



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved PUBLIC SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, March 9, 2010

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Eli Judge; Tyrone W. Bell; Michael S. Scott; Chan M. Stroman; Joel Plant; Julia S. Kerr and Matthew J. Phair

**Excused:** 2 -

Bryon A. Eagon and Bret M. Gundlach

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Skidmore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 19, 2010, Alder Kerr seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### NEW BUSINESS

Chair Mike Scott welcomed two new member of the committee. Alder Julia Kerr and Matt Phair.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. [15061](#) Amending Sections 23.07(10) and 24.12(8) of the Madison General Ordinances to increase penalty range amounts for Unlawful Trespass and Menacing or Aggressive Panhandling Prohibited.

Alder Skidmore made a motion for approval for discussion purposes and Tyrone Bell seconded the motion. City Attorney Zilavy indicated that the ordinance doesn't change the purpose of either ordinances but makes the ordinance consistent with the bail deposit ordinance and then increases the penalty range. The motion passed by the following vote:  
The motion carries.

**Excused:** 2 -

Bryon A. Eagon and Bret M. Gundlach

**Ayes:** 6 -

Paul E. Skidmore; Eli Judge; Tyrone W. Bell; Chan M. Stroman; Joel Plant and Matthew J. Phair

Noes: 1 -

Julia S. Kerr

Non Voting: 1 -

Michael S. Scott

2. [17694](#) Amending Sections 24.04(1) and (2) and creating Section 24.04(9) of the Madison General Ordinances to provide for private noise amplification permits.  
  
Due to lack of information on agenda item number 17694, Eli Judge made a motion to refer to another meeting date. Alder Kerr seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to refer to another meeting date.  
  
Eli Judge made a motion to take agenda items #17757 and #17762 out of order due to the absence of presenters. Joel Plant seconded this motion. The group voted unanimously to take the agenda out of order.
3. [17757](#) Downtown Safety Initiative plan for 2010  
  
Captain Mary Schauf shared the Downtown Safety Initiative plan for 2010. She said that the DSI plan provides additional resources to target specific problems. She distributed a handout to PSRC members that includes the DSI plan and the projected costs. A question was asked where the DSI funding comes from and it was explained that it comes from the City's general operating revenue. A suggestion was made on lobbying the state to change the statute governing bar hours to allow municipalities to stagger bar closing hours instead of forcing all bars to close at 2pm and thereby alleviate the problem of thousands of intoxicated people leaving bars at one time. It was mentioned that the concept of staggered closing times has been discussed in Madison for a few years now. A question was asked about what causes spikes in alcohol-related disorder. Captain Schauf explained that a variety of events associated with the UW cause the spikes to occur throughout the calendar year. A question asked whether officers who are selected to work the DSI plan just show up and handle incidents or whether they are expected to identify and address ongoing problems. Captain Schauf said that officers assigned to work DSI are briefed by their supervisors on what they are looking to have accomplished for that specific night. Officers who work the DSI plan are required to turn in a log sheet at the completion of their shift listing all their activities. The lieutenant then reviews the DSI log sheets as well as the Community Police Team's activities. A suggestion was made to involve police crime analysts in evaluating the impact of the DSI on alcohol-related crime and disorder. Alder Skidmore moved to accept and approve of the Downtown Safety Initiative plan for 2010 and its recommendations. Eli Judge seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote from the committee in favor of the DSI plan.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. [17759](#) 911 Center to give an update on the initial impressions of how the new automated attendant system is working.  
  
Alder Skidmore asked if 911 Center Director DeJung, who was not in attendance, was invited to the meeting. Emily Hardiman, staff to the PSRC,

indicated that she did invite Mr. DeJung. Assistant Fire Chief Keiken indicated that when the auto attendant was activated the Fire Department found out that one of the non-emergency numbers that the 911 Center was using was a non-emergency number that the Fire Department has used with alarm and elevator companies for a very long time. Alarm companies did call the non-emergency number and were connected to the auto-attendant. He said that the number is used on information packets that the Fire Department sends out. He said the decision to link this phone number to the auto attendant was made unilaterally by the 911 Center and that the 911 Center didn't notify the Fire Department until after the fact. He said that the 911 Center was in the process of working with all the fire and alarm companies to let them know of the change. A/C Keiken also mentioned that the Fire Department made a test phone call to the non-emergency number and the auto attendant recording asked if the event was life threatening. He felt that this wording may be confusing to a citizen. He gave as examples a stuck elevator or a car crash in which it might not be readily apparent to a citizen caller whether the situation is life threatening. Also, the auto attendant was unable to recognize when the question was asked do you want the City or Town, but it couldn't recognize the word "City". Captain Wahl gave an update from the Police Department that there have been a number of incidents where the auto attendant has been problematic for citizens attempting to report crimes. He also said that the Police Department was expecting an increase in non-emergency calls being routed to the Police Department, but that as of yet this is not happening. The Police Department is concerned about what is happening to these calls and whether the callers are hanging up and consequently not reporting problems or receiving desired services.

5. [17760](#)

Madison Police Department and the upcoming designation of gang/crime prevention officers in the district stations.

Captain Wheeler from the Madison Police Department (MPD) shared that the department some years ago recognized the issue of gangs coming into the city in which a detective was then assigned to look into the situation. As the work progressed he said there was an additional officer assigned. Captain Wheeler mentioned that there are over 1,000 identified gang members that are confirmed in the database by National Crime Standards, 66 identifiable gangs and 1,500 associates of gang members. Captain Wheeler said that the numbers associated with gangs and the increase in the workload for the two officers was significant enough that there was need to increase the resources devoted to gang problems within the crime prevention/gang unit. Scott asked about the most serious or prevalent behavioral problems associated with the gangs. Captain Wheeler indicated that burglary and weapon offenses are the most serious concerns and that the access to weapons are often associated with violent crimes that are linked to gang activity. He said that the unit has looked at the Dane County enhanced gang task force recommendations from 2007 regarding prevention, intervention, and suppression. The unit will look at the model to come up with innovative techniques that can prevent individuals from joining gangs, intervening with current gang members, and as a last resort, suppressing their activities through criminal law enforcement. Captain Wheeler said that the gang unit will only be a piece of the response to the gang problem and that the expectation within his unit is going to be to build relationships and partnerships with other communities and stakeholders such as probation and parole and social services, and also to strengthen the connection with the MPD's Educational Resource Officers. A question was

asked about how the gang unit will share information once they are physically decentralized. Captain Wheeler explained that the gang officers will operate under the supervision of the Investigative Support Section and, even though the unit is physically decentralized to the district stations, there will continue to be a communication flow into and out of the unit. He also mentioned that a gang intelligence meeting takes place every month as well. The five officers plus the sergeant who will comprise the gang prevention unit have been identified and are set to begin their assignments at the end of June. External and internal training on policing gangs and crime prevention techniques has been planned for them to attend.

6. [17761](#)

Madison Fire Department and the progress being made on compliance with the new smoke detector ordinance.

Assistant Chief Keiken indicated that the single-family residences compliance smoke detector due date is August 15th. He said the Fire Department is working on media releases that will begin in April although to date there has been very good support from property owners. He estimated that 50,000 new smoke detectors have been installed and they have seen 90% compliance in rental properties managed by property management companies. The new smoke detector ordinance has already led to one life-saving situation whereby sleeping occupants in an apartment on State Street were awakened by the newly-installed smoke detector. There are still 3,300 smoke detectors available for owner-occupied homes of senior citizens, those with special needs, or homes with children – the populations most at risk. He said city residents should be referred to the Fire Department.

7. [17762](#)

Alcohol policy coordinator on the various alcohol initiatives (pending ordinances on chronic inebriates, package restrictions, license moratorium, tavern self policing initiative, etc.)

Katherine Plominski, the City of Madison Alcohol Policy Coordinator, shared information on problems associated with chronic inebriates. She said she would be attending a meeting to discuss whether regulation alcohol sales to chronic inebriates should be addressed via an ordinance or a policy. She explained how an alcohol sales ban would work and that criteria for placing an individual on a ban list would include a threshold of 6 or more alcohol-related convictions within the previous 6 months. The ban would prohibit alcohol purveyors from selling alcohol to banned individuals. She said that the ordinance or policy would cover on-premise and off-premise locations. Alcohol retailers would be given a copy of the list with photos of the banned individuals.

Ms. Plominski reported that the legislative initiative restricting beer and liquor package sizes has been placed on file for the time being. She shared information on the tavern self-policing initiative, which was originally developed at Brandeis University. At present, the program is voluntary and downtown liquor outlets will be solicited in the next month to sign up for the program. The program will include test purchases whereby actors will attempt underage purchases and/or attempt to buy alcohol while clearly over-intoxicated. Ms. Plominski said that corporate chains already have tavern self-policing in place; it's the independent establishments that don't have the resources. She said that only the aggregate test results and the number of people who enrolled in the program would be shared with City officials. She said that the liquor license moratorium now in effect is being reviewed by an

Alcohol License Review subcommittee. There is also a new website that can be accessed through [www.cityofmadison.com/cityhall/alcoholpolicies](http://www.cityofmadison.com/cityhall/alcoholpolicies)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. [17763](#) 911 Center Committee

Alder Skidmore, the PSRC's representative to the 911-Center Board, reported that the 911 Board was close to reaching an agreement on the auto attendant. He shared that 911 Board never agreed that calls regarding City of Madison parking complaints were to be routed to the Police Department via the auto attendant and, further, that the media was informed of the 911 Center's decision to do so before the Mayor's staff, City Council, or the 911 Center Board were notified. The 911 Center Board voted to refer the matter as members wanted to discuss it further at the next meeting. Alder Skidmore said that the matter of the 911 Board's authority is currently being litigated. The City, County, Town and Villages plan to discuss the parking complaint issue further at a future meeting date.

## FUTURE BUSINESS

## ADJOURNMENT

Bell made a motion to adjourn, Judge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.