

CITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2016

Alderman T. Gee called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Voting Members Present: Mike Brownfield, Tyler Gee

Other City officials present: Jim Culotta, Ed Papis, Jeff Stevens

Residents: Steve Hullcraz, Paul Speizio

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM: NONE
2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

DALLAS ROAD: Paul Speizio said that speeding on Dallas Road is still an issue and he is looking for a solution. Mr. Speizio said Alderman Butler watched traffic from Mr. Speizio's house for an hour recently and saw the speed has not abated, as well as a large number of drivers using cell phones. Mr. Speizio said there was a correlation of cell phone use with speeding drivers. Chief Papis noted that Butler sent an email about this event and issue and the Police Department has tasked patrol officers with greater vigilance specifically regarding the cell phone issue throughout the city. Mr. Speizio noted there was a traffic crash on Dallas in September. Mr. Brownfield asked whether the portable crosswalk signs donated by *Washington Citizens Engaged in Public Safety* would be effective in the Westminster and Bishops Court crosswalks. Brownfield said he saw traffic slowed by the signs. Brownfield also noted that Public Works Director Andrews looked in to the digital radar interface speed signs and found some evidence they are effective in reducing speeds. Mr. Speizio said he was skeptical and would like to see such a study. He also said the crosswalk signs have not slowed traffic on Jefferson. Mr. T. Gee asked about striping and signing crosswalks on Dallas. Mr. Hullcraz noted the portable signs cost about \$250 each and noted that *Washington Citizens Engaged in Public Safety* would meet again on Wednesday to consider options related to digital radar interface signs. Gee noted that it should cost under \$500 to sign and paint crosswalks and that is worth trying. Deputy Chief Stevens said consideration ought to include whether the signs will interfere with truck traffic associated with construction in the area. Speizio said these are the worst offenders. Brownfield said the Westminster and Bishops Court intersections would affect a break in traffic whereas the Kingsbury intersection is mostly turn traffic and would not affect such a return on the investment. Speizio said regarding the contract for the construction of Dallas, the copy he received was not a contract, but a bid specification. Speizio said that according to Ken Park of IDOT, the city can change the speed limit on Dallas without jeopardizing federal funding. Speizio provided a printed email from Park. Mr. Culotta said he would show the email to Andrews and if the Committee is so inclined it can consider the issue again. Brownfield said he wants to ensure that is the IDOT and FHWA position rather than an isolated opinion. Speizio said he likes the ideas for provision of crosswalk signage and marking, stops signs, and continued patrolling of Dallas.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 MEETING: Mr. Brownfield noted that the spelling of Sonny Drive was incorrect in the draft minutes. Mr. Hullcraz noted that the USPS has unenforceable suggestions for street naming that call for avoidance of homophones.

MOTION BY Mr. Brownfield second by Mr. T. Gee. Minutes unanimously approved as amended by changing the spelling of "Sonny Drive".

4. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. MONTHLY REPORT: Chief Papis presented the monthly activity report for the police department. Papis noted some numbers are noticeably low without a clear explanation. He noted this is a month-to-month report so it is difficult to gauge the significance of the short time period; the department is in a state of flux and uncertainty. Gee asked about the increase in part II offenses. Papis said there were open-door car burglaries, thefts, criminal damage calls. Gee asked if we are making steps to remedy this. Papis noted that the PD had plainclothes patrols targeted at the car burglaries and believed that may have deterred some activity. Stevens noted WPD made an arrest in relation to a car burglary and East Peoria did as well. Culotta noted again that the data collection method changed recently, as noted last month, and that can affect the numbers. Papis noted it will be more accurate to compare longer terms such as year by year comparisons. He added that Circle K reported a large number of thefts classified as part II based on increased vigilance at the business. Gee asked about shift staffing and command staffing. Papis noted that the newly-trained officers are out of field training and on their own for patrol. November 3 is the date for command transition, moving to command on every shift. Papis noted it will take some overtime to do this and the number of shifts staffed by command should improve in November. Culotta noted that we still have not filled all available sergeant positions. He also asked how using Officer Simpson to supplement Investigations worked. Papis noted that Simpson worked well in that capacity, addressing a number of identity theft cases. He said the department has plans to have some officers enter on-the-job training as acting sergeants to prepare them for future leadership roles and allow them to fill in as needed.
- b. Changes to Police Badges: Papis presented a memo the Mayor's request for information about changing the current police badge from a star to a shield. Papis said that a shield is the norm locally for municipal badges and the department presented officers with the chance to express a preference among 3 shield styles. Papis said he believes we can get the projected cost down somewhat from the prices on the memo. Gee asked how long WPD has used the star. Stevens said he thought that was changed around 2004 but was not certain of the date. Gee asked how big an issue this is and why change the badge at a cost of thousands of dollars. Papis said that people often associate the star with a sheriff's office and suggested it may be a morale issue. Gee asked about presenting the issue to the Committee of the Whole and Brownfield agreed. Gee said he would like the Committee of the Whole to see a proof of the suggested badge.

5. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

6. Mr. Brownfield motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Gee. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.