Madison General Ordinances to update Emergency Management references to correspond to revised Wisconsin State Statutes.

A motion was made by Bell, seconded by Skidmore, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**. There was discussion on the proposed changes in the ordinance. It appeared that the changes were purely procedural. The changes amended sections of the ordinance and renumbered it to correspond to revised Wisconsin State Statutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[19051](#)

Creating Subsection 12.57(1)(c) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish speed limits on the private roads contained within the Highland Manor Manufactured Home Development.

A motion was made by Tyrone Bell, seconded by Alder Skidmore, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The committee received a presentation in the past regarding the Highland Manor speed limit from the Madison Police Department and Traffic Engineering. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[19169](#)

CHARTER ORDINANCE Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to establish rules for the treatment of lost or abandoned property found on public property.

A motion was made by Alder Skidmore, seconded by Alder Eagon, to rerefer to the PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE. Alder Eagon received a request from Alder Bidar-Sielaff and Alder Marsha Rummel to refer this topic to the next PSRC meeting where the Alders were hoping to do a presentation. Capt. Wahl indicated that the Police Department also had concerns with the proposed Ordinance. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[19357](#)

Amending Section 12.128(12)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to conform the definition of "Unregistered motor vehicle" to the definition in Wis. Stat. Sec. 341.65(1)(b).

Tyrone Bell made a motion for approval for the purpose of discussion, and Matt Phair seconded the motion.

Tyrone Bell asked for some clarification on the amended ordinance. Capt. Wahl explained that this ordinance contained new statutory language. The Ordinance hasn't been problematic in the past, but this language makes it a more black-and-white issue. It will allow the City to issue parking citations for vehicles that improperly display registration.

A motion was made by Alder Skidmore, seconded by Matt Phair, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[19210](#)

Authorizing the Chief of Police to execute a lease with Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, Inc. for space within the building located at 2001 Taft Street for use as a neighborhood police office.

Tyrone Bell made a motion for approval for the purpose of discussion, and Matt Phair seconded the motion.

Tyrone Bell asked if this was a new building or an existing building. Police Officer Jodi Nelson, the Baird St. Neighborhood Officer, was present to answer questions regarding this topic. Officer Nelson explained that this was a remodel of the existing building. Officer Nelson and Capt. Balles decided to locate the neighborhood office in the Boys and Girls Club to give children and

the neighborhood the impact of having a neighborhood officer present within the building. The community is receptive to the location.

A motion was made by Alder Skidmore, seconded by Matt Phair, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

BUSINESS ITEMS

[19437](#)

Sensitive Crimes Commission

Alder Skidmore made a motion to take agenda item #19437 out of order. Alder Eagon seconded this motion. The group voted unanimously to take the agenda out of order.

The PSRC was under the impression that the Sensitive Crimes Commission was a defunct commission. Larry Pasha served on the commission and was never replaced when he left. Lt. Ricksecker from the Police Department notified PSRC that the Sensitive Crimes Commission was active and would welcome a representative from PSRC. The Sensitive Crimes Commission is a Dane County commission and is a fairly large. Skidmore mentioned that when Larry Pasha was a representative, he would give periodic updates. Skidmore thought that there should be a representative from PSRC on the Sensitive Crimes Commission. Skidmore nominated Tyrone Bell to be that representative. Mike Scott asked if there were other representatives from PSRC who would like to serve on the Dane County Commission, and Matt Phair expressed his interest. Tyrone Bell respectfully declined the nomination. Skidmore withdrew his nomination for Bell, and nominated Matt Phair to serve as the PSRC representative on the Dane County Sensitive Crimes Commission. PSRC members were asked three times if there were any other nominations, and there were none. Scott closed the nominations, seconded by Tyrone Bell. The group voted unanimously to close nominations and then voted unanimously to have Matt Phair serve on the Sensitive Crimes Committee.

Mike Scott passed out sensitive crimes literature to Phair and there was a brief discussion on the latest sexual assaults in the area.

COMMITTEE REPORT

[19438](#) Report on the 911 Center Subcommittee

Alder Skidmore asked to take agenda item #19438 out of order. Tyrone Bell made a motion to take agenda item #19438 out of order, and Matt Phair seconded this motion. The group voted unanimously to take the agenda item out of order.

Alder Skidmore mentioned that the interoperability project is not going well. The City passed a resolution to see if other jurisdictions were interested in the interoperability project. It appears that only the City and County are interested; no other outside jurisdictions appear to be interested. The project has been referred until some issues are resolved. Skidmore recommended that nothing be done at the current time. He indicated that a meeting on the interoperability issue was scheduled that evening. Skidmore planned to attend that meeting and another 911 Center Subcommittee meeting in about a week. He would provide updates after those meetings.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Bryon A. Eagon; Christopher P. Klein; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott; Chan M. Stroman and Matthew J. Phair

Excused: 2 -

Bret M. Gundlach and Julia S. Kerr

PRESENTATION

[19436](#) Sergeant Bernie Gonzalez from the Madison Police Department will share information on thefts from autos.

Sgt. Bernie Gonzalez from the Madison Police North District gave a presentation regarding theft from autos. The use of Vehicle Report Cards is a simple but effective idea to help combat vehicle theft. Maximum benefit is derived for minimal cost. The simplicity of the project makes it so successful; other agencies that have tried and utilized this initiative have had great success. This is not an end all to prevent theft in vehicles; it is another tool to use in conjunction with other efforts for combating theft. Some of the goals from the use of these cards are: to reduce the theft from autos, to raise awareness, and to provide visual evidence of police efforts to protect the area. The cards provide a simple Pass/Fail objective. It is hoped that people who "Pass" will be encouraged to continue their habits to prevent thefts from their vehicles. For the people who do not pass, this will provide an opportunity to make changes in their habits. The first steps of implementation were to gather data. Analysts were utilized to determine the high concentration of areas where thefts were occurring. After the data was gathered, volunteers were solicited from the department to target some of the "hot spots" where theft

was occurring. Guidelines were developed, and the volunteers were instructed on how to conduct security checks in unoccupied, parked vehicles. The first pilot was done at Eastgate Cinemas. A quick visual check was done to see if doors were locked or any items of obvious value were in plain view. (Chris Klein joined the meeting at this point.) Of the 112 cars targeted— 64 passed (57%), and 48 failed (43%). Of the 48 cars that did not pass, 90% failed due to items left in plain view. For the second phase, Village Green East apartments were targeted. Of the 78 vehicles targeted there – 52 passed and 26 failed. Again the majority failed due to items left in plain view. The next area targeted was Demetral Field. Of the 44 vehicles targeted – 26 passed, 18 failed. One month later, the officers went back to Village Green East apartments to see if this initiative had worked. When officers went back one month later, there was a 19% improvement. Prior to beginning this initiative there was a press conference at a Park and Ride, and it was announced to the media. The police were hoping that this would be a deterrent to opportunist thieves. If we can reduce the thefts from opportunists, we will realize a significant decrease in thefts from autos. Sgt. Gonzalez has received inquiries about this from other agencies throughout Wisconsin, as well as agencies in Illinois, Arizona, and Maryland. One of the reasons the Vehicle Report Card is so popular is that there is maximum benefit for minimal cost. What Sgt. Gonzalez would like to see as a goal is for the Vehicle Report Card to be an extension of a regular patrol officer's duties. The cards could remain in the squad and would serve as a reminder that the patrol officer was in the neighborhood checking property and would also act as a deterrent for car thieves. This brings up an area of concern – that the cards would tip off thieves. All of the vehicles in a parking lot get graded, not just those that fail. All the Vehicle Report Cards are placed face up on the vehicle with the results side down. A thief would have to physically manipulate the card to read the results. The visual evidence that police have been in the area also acts as a deterrent. No additional overtime costs and no additional officers are needed. The cost is limited to the printing of the cards. A question was raised as to if these cards could be given to the owners of shopping centers and malls so they could perform this for their own properties. Officers follow established guidelines; it would be difficult to assure that someone else adhered to these guidelines. An alder or community leader could accompany an officer when handling out these cards; however, giving them to another person might not be good in theory. Paul Skidmore raised the question if private security firms could do something similar. Cards could be made up by the private security firms and the security people they hire could perform the same type of task. There is a fine line between an opportunist and a motivated thief. An opportunist may not be looking for anything, but can become a motivated individual very quickly if he spots something he wants. Tyrone Bell indicated that this program shows that police are looking out for individuals and helps develop a good police image in the community. The initiative is done at night; however, it is not done secretly. The police value contact with the vehicle owners. Alder Eagon would like the program promoted in the next month or so in the downtown campus area as students are getting back to school. Having the cards printed on pink paper serves as a visual warning; however, it is not a ticket. The next part of the initiative would be to see if the hot spots have cooled off after the cards were placed on the cars. Capt. Wahl brought up a related issue regarding what was happening on the back end of this. When an item is stolen, the thief will either use the item himself or will pawn it. Capt. Wheeler is currently looking at different electronic options for pawn shop reporting.

ADJOURNMENT

PSRC committee members introduced themselves to Chris Klein, a new addition to the Mayor's staff and a new member of PSRC. Chris Klein gave a brief description of his background before joining the Mayor's Office. He will be working with Public Safety, Neighborhoods, Schools, and the on the Mayor's Transportation issues. Chris Klein is replacing Joel Plant in the Mayor's Office.

A motion was made by Alder Skidmore, seconded by Tyrone Bell, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.