

City of Washington Public Safety Committee Meeting July 17, 2017

Alderman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Voting Members present:

Alderman Brian Butler, Alderman Carol Moss, Alderman Brett Adams

Other City Officials present:

Jim Culotta-City Administrator, Michael McCoy-Chief of Police, Jeff Stevens-Master Sergeant, Linda Storer-Records Clerk

Residents:

Liliya Stevens, Paul Spiezio, Gerald Wolfe, and Steve Hullcranz

Alderman Butler welcomed Chief Michael McCoy to the Public Safety Committee.

1. **Aldermen wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item:** None

2. **Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda items:**

- Liliya Stevens read from a written statement that she prepared for the Committee regarding the issue of parking on Westgate Road. A copy of her statement is attached.
- Gerald Wolfe spoke about a letter saved on his phone dated 11/09/2012 from the City of Washington (signed by James Kuchenbecker) to the Westgate residents relating to the parking issue on Westgate (Letter not provided as part of minutes) He also advised that people are still blowing through the stop sign by his house on Westgate Rd @Devonshire Rd. Speeding on Devonshire Rd is again an issue. Gerald reiterated the sentiment of Liliya Stevens regarding the need for one side of the street parking on Westgate Road. He said he had to back up the length of five (5) houses to allow for another motorist going the opposite direction because of parking on both sides of the street.
- Paul Spiezio provided the Committee with a graph illustrating the warning & citations issued the last 14 months on Dallas Road.. Again, spoke of the speeding problem on Dallas Road. (Copy of graph attached). Mr. Spiezio offered again to pay for a speed bump. Said the electronic signs don't reduce traffic speed.
- Mr. Wolfe wanted to add that the pedestrian crosswalk sign on E Jefferson St @ St. Pat's School is a bit misleading as there is a stop sign at the intersection. He said he was approaching the crosswalk sign and actually went through the intersection without stopping. He felt that the crosswalk sign should be removed from this location. In addition, a tree blocks the view at the stop sign for westbound traffic.

- Steve Hullcranz agreed with the others residents as relates to the parking problem on Westgate Road.

Mr. Hullcranz wanted the Committee to know he has funds available for more pedestrian crosswalk signs. He is part of the Washington Citizens for Public Safety group and they raised donations during Good Neighbor Days. He would just like to know if more signs are needed and if so where.

Mr. Hullcranz also wanted to make the Committee aware of the need for an intersection sign at Washington Road & Lakeshore Drive.

3. **Approval of Minutes** – June 19, 2017 Regular Meeting Motion by Alderman Adams, 2nd by Alderman Moss.

4. **Business Items**

- **Monthly Report** – Master Sergeant Stevens presented the report. No questions about it from the Committee.
- **C.I.E.R.T Exercise Update – (Active Shooter Training)** Master Sergeant explained to the Committee a summarized version of the (4) hour training at the High School. WPD tactically responded appropriately and were graded well in the assessment that followed. Sgt. Willi did a good job preparing this exercise for the department members.
- **9-1-1 Consolidation Update** – Chief McCoy expressed his wishes to keep Master Sergeant Jeff Stevens on as the Washington representative of the ETSB Consolidation Committee due to familiarity with the project. Master Sergeant Stevens updated the Public Safety Committee on consolidation progress. The State has rejected the ETSB's proposal because intergovernmental agreements between the agencies have not been signed. Once this is established and approved, the next step will be the hiring of a Director for the new center. Master Sergeant Stevens informed the PSC that the next ETSB meeting is July 19, 2017.

Other Business

- Regarding the Westgate parking issue – Alderman Moss spoke to the comment made by resident Liliya Stevens about the need for parking on only one side of Westgate Road. (Statement provided by Liliya Stevens attached) Alderman Moss said traffic patterns have changed since 2012 and that the committee is not in a position to change the parking ordinance based on one resident or one concerned citizen. Alderman Moss advised Mrs. Stevens that there is strength in numbers. If

many people get involved as it relates to this complaint, then the Committee would be in a better position to take this concern further.

Chief McCoy has offered to conduct a survey for the Westgate Road parking problem. The Police Department will formulate the survey and report back to the Committee at a future date. This idea was well received by attendees. It might shed a light on the situation going forward.

- Chief McCoy advised the Committee that collective bargaining talks for both police & dispatch are underway.

The Chief wanted to let the Committee know that a Citizens Police Academy class will be scheduled for (8) weeks coming this fall.

Lastly, Chief McCoy would like to change the Radio identifiers for Washington Police Officers. Instead of the "I" IDA designations, he would like to use "W: William" (to identify "Washington"). Committee has no problem with this change.

- Adjournment – motion by Alderman Moss, 2nd by Alderman Adams at 6:16 PM.

July 17, 2017

To the Public Safety Committee:

Chief McCoy, at this Public Safety meeting you are hearing firsthand that ***parking on both sides of Westgate Road, in the area of its northern point where Westgate T's into Devonshire Road, is problematic.*** Aldermen Moss and Adams, since being appointed to this committee, both of you have been to two meetings where this topic has been discussed.

Last month's minutes contain a statement which reads, 'Having only one resident voice the concern is not a fair way to solve an issue like this at this time'. This surprised me, and I would like to clear up this misconception.

It is correct that I was the only person with this concern that attended last month's meeting, but I am **not the only person** with this concern:

- The minutes of March 20, 2017 state that **Gerald Wolfe, 607 Westgate, asked for no parking or parking on one side only on Westgate.**
- The minutes of April 17, 2017 state that last month a couple of items of concern were presented by **Gerald Wolfe, #2 being parking on both sides of Westgate and the attendees agreed that it was a potential safety hazard and would begin to look into remedies...**
- And the minutes of May 15, 2017 state **Gerald Wolfe said parking on Westgate is a problem for the flow of traffic having cars parked on both sides.**

Although we all know that one person can indeed make a difference, in this particular situation **there is definitely more than one person** that has taken the time and effort to bring this ongoing safety concern to the Public Safety committee. Furthermore, it is my understanding that 2017 is not the first year that the congestion caused by parking on both sides of Westgate Road near Devonshire Road has been brought to this Committee's attention.

The June 19, 2017 minutes also say that I was advised that many of the residents on the street would need to voice their concern and present to the committee. This concern does not only affect those people living on that stretch of road, it affects the greater good of the community that travels Westgate to Devonshire Road, especially during the school year. As the congestion increases on Westgate, people change their travel patterns causing more traffic issues on Devonshire.

According to the April 12, 2017 memo from Mr. Andrews, Public Works Director, **Westgate Road is currently classified as a Major Collector, not just a residential street:**

- With average daily traffic of 3000 towards the southern end of Westgate where I live, *and where there is no parking on both sides of the street*
- to the average annual daily traffic of almost 2000 at its northern end, the area of congestion where currently parking is allowed on both sides of the street. ***This is the area where we would like to see one side parking only.***

A roadblock heard from this committee to change this stretch of Westgate to *one side only parking* is that the configuration of the sidewalk is directly adjacent to the road itself. **But yet Devonshire Road between Wilshire and Main Street has this same configuration and has one side only parking.**

Finally, I would like to address the statement I have heard said that people who have lived in this area may object to the change of parking because of the length of time they have lived in their home. I did some homework, and below is a chart of the properties and length of ownership.

Length of property ownership on Westgate Road between park entrance and Devonshire which is the area that has the most congestion:

708 Westgate-12/2016	707 Westgate-7/2013
706 Westgate-7/2015 Owner would like a pedestrian sign on crosswalk.	705 Westgate-12/1985
704 Westgate- 1/1973	703 Westgate-8/1971
702 Westgate- 8/2003	701 Westgate-9/2016 (rental) A large recreational vehicle is for sale in the driveway.
700 Westgate-4/2015	609 Westgate- 3/2014
610 Westgate-8/2014	607 Westgate- 5/2009
608 Westgate-5/2013 (currently for sale)	
The above column is the park side of the street.	

In closing, last month I asked this committee when the striping at the entrance to the park on Westgate, *that had been decided at the April meeting*, would be completed. Not long after the meeting, I noticed that the striping had been done and sent an email on June 28th thanking the committee members and Mr. Andrews. Since I do not know if my email was received, I want the committee to know that I appreciate the striping which makes that crosswalk safer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lili Stevens

Lili Stevens
1102 Westgate Road
Washington, IL 61571
309-360-3235

Subject: Park Entrance striping
From: Lilija Stevens (lilija53@yahoo.com)
To: eandrews@ci.washington.il.us; cmoss@ci.washington.il.us; brianbutler.council@live.com;
badams@ci.washington.il.us;
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 11:13 PM

Thank you to the City for striping along the curbing of the crosswalk at the entrance to the park on Westgate Road which I noticed tonight.

Lili Stevens

Sent from my iPhone

Warnings/Citations Totals Dallas Rd

4 months

