

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:30 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM

ROOM 239, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Member Vivian H. Burke, Chair (out at 5:33 p.m.)
Council Member Molly Leight, Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Nelson L. Malloy, Jr.
Council Member Wanda Merschel

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson

Chair Burke called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda. No items were removed for discussion.

Council Member Leight made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Chair Burke and carried unanimously, with the understanding that if a citizen appeared in regards to Item C-3, the Committee would hear his concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122(f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS - *Twelfth Street; Midpines Drive; Pinewood Drive; Neighborhood Limits: Liberty Hall Circle, Greenmanor Drive, and Pinewood Drive; Neighborhood Limits: Gyro Drive, Hawkcrest Court, Hawkcrest Lane North and South, Holly Crescent Lane, Park Terrace Lane, and Park Terrace Court.*
- C-2. ORDINANCE APPROVING REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR SIX LIMOUSINE SERVICES AND ONE TAXI COMPANY IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM - *Prestige Limousine Service, The Short Party Bus, LLC, Independent Wheels Transportation, Ace Transportation, First Class Transportation, Apollos Courtesy Transportation, and Dollar Cab.*
- C-3. CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL OF DAVID W. LEWIS TO DRIVE A TAXICAB IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.
- C-4. RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE TO THE RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING ZONE POLICY. *[This item was approved by the Public Safety Committee and continued by the Public Works Committee in December.]*

- C-5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TWO YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH VINTAGE OAKS II, BROWN/BOESPFLUG II AND BULKLEY INVESTORS FOR OFFICE SPACE IN ALBERT HALL - *Suites 205 and 207 at Albert Hall located at 101 N. Chestnut Street. [\$5,963.09 per month.]*
- C-6. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MINUTES - *December 8, 2008.*

GENERAL AGENDA

- G-1. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES STATUS REPORT.

(Chair Burke out at 5:33 p.m.)

In response to Council Member Leight's question, Police Chief Scott Cunningham, stated that the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and patrol officers, seek two different levels of proof when investigating a case. The CID works alongside the District Attorney's (DA's) Office as the case develops, and together, they must ensure all possible evidence is gathered. It is recommended that the relationship between patrol officers and the DA's office be fostered to coordinate at different levels, rather than for patrol officers to simply seek out probable cause. He also stated that the DA's office offers expertise and experience that patrol officers will find useful.

In response to Council Member Leight's question, regarding fingerprinting and forensics, Chief Cunningham noted that the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) purchased a new system allowing them to partner with other agencies in the area to link fingerprint systems, as the national system excludes palm and side of the hand prints. There is also an online, enhanced fingerprint identification system, allowing officers to lift more prints, and compare them not only with the City's file of prints, but also with Greensboro and High Point. The new Thomasville facility will allow extra crime lab space so officers may lift prints from auto thefts, whether on the inside or outside of the vehicle, providing it hasn't been contaminated. Chief Cunningham also noted that the new system includes a hand-held reader, where a thumbprint may be scanned on site to identify individuals. The unit is expensive, but Winston-Salem has been chosen as a test site for the State to examine the system. WSPD will receive eight to twelve units in the next two months for testing. Chief Cunningham stated that this will not interfere with privacy rights because it will be used for identification on the street, offering a convenience to the citizen and an automatic positive identification. He also stated that there is constant revision and enhancement to systems, along with expanded recommendations, and increased training within the WSPD. This system will enhance how cases are handled or assigned, as well as reporting and audio/video/digital recordation of interviews.

- G-2. UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF SYKES ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Chief Cunningham stated that the initial report requested six and twelve month updates and staff felt it was appropriate to provide a status report. In response to Council Member Leight's question, he stated that the biggest need is police interaction and trust within the community. Any advancements or enhancements should be made known to citizens. There is a constant review of policy within the

WSPD and there is a state of never being content and always striving to do more. He noted that major case reports were normally handled within six to eight months and a final report is now given after 90 days. The WSPD is providing additional training for officers and applying best practices from other police departments across the country. WSPD is also being requested by other entities across country for its best practices.

In response to Council Member Leight's question regarding new patrol beats, Chief Cunningham stated that the beats have been in place for one week and results have been extremely positive with citizens and officers. Ward meetings to address any questions or concerns and to allow citizens to meet their patrol officers will be scheduled at the end of the month.

In response to Council Member Johnson's question, Chief Cunningham noted that dates are being verified and once known, notices will be sent to neighborhood watch groups, civic associations, community/religious leaders, information will appear on the City and WSPD website, TV-13, and a media release will be sent out in an effort to try to reach all citizens.

Council Member Johnson noted that the East Ward meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 3, 2009, and requested that any information be sent to Tabetha Bailey to pass along to East Ward residents. She also noted that youth crime is most prevalent during afterschool hours, and suggested that programs be coordinated with Recreation and Parks to enhance afterschool programming. She noted that a study was completed 10-12 years ago, and it was shown that the majority of youth criminal activity occurred between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. before parents got home from work, and requested to know how that activity could further be reduced.

Chief Cunningham stated that all youth need supervision to a certain level and alternative activities. He noted that WSPD is working with community resources, such as Weed and Seed to build youth programs, possibly an athletic league, so as not to duplicate other community programs. He further noted that there are a large number of victims during that time frame and all resources should be utilized to keep children out of harms way.

Council Member Johnson noted that it is reasonable to suspect the time frame is still the same, but requested that staff review youth crime over the past six months and compare that information to the summer and during school months. She also requested to know what steps were being taken to capture graffiti as it is being done.

Chief Cunningham stated that more officers are being deployed and made aware of where graffiti is occurring within their area. Cameras will be placed at various locations around the City that will activate when movement is detected in a certain area, trigger notifications and record any information.

Council Member Johnson requested a list of locations where the cameras would be placed and to know if Council Members could suggest locations as well. She noted that not only is graffiti a nuisance to the community, it has been repeatedly occurring at funeral homes. She further noted hot spots in the City where loitering occurs such as on Old Greensboro Road between Barbara Jane Avenue and Chandler, as well as in the Lakeside area.

Chief Cunningham noted that the WSPD is revamping its internal crime review/strategy process,

whereby all officers are being asked to identify current hot spots and problem areas, as well as a plan to resolve those issues.

Council Member Johnson noted that she has received several complaints about the length of flashing lights on side streets, particularly along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive when coming off of Business Interstate-40 and along Broad Street between Wachovia and Academy Street around 6:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Mrs. Angela I. Carmon, Assistant City Attorney, noted that the memo for Item C-3 indicates denial based upon criminal record per City Code section 78-53 (12 a&c), but would be more appropriately identified under 78-53 (13).

Council Member Johnson requested information regarding the issue with Willard Cab Company's many name/ownership changes.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:58 p.m.