



Washington Police Department

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Michael D. McCoy

Chief of Police

TO: The Public Safety Committee of the Washington City Council
FROM: Chief of Police Michael D. McCoy and Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens
DATE: May 18, 2018

RE: Synopsis of Agenda Items

Dallas Road Radar Sign Update

The electronic signs displaying vehicle speeds have been installed on Dallas road for approximately one year. In order to determine if the driver feedback has affected speeds, Public Works obtained records from one sign and in so doing learned of a wireless connection problem with the second sign. The sign vendor is working to address that to allow access to the statistics from that sign.

Motorcycle Lease Agreement Status

At this time, Walters Brothers HD is having issues locating two new police package motorcycles for our lease. We expect they will be able to locate the cycles and would like to bring the agreement to Council when those bikes are available. We are seeking the Committee's endorsement.

Liquor Ordinance: Proposed Amendment Update

The City Liquor ordinance allows holders of full bar (Class A), partial service bar (D), private club (E), banquet facility (G), and restaurant (J) licenses to obtain temporary event licenses (class L) for no more than two 1-day events per fiscal year. These temporary event licenses allow outdoor events immediately adjacent to the originally-licensed premise, normally restricting these events to the warmer months. The limit of 2 events per year is a restriction on retailers that could otherwise host additional events that could contribute socially or economically to the community if the events are of a character to do so. Potential changes to Class L licensing include adjusting the licensing term from 1 day to 2 or more, allowing up to 4 events or 4 days of events per retailer per fiscal year, and increasing the time allowed for a City answer to the Class L application to facilitate better planning. Currently, such applications can be submitted 10 days before an event. The Department would like to increase this period to 21 days, which allows for City consultation before the retailer applies for a state license 14 days before the event.

The Department would seek additional safeguards in the event that the number of events is increased; allowing no more than 2 events per calendar month per licensee, no more than 1 event in a day in the City and making licensure contingent upon the Department's projected ability to provide for anticipated service demands.

The Department is seeking input from the Committee regarding these proposals prior to City formulation of any ordinance change.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs

The donated in-road crosswalk signs are currently serviceable but have taken normal wear and tear. In addition, the current signs are not the type called for in the current Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Compliant signs are secured to the pavement and have a spring mechanism to allow the sign to fall if struck, then pop back in to place. Such signs cannot be

moved from the roadway, a challenge for plowing but also making the signs resistant to theft or removal, which has occurred. These signs are priced at about \$400 each. Public Works could install the signs. The Department is seeking Committee guidance on maintenance or replacement of the signs as needed. We do not intend to replace the signs with the current model based on its non-compliance with the MUTCD.

Detective & Pool Vehicle Replacements (MERF)

The Department maintains a 2009 Ford Explorer (a replaced patrol car) and a 2010 Crown Victoria as a pool car, normally used for training transportation, and a detective's car. Both are at the end of their useful lives and both fully-funded for replacement. Considerations for replacing the vehicles include:

Replacing the detective's vehicle with a model not commonly seen in police service would allow it to be unobtrusive;

Replacing the pool car in the same way may increase its utility for switching it out with an investigations car if necessary;

Opening replacement to used as well as new vehicles would allow us to seek the best value in replacements.

The Department's requests are to allow us to seek replacements that may be either new or used and consideration of conditional approval prior to bidding of an amount up to the total plan funding for both vehicles. This conditional pre-authorization would allow us to better shop for used vehicles, as a dealer would not have bid knowing it would have to hold such cars on a lot while we seek purchase authority, which normally takes days to weeks to bring before Council, and would allow flexibility in choosing models for each use.

Vehicle Cell Phones

The Department is seeking Committee input regarding equipping each squad car with a durable, basic cell phone. This would allow officers to receive transferred calls or make calls without driving to the Department or subjecting their personal phones to legal process, which can tie up a device while that process is served. Basic equipment cost would be about \$500 and service cost through the City's cell provider about \$3,300 annually.

Banquet Donations Account

The recent Police Honors Banquet was paid for with donated funds. The Department is seeking input on creation of a special account for this purpose to facilitate accounting for the funds and separating them from the General Fund expenses.