



Agenda DATE 8-16-07 TIME 6:30 pm

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 21, 2007, 4:00 PM
City Council Chambers
200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of July 17, 2007 minutes
4. Old business:
 - A. Proposed resolution directing staff to develop a pre-application agility class for public safety recruits (Councilor Heldmeyer, Police Chief Eric Johnson)
 - a. Presentation by Santa Fe Community College Dean of Business and Technologies Albert Reed regarding proposed Articulation Agreement with Santa Fe Community College and the proposed pre-application agility class for public safety recruits
 - B. Proposal to implement a "Volunteer Parking Enforcement Officer" program (Councilor Heldmeyer Parking Division Director Bill Hon)
5. New Business:
 - A. Proposed resolution directing staff to take immediate proactive and effective public safety measures for city parks (Mayor Coss, Councilor Trujillo, Councilor Ortiz, Councilor Heldmeyer, Councilor Bushee, Public Works Director Robert Romero, City Attorney Frank Katz, Police Chief Eric Johnson)
6. Matters from Municipal Court
7. Matters from Fire Chief Chris Rivera
8. Matters from Police Chief Eric Johnson
9. Matters from Committee Members
10. Communications from the Floor
11. Adjournment

For information regarding the agenda, you can call Shannon Cantu at 955-5010. Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. Please call 955-6521.

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CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 21, 2007

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MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Fe, New Mexico

August 21, 2007

A scheduled meeting of the City of Santa Fe Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Heldmeyer on this date at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call Indicated the Presence of a Quorum as Follows:

Councilor Dr. Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Mr. Herb Harris, Vice-Chair
Dr. Mike Mier
Mr. Frank Stuto
Mr. Pete Mizrahi
Mr. Michael Bowen

Members Excused:

Dr. Nancy Owen-Lewis

Members Absent:

Mr. Henry Valdez

Staff Present:

Chief Eric Johnson, Santa Fe Police Department
Deputy Chief Ben Montaña, Santa Fe Police Department
Fire Chief Chris Rivera, Santa Fe Fire Department
Officer Marvin Paulk, Santa Fe Police Department
Officer Stephanie Rivera, Santa Fe Police Department
Sgt. Gillian Alessio, Santa Fe Police Department
Bill Hon, Director, Parking Division
Shannon Cantu, Santa Fe Police Department

Others Present:

Lois Sims, Committee Member, Mayor's Committee on Disability
Mary McGinnis, Committee Member, Mayor's Committee on Disability
Gabriel Taylor, stenographer

Approval of Agenda:

Vice-Chair Harris moved for approval of the agenda. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of July 17, 2007 Minutes:

Mr. Bowen moved to approve the July 17, 2007 minutes. Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

A. Proposed Resolution Directing Staff to Develop a Pre-Application Agility Class for Public Safety Recruits

Sgt. Gillian Alessio said that the proposed resolution drafted by Councilor Heldmeyer directed staff to develop a pre-application agility class. Sgt. Alessio explained that there was an amended Resolution subsequent to that that changed the wording of the Resolution to call for a "Post Application Agility Class," which would require the agility class for applicants once the application process is complete to increase the rate of return on those applicants in terms of what they expect from the agility courses.

Sgt. Alessio said that there is a program with the Community College for fire sciences. She added that through the Fire Sciences Program, there is a possibility of having the Community College work with the Fire Department and the Police Department to create such a class under the Fire Science Program for the Fire Department and a class under the Criminal Justice Program for the Police Department.

Sgt. Alessio met with Dean Alfred, who informed her that they would be amenable to including in the Criminal Justice Program any course that would enable the Police Department to further its training in any way, including establishing a Post-Application Agility Class. The course would be placed under the Exercise Science Department of the Community College.

Sgt. Alessio explained that Mr. Alfred would need to meet with the Mayor, Chief Johnson, and Mr. Buller to find out what the goal of the additions to the Criminal Justice Program would be. He would also need to sign an Articulation Agreement with the City. Once that agreement was signed with the City, they would go forward with the Police Department's recommendations to include in the Criminal Justice Program whatever the Police Department would need the program to do.

Sgt. Alessio thought that this class was a great idea that would benefit the Police Department not only with recruitment requirements, but with the Department training as well by cooperating with the Community College to build the program.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if Sgt. Alessio is recommending the Resolution as it was originally stated because some people in the Public Safety program at the Community College currently will be "pre-application." Sgt. Alessio said that this is an issue that should be discussed with the city attorney regarding what liability would be attached to the Police Department with the program. Chair Heldmeyer said that the city attorney stated that there was no liability to the Police Department because the program was something that individual people were taking part in on their own without any promises.

Mr. Bowen thought that there would still be a liability issue if someone in the program were to get hurt. He added that even though there would be the change to a "post-application," the language in the Resolution still states, "pre-application."

Chair Heldmeyer said that there was an original discussion to change the wording to "post-application," but the Police Department is recommending that the all the wording be stated as "pre-application." She added that the Police Department would be recommending the unedited version of the Resolution.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that the Community College would be organizing the program and any liability would lie with the Community College. Sgt. Alessio said that the Police Department would act specifically as a consultant for the program, and would be "divorced from any liability."

Mr. Bowen said that he was still opposed to the proposed resolution because he felt if there were applicants who didn't know how to get themselves in proper shape before the applying, he said he wouldn't want him on the Police Department.

Vice-Chair Harris moved to pass on the Proposed Resolution to the Council Committees without a recommendation. Motion died for lack of a second.

Chair Heldmeyer explained that since no additional motions were made, the Proposed Resolution would be passed onto the Council Committees even though the Public Safety Committee made no official motion that stated a recommendation.

B. Proposal to Implement a "Volunteer Parking Enforcement Officer" Program-Bill Hon, Parking Division Director

Chair Heldmeyer explained that this proposal was presented to the Public Works Committee. She said that the Public Works Committee made a recommendation to have Mr. Hon investigate further the standard operating procedures for such a program. In addition, the Public Works Committee asked that the proposal then be presented again to the Public Safety and the Parking Advisory Committees for further comment.

Mr. Hon said that he did develop standard operating procedures for the proposal. He added that the proposal was taken back to the Parking Advisory Committee, who voted unanimously to deny moving the program forward at their meeting last Tuesday. He added that he met with the Mayor's Committee for Disability, who, as a Committee, felt the proposal should still be moved forward to the other Committees.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she would allow the present members of the Mayor's Committee for Disability to speak on the proposal issue.

Lois Sims, Member, Mayor's Committee on Disability said that the Committee is very concerned about getting people out of the handicapped parking spaces who park in these spaces illegally. She said that the Committee would like to have certain individual citizens contribute input into this process and volunteer to issue parking citations and take

photographs of the illegally parked vehicles so that violators could be dealt with at the Municipal Court level.

She felt that if this process is handled properly and the right people are given the authority to issue the citations then it could be done.

Mary McGinnis, Member, Mayor's Committee on Disability said there are four reasons to consider this proposed ordinance. She said that there would be more revenue coming into the City from the additional parking citations. She added that receiving a citation could also serve to educate local residents about the handicapped parking issue. Ms. McGinnis felt that it was "a worthwhile project for people with and without disabilities" to take part in. She added that this program would also make Santa Fe a more disabled friendly.

Ms. Sims said that this program has been established in other cities around the country.

Mr. Bowen said that he appreciated the concerns of the present Mayor's Committee members, but added that he hasn't changed his opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Hon said that there is a statute that states that security officers can issue citations to those individuals illegally parked in handicapped spaces on properties that are assigned to protect. He explained that this statute would remain in place.

Mr. Bowen said that he is still opposed to having private citizens issue these citations.

Dr. Mier asked Mr. Hon if he has investigated alternatives to having private citizens issuing these parking citations. Mr. Hon said that the alternative to the proposed ordinance would be to have certified officers issuing the citations. He added that currently certified officers patrol the downtown area. In addition, public safety aides can also issue citations anywhere within the city. He said that security guards are also trained to issue the citations at private locations within the city.

Dr. Mier asked if additional FTD staff could be hired, solely for the purpose of enforcing proper handicapped parking throughout the community.

Chair Heldmeyer said that the problem is that frequently the violations occur after the 8 to 5 working hours. She added that there would most likely have to be a group of individuals who could rotate through several shifts during that time frame.

Dr. Mier said that this proposed ordinance raises too many dangers to private citizens.

Mr. Mizrahi said that he felt that the Committee members were primarily opposed to putting private citizens in harm's way when issuing these handicapped parking citations. He added that he felt that the city would also have liability issues to contend with.

Mr. Bowen moved to keep the Proposed Ordinance in the Public Safety Committee without passing it on.

Chair Heldmeyer said that the Public Works Committee, at their meeting in September, would vote the proposed ordinance. She added the rationale of the Committee was that they thought the Public Safety and the Parking Advisory Committees needed to see what the standard operating procedures of the proposed ordinance would be to see if either Committee's opinion about the particular ordinance has changed.

Vice-Chair Harris seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she would relay that recommendation to Councilor Bushee.

New Business:

A. Proposed Resolution Directing Staff to Take Immediate Proactive and Effective Public Safety Measures for City Parks

Chair Heldmeyer said that this Proposed Resolution is directing staff to work on public safety measures for the city parks.

Chair Heldmeyer said that the Public Safety Committee reviewed the change in curfew for the city parks. This change was then reviewed Council Committees, where it was slightly amended. She added that a number of safety measures have been suggested by different City Councilors for various city parks and are included in the Proposed Resolution.

Chief Johnson said that one option that was discussed at the Police Department staff meeting today was a stricter enforcement of the curfew, especially in the areas that have continuous problems. He added that he has instructed the Department staff to enforce violations and issue citations, but to use discretion when issuing these citations.

Chief Johnson said that another issue that the Department staff is looking at is providing some type of housing on park properties for onsite patrol officers. He felt that this would act as a good deterrent.

Chief Johnson acknowledged that there are certain parks that create tougher situations to enforce the curfews. He added that there is also an option to install a gate that could be locked to close certain park parking lots.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if the enforcement blitz has started. Chief Johnson said he has instructed officers to start issuing citations at the parks.

Chair Heldmeyer said that parking could be enforced in conjunction with park hours.

Dr. Mier felt that this curfew would be difficult to enforce because of the limited resources that the Police Department currently has. He felt that lighting in the parks could

be enhanced. Dr. Mier added that more lighting in the parks might deter what is currently happening in the parks, as would the installation of surveillance cameras in the parks.

Chair Heldmeyer said that there have been numerous meetings with residents in the Rose Park area because it is an area that attracts large groups of people. She added that there wasn't a lot of support to light all the city parks and install surveillance cameras in parks as well. She said that some of the parents who spoke the Public Works meeting felt that their children would be safer after hours at particular parks than at other locations. Some parents urged the city to keep parks open on an unlimited basis.

Chief Johnson said that it's a fine line when dealing with these enforcement situations. He added that some parks need more attention than others, such as Franklin Miles Park.

Mr. Stuto said that kids are going to turn to alternate means of entertainment if they are displaced from the parks.

Chief Johnson said the officers are chasing the kids from area to area during the weekends.

Chair Heldmeyer said that she polled several of the young people at the meeting to possibly work on establishing a youth center at the Tino Griego Pool building.

Mr. Bowen moved to recommend approval of the Proposed Resolution and to continue investigating all the options and citizen input. Mr. Mizrahi seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Matters From the Municipal Court:

None

Matters From Fire Chief Chris Rivera:

Chief Rivera said that three of the Department fire fighters are in Montana helping fight the Sawmill Complex Fire. Those who are in Montana include Shelia Bueller, and two Department paramedics, Wayne Mueller and Carl Crockett.

The Fire Department was granted permission to hire 20 additional firefighters. The Department currently has seven vacancies. There are also seven expansion positions that were approved budget, and the Department is currently trying to hire six additional fire fighters because there are 14 firefighters who are currently eligible for retirement at the end of the year.

Chief Rivera said that he is constantly amazed by the work and professionalism of the Department firefighters.

Chief Rivera said that there were several meetings with the Kiwanis and the City Manager regarding the capacity at Zozobra. Chief Rivera said that until improvements are made to the exits, the capacity has been limited to 20,500 people total. He added that

based on projections made by the Kiwanis, it seems like the total capacity number would work with the ticket sales that have been projected.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if computer modeling helped make these decisions. Chief Rivera said it helped the Fire Department tremendously. Chair Heldmeyer asked if this modeling or an extension of that modeling could be used in the future in case the city at some point wanted to expand the total event patron capacity. Chief Rivera said that it probably could be factored into the modeling, but added that he could check on that question.

Matters From Police Chief Johnson:

Chief Johnson said that the Department officers did an outstanding job with the head-on collision.

Chief Johnson explained that the traffic unit currently consists of one lieutenant and four officers. During July, the unit responded to 228 total crashes reported.

Officers handled 108 crashes total. The officers issued 429 citations for the month of July. The entire day shift officers issues 609 citations. Chief Johnson said that the officers are continuing with traffic surveys. Already making a difference and freeing up patrol officers.

Chair Heldmeyer said that if a councilor requested a close patrol of a particular area, they would get a feedback report about what was happened on that specific patrol. She added that those statistics would be very helpful.

Chair Heldmeyer informed the Committee members that the Police Department and the Public Works Department are working with the Deputy City Manager to implement a Resolution passed over a year ago calling for a unified response by the city to traffic concerns in particular areas. She added that Bill Tollman is trying to coordinate with neighborhoods with traffic concerns. She said that this would hopefully help with neighborhoods having traffic concerns.

Chief Johnson said that recruiting efforts continue to go well. He added that two more officers were hired on Friday.

Officer Paulk said that the Department currently has more people going through the background check phase, than there are Department vacancies currently. He added that the Department's recruiting and advertising efforts are proving to be effective.

Officer Paulk explained that the Department is venturing into new areas of marketing. He added that other adjoining state agencies are going national with television commercials, and said that the Police Department currently has a rough draft of a recruitment commercial completed.

A rough draft of the Police Department recruitment commercial was shown to the Committee members.

Officer Paulk said that there could be additional changes made to the commercial.

Dr. Mier suggested that the Department should show the commercial on the Department's web page, as well as listing the Department's web site on the commercial.

Chair Heldmeyer suggested showing what makes Santa Fe unique in the commercial as well. She thought that this might be a selling point for those people looking for an interesting place to go.

Vice-Chair Harris commended the Department's bus wrap recruitment advertising efforts.

Chief Johnson said that Officer Paulk would soon be promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Chief Johnson introduced Deputy Chief Eric Wheeler, who was just recently promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, which took effect this past Saturday.

Deputy Chief Wheeler introduced himself to the Committee members. He added that he is looking forward to working with Chief Johnson and the rest of the Department staff.

Chair Heldmeyer asked if there would be any reorganization of the duties of the deputy chiefs. Chief Johnson said that the Department reorganization would be presented in a report to the City Council. Chair Heldmeyer asked if this report could be presented to the Public Safety Committee as an informational item. Chief Johnson said that the report could be presented to the Committee when it is completed.

Matters from Committee Members:

Vice-Chair Harris said that he was glad to see that the Rodeo Road project is almost complete.

Communications From The Floor:

None

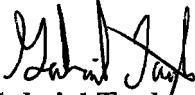
Adjournment:

Its business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Approved by

Councilor Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel Taylor, Stenographer