

CITY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 20, 2016

Alderman Butler called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

Voting Members Present: Mike Brownfield, Brian Butler, Tyler Gee

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

Residents: Steve Hullcraz, Paul Spiezio

1. ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM: NONE
2. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM
 - a. Mr. Hullcraz: The Nofsinger/Boyd Parkway intersection is the only intersection in the county without street name signs at the intersection. Location signs are an important safety factor, especially for those who are not familiar with the area. Mr. Hullcraz has addressed this before with the Public Works Committee and City staff but was told that the City does not have authority to place signs on the state right of way. He notes there are wooden poles in place to support street lights, which he suggests as a possibility for sign placement. He asks that whether the City or IDOT places the signs, that the City pursue that placement on both sides of the intersection. RESOLUTION: Mr. Culotta will address the issue with Public Works Director Andrews and report back.
 - b. Paul Spiezio: Mr. Spiezio has been addressing the issue of traffic speed on Dallas Road for several years. Most recently he addressed the issue with the Police Department, which placed a speed trailer and passive traffic counters. Police Commander Greg Gordon visited Mr. Spiezio and spoke to him about the issue, suggesting, among other things, that Mr. Spiezio address his aldermen. Mr. Spiezio suggested remedies for consideration including lowering the speed limit to 25 M.P.H. to bring the Dallas Rd. limit into line with other residential streets, placement of a speed bump or speed hump, and increased enforcement. Mr. Spiezio noted that police staffing limits availability and was not suggesting a continual presence, although he notes there were 5 speeding stops on Dallas in the past 6 months, which is a low number given the amount and speed of traffic on Dallas. DISCUSSION: Mr. T. Gee brought up static interactive signage ("Your speed is") and the potential cost and efficacy. Mr. Culotta's preliminary search found costs of \$2,600 - \$4,000 for such signage. Mr. Spiezio noted that the speed trailer, a portable version of this signage, resulted in only short-term speed reductions for drivers. Deputy Chief Stevens said he sought to temper expectations for individual measures; increased enforcement is temporary, speed bumps are not proven effective in reduction of speeding and speed humps, while more effective, also produce noise and other effects. Speed limit reductions below the 85th percentile for traffic speed do not produce a corresponding decrease in actual traffic speeds and do not affect incidences of high relative speed offenses. The most effective individual measure for speed reduction is narrowing the perceived width of the roadway through engineering solutions. Chief Papis said that various steps must be combined with enforcement

consequences for long-term effects. Mr. Butler noted that with long-term development plans, the traffic on Dallas will only increase. RESOLUTION: The Police Department will conduct additional directed patrols for speed enforcement on Dallas Road as a temporary measure to gauge overall traffic response. Mr. Butler and Mr. Gee asked that Director Andrews conduct a speed study in consideration of reducing the speed limit to 25 M.P.H.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 16, 2016 MEETING: MOTION BY Mr. Brownfield, second by Mr. Gee. Minutes unanimously approved as submitted by Mr. Brownfield.
4. BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - a. MONTHLY REPORT: Chief Papis noted there have been changes in the format of the monthly report and it will continue to evolve to facilitate efficient communication. He notes the report shows for May, part 2 offenses were up over that month last year. Mr. Gee noted the difficulty of comparisons by month. Chief Papis noted that supervisory review of in-car video was down and he will address that. He drew attention to the shifts in which no supervisor was working and noted he will present a plan to increase supervision to avoid the incidences of shifts working without an on-duty supervisor. Chief Papis noted that liability and other implications justify staffing solutions to this issue and the commensurate cost. The two new officers graduate from the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois on Thursday to start a minimum of 16 weeks of field training here. Additionally, an officer who is on extended leave is expected to return about November, which will allow the Department to adjust and reallocate staffing. Our canine handler was moved from late second/early third shift to third shift for efficient staffing coverage. The Investigations monthly report is now showing the status of cases, along with case numbers and additional information. Chief Papis noted that more cases are tracked as closed, an emphasis that better reflects the true investigations status. Mr. Gee noted he likes the newer format of the Investigations report. Mr. Culotta noted that the report contains only cases generated in May without an ongoing reference to cases carried over from previous months, which Chief Papis said can be reported going forward.
 - b. The 911 Consolidation Waiver Request was submitted and we await state action.
5. OTHER BUSINESS:
 - a. Regarding the Council meeting Consent Agenda item for a CIERT/ILEAS rifle purchase, Mr. Gee said he would have liked to see this go through this Committee first, as he does not recall specific mention of it in the budget overview, although it was budgeted. He would like to see background on why the item is needed and particularly why the City should buy the item as it would be a contribution to the group. Mr. Gee would like to explore changes to the way CIERT is funded and see what City contributions have been. Mr. Brownfield asked about removing the item from the consent agenda. Mr. Culotta asked if it would be moved to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Butler agreed on the condition that doing so would not put anyone immediately at risk. This represented the consensus of the Committee.

- b. Mr. Brownfield noted that the City must examine the issue of parking on Westgate Road between Devonshire and the swimming pool. Portions of the road have parking restrictions, while other parts do not. Unrestricted parking leads to narrowing of the available roadway.
 - c. Mr. Brownfield noted that many organizations can claim to be understaffed, but this claim can at times be counterproductive, especially as a public statement. A claim that a department is understaffed cannot be the primary first response to issues.
- 6. Mr. Gee motioned for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Brownfield. The meeting was adjourned about 6:25 P.M.