



City of Palos Heights
Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Public Safety Committee meeting was held on August 22, 2023 at the Palos Heights City Hall. Chairman Basso called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. In attendance were Chairman Basso, Alderman McGovern, Alderman Lewandowski and Alderman Clifford. Also in attendance were Chief Czajkowski, Deputy Chief Yott, 1 member of the public and Recording Secretary Morgan Pukula.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Basso moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 Public Safety meeting, seconded by Alderman Clifford. All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Chief Czajkowski reported as follows:

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

851 total calls for service

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Hit & Run | 6 |
| Property Damage | 22 |
| Personal Injury | 2 |
| TOTAL | 30 |

Chairman Basso questioned if we were around the average for the amount of hit and runs the city has. Chief stated the number of hit and runs is growing; people are more likely to run when they do not have valid insurance or an invalid driver's license. Fortunately, our FLOCK cameras are helpful in identifying the cars and drivers.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

- a) Within the packet can be found, the Police Department Budget Report
- b) Red Light Report – 165 violations issued
- c) MSI Report— 20 citations issued
- d) Training – 206 hours

YEAR TO DATE DUI SUMMARY – 26 Arrests

YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC STOP SUMMARY – 2013 Traffic Stops

YEAR TO DATE ARRESTS – 165 Arrests

YEAR TO DATE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM – 37 Cases

Alderman Clifford questioned if the Crisis Intervention calls were domestic related. Chief explained that they are a team of officers who are trained in handling mental health cases. The team can offer support and referrals to the residents who are in an unsafe mental state. The Crisis Intervention Team partners with Trinity Services to assist the residents as well.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Body Cameras – Chief Czajkowski stated by 2025, departments based on population will be under a state mandate requirement for body cameras. The department has decided to purchase AXON cameras that will incorporate our squad cameras as well as our Taser information. We anticipate to receive the cameras sometime in 2024 and from there, create policies and test the cameras to reach full potential by 2025. All patrol officers, administration and task force officers will be required to wear them. ILETSB and IRMA offer grants for the cameras, but it is a reimbursement. The purchase would have to be made and documentation will be required before we can receive reimbursement from the organizations. Chief stated as the mandated year approaches, there may be other grants we can apply for as well.

Alderman Clifford asked if shopping centers and other business owners should have surveillance for their parking lots and store fronts. Chief stated there is not a requirement that the city has, but most larger companies in the city have security systems that the police have utilized in past investigations. We are exploring locations of FLOCK cameras near the hospital and the Metra Station as well.

Deputy Chief Yott stated we have not approached any businesses to date, but FLOCK offers a program where businesses or homeowner's associations in town can purchase cameras to be installed on their property, and give police access to these cameras.

Alderman Clifford mentioned cameras near parks to protect children. Chief reminded the committee that FLOCK cameras are license plate readers and not for surveillance.

- DACRA Municipal Enforcement System Contract – DACRA is the company who purchased MSI, the system in which we use for our adjudication software. In the next coming year, we need to establish a contract with the new vendor.
 - Alderman McGovern motioned to accept the DACRA Municipal Enforcement System Contract for 3 years from the effective date until April 30, 2024 at \$1,100.00 a month, May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 at \$1,300.00 a month, and May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 at \$1,500.00 a month, seconded by Alderman Clifford. On a voice note, the motion passed unanimously.
- Recognition of Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists – Certificate of Appreciation
These officers were recognized for their number of DUIs this past year by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists. They each received a certificate for their work in enforcement against impaired motorists on the roadways.
 - Officer Anthony Delaney
 - Officer Forrest Marcinowski
 - Officer Eric Czajkowski
 - Officer Paul Mikolajczak

CORRESPONDENCE/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- The superintendent from District 218 dropped off some donuts in appreciation to the PHPD officers.
- A citizen that was in the T-Mobile called to commend Officer Wiegand, Officer Sean Poindexter and Officer Kevin Apostal on their professionalism and quick response during an accidental activation of the store's panic alarm. The citizen also happened to be the son of the former Chief of Police, Reed M. Powers.
- Dr. Styka called and commended on the quick police response that was received on July 11, 2023. Dr. Styka was so pleased with our response time, she sent several pizzas to the department in appreciation.
- A former and retired Oak Brook Police Officer, who now has a position as the Senior Director of Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), expressed his appreciation for our support. Officer Kevin Apostal, Officer Kevin Pomper and Officer Sean Poindexter, represented us at their NASCAR Chicago Street Race event, which was a huge success. He extended a "Save the Date" for their Command Breakfast which will be held in late October.

Chief Czajkowski mentioned to the committee that the FOP Police Lodge 154 donated a street sign on behalf of previous City Prosecutor Joseph Taylor. The mayor, family members of Mr. Taylor, members of the public and police officers were in attendance for the dedication. A portion of 74th Avenue is now named in honor of Joseph Taylor.

The Michael Zaglifa Memorial Garden is complete in front of the Police Department. Previous Chief Yott built a bench to accompany the bricks of late police officers and city employees. A dedication will occur within the next month.

ALDERMEN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Basso complimented the Police Department for keeping the community safe and gave a job well done to all the officers who received recognition.

Alderman Clifford complimented Adam from Public Works for mounting the dedicated sign for Joe Taylor, as well as the professional speech given by Chief Czajkowski.

Alderman Clifford also stated residents have called about the amount of noise on Harlem Avenue. He requested a possible quiet zone where signs could be posted. Chief stated it would be difficult to keep noise under control because it comes from specific vehicles passing through town. A patrol officer would be required to sit on Harlem to catch each car. Chief stated we would make extra passes in the area regarding these complaints.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Basso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Clifford. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Pukula, Recording Secretary