



City of Madison

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

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Eli Judge; Larry Pasha; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott; Terry E. Moen; Amy R. Smith and Bret M. Gundlach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Skidmore, seconded by Pasha, to Approve the March 10, 2009 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

REFERRALS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

- [13476](#) Creating Sections 10.18(9)(f) and 10.18(13)(d) of the Madison General Ordinances to provide a violation and forfeiture range for the removal of recyclable items from private property; and amending Sec. 1.08(3)(a) to create a bail deposit for these violations.

The group discussed the language that would be added to the recyclable ordinance that would enable an Officer the ability to issue a City ordinance citation to a citizen who is caught in the act of taking recyclable materials from a private premise such as a construction site. This ordinance would be in effect for any items taken that have significant value including items such as metal and scraps of wire from dumpsters, recyclable containers, etc. There is already a State law that allows a city ordinance citation to be given to anyone who takes recyclable material out of someone's personal garbage that they put out which is on private property, but what it didn't do is protect public property. Items that are on public property would have to post a "No Trespassing" sign and if officers caught someone in the act, they would have to go through a state charge, which takes a longer time to process verses having an ordinance available that would enable an Officer the ability to issue a City ordinance citation right away. The group voted in favor of the language change to this ordinance.

A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Gundlach, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Eli Judge; Larry Pasha; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott; Amy R. Smith and Bret M. Gundlach

Non Voting: 1 -

Terry E. Moen

2. [13863](#) Amending Sec. 10.34(3) of the Madison General Ordinances to clarify language pertaining to the requirement to post a newly assigned street number.

A motion was made by Bell, seconded by Skidmore, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the Attorney's Office. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. [14323](#) Update on Alarm Ordinance - Madison Police Department

Assistant Chief Davenport indicated that the Madison Police Department (MPD) is proceeding in the verified response per the ordinance but that there have been some adjustments made due to an increase in commercial burglaries. In November of 2008, Assistant Chief Gaber issued a department memo to everyone in the City indicating that due to an increase in commercial burglaries that officers will be dispatched to those between the hours of 10pm-5am. The temporary change to the verified response ordinance is in the process of being evaluated at this time. A/C Davenport said that District Commanders have the ability to routinely adjust their staff on responding to alarms based on what is occurring in the district. This is something that has not changed. It was mentioned that MPD has always responded to residential alarms, the only question was if they were going to respond to commercial burglaries. He also mentioned that a broadcast and file is always done, this means that the dispatcher would broadcast that an alarm is going on in a certain location, and based on the officers discretion if they were available, and in the area, they would respond and check it out. Captain Wahl mentioned that if an officer responds, they would clear the call through the CAD system to make other Officers aware that they checked out the incident. Captain Wahl also indicated that there were at least several thousand calls that came in last year prior to verified response in which two officers would be dispatched to check the alarm. Were now, it is broadcast and file. Professor Scott inquired what the net reduction is on officers going to commercial alarms? A/C Davenport indicated that specific data is not available. It was mentioned by the group as a request that they would like to see the data.

4. [14322](#) Taser Report - Madison Police Department

Captain Wahl, Executive Captain of Operations from the Madison Police Department wrote MPD's policy on tasers. The Department started using tasers in 2003. Through the end of last year there has been just over 300 deployments and about 270 incidents and a little over 200 instances when a taser has been displayed, but not used. He indicated that the effectiveness rate is about 78%. The most common failures are due to missing, as both probes do not reach contact of person, thick or lose clothing, 10% is wires failing, and the rest is unknown. Of the 269 incidents, 39 were armed and about 15 times deadly force was avoided. There were 2 deployments against dogs. He indicated that most of the use of tasers back in 2005 had a lot of media attention regarding firing cycles, which the taser fires for 5 cycles, and

then it stops. He said about 70% of the deployments involve 1 firing cycle which does not include 2003 or 2004 data which was not tracked at that time. The trend that was seen in the beginning has really continued with the use of tasers in which very few has resulted in injury to the suspect or officer. 5 of the encounters involving taser, which about 1% resulted in injury to the suspect requiring medical attention and 6 involved treatment to the officers. Most of the injury to the suspect is due to falling, 2 of the incidents involved an officer involved shooting due to a failure with the taser, an officer was bitten, and an injured finger. There have been probe abrasions from the taser, which does not require medical treatment. He further indicated that 350 members of the Department have had training to use a taser. There are 180 tasers deployed for use and that in the future he would like to see each person in the department assigned a taser. At this point there is a taser for every officer who is working to have one every time but there isn't enough when there are special events. The department is exploring options in the budget to obtain additional tasers. He indicated that so far in 2009 there have been 12 deployments in which every deployment is reviewed by the training staff. A question was asked on where the location of the taser is located verses the gun holster? Captain Wahl indicated that due to the location, the release mechanism, safety mechanism and display mechanism there are a number of steps to go through that you would consciously know that you are preparing to use the taser vs. the handgun.

5. [14325](#)

Data Sets from the Fire Department and the Police Department:

A. What data sets would PSRB like to see on a Monthly or Quarterly Basis?

B. Topics for the remainder of the year - Mapping out projects.

The group was asked to figure out what types of data sets they would like to see from the Police and Fire Departments on a regular basis; what would be useful information to the PSRB on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis? The other part was what topics the group would like to see discussed at the meetings for the remainder of the year? The group shared different opinions on what they would like to see. Some indicated that they would like to hear information based on the data that the analysts have gathered putting context to data, while others would like to see detailed data information. Assistant Chief Davenport indicated that the Police Department would be able to easily provide information and give updates. He thought that there should be an agenda item that the Police and Fire could give information on what the group is looking for on a monthly basis including some items like updates on the new records management system, what is happening with the analysts, information on the staffing study, etc. One member mentioned that in the past there have been reports mailed out periodically on an annual basis. It was asked that a list is compiled on what reports will be distributed so the group will know what kind of data they can expect. Some areas of topics that the group suggested that they would like to discuss or continue discussion on for the remainder of this year include: Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), 911 Center – the need for police experience in the call taking function, Continued improvement to the MPD website to provide input to the public, MPD staffing study; what has come out of it and what issues relate to the 5 new shifts, Response to fire incidents and efficiency, Stimulus money; where is it going and how it will be spent, Where are the MPD and MFD resources as well as performance measures, Crime rate; Crime prevention reduction with what is going on in the city and where it happened including trends and neighborhoods that need attention, to continue to consider moving the PSRB meetings to various areas of the City with them being properly advertised.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. [14326](#) Standing Committee Report: 911 Center Committee

Alder Skidmore indicated that the new 911 Center Director has been hired. John Dejung will begin his new position on June 1st. Joel Plant from the Mayor's Office updated the group on the 911 Center contract. He indicated that the contract would be introduced in May of 2009 and that it will need be acted on prior to the end of June 2009. He also mentioned that the contract language would be general enough so that the new director would be able to implement new language to the contract if needed.

7. [14327](#) Standing Committee Report: Sensitive Crimes Committee

There was no report on Sensitive Crimes.

ADJOURNMENT

Alder Skidmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Professor Scott seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.