

Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee Agenda  
April 5, 2018 – South Conference Room  
21630 11<sup>th</sup> Ave S.  
Des Moines, WA 98198

Present: Chief George Delgado, City Manager Michael Matthias, COO Dan Brewer, Council Member / Vice Chair Luisa Bangs, Council Member Matt Mahoney, Asst. City Attorney Matt Hutchins, Deputy Mayor / Chair Vic Pennington

Not Present: N/A

Scribe: Office Manager Terryann Dell

The Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee meeting started at 6:07 p.m.

**Approval of March 1, 2018 Minutes**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Conclusion/Summary</b>
Chair Vic Pennington asked for a motion to approve the minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vice Chair Luisa Bangs motioned for approval of the minutes.</li><li>- Council Member Matt Mahoney seconded the motion.</li><li>- Chair Vic Pennington asked if all were in favor.</li><li>- Everyone responded in favor. Motion passed.</li></ul>	The minutes from the March 1, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Code Enforcement Update – Presented by Chief Delgado**

CSO Kory Batterman is currently out for health reasons and we are unsure when he will be back. He has been carrying the bulk of our code enforcement cases.

For 2017 here is the recap of cases:

- Total formal complaints: 263
- Dump Vouchers Issued: 42
- Junk Vehicle Affidavits issued: 14
- Total violations written via infractions: 43 (\$22,059)

CSO Batterman currently has 61 opens cases and CSO Seaberry currently has 13 open cases. Some of these cases started back in 2016 and are still ongoing.

For 2018 we have received 69 code enforcement cases since the first of the year.

Some of the challenges we continue to face:

- Not being able to physically inspect properties. Consistency is essential. It is difficult for the CSO's to keep up with physical inspections and continue to do their other duties as well. CSO Seaberry is currently working 8 "hoarder" cases. She needs to stay on top of the property and its owners to make sure as the location starts getting cleared, it remains cleared. She can only do this with continuous visits.
- The Edgecliff Apartments located behind the Sheraton Four Points has two months' worth of garbage accumulated on the property. It recently changed hands and the garbage was left when the old owners abandoned the property. The issue was visible from the Sheraton but no one ever brought it to our attention.
- The Garden Suites is running a Park and Fly and U-Haul business on the property without the proper business licensing. We have informed them they need to obtain the proper licenses for these side businesses.
- As of April 1st, it has been noted multiple properties in the Pacific Ridge area have changed ownership. CSO Seaberry is working with the new owners from not only a code enforcement aspect, but also a crime prevention angle. Not all of these locations have the proper business licenses and she's not learning who the new owners are until she goes and knocks on the door.
- Chief Delgado showed the committee the list code enforcement cases currently being worked on by the CSO's. He commented some of the owners involved in these cases can't afford to take care of the issue on their own. We are working with local services to assist when available.
- These cases aren't all up in Pacific Ridge area of the City. They are happening all over the City.
- Tonya would like to address abandoned vehicles parked in front yards, but we have no teeth with these.

City Manager Matthias commented on a recent ride along, he was shown how fencing put up to enforce property lines and parking is being moved from its original placement. This makes it difficult for the PD to enforce parking issues. This is a perfect example of why we need to have the building department and police department all working together to enforce the City's codes.

On a side note the committee discussed the abandoned house on 222<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. COO Brewer gave a brief history on the property and the issues surrounding the sewer line for the property.

### **Animal Control Update – Presented by Chief Delgado**

Chief Delgado informed the committee Animal Control Officer Magnuson has let him know she is planning on retiring in about a year. This presents significant issues and Sergeant Mohr, Chief and Commander Jenkins are working on a solution. CSO Batterman has been cross trained in

animal control calls but there is a lot more to the animal control duties than people realize. Chief read the following items to give the committee an idea of the job duties:

- Preventing and solving animal care and control issues.
- Providing resources to animal owners to assist with proper care of their animals.
- Providing conflict resolution resources to neighbors.
- Investigations of animal care and control complaints.
- Enforcement of animal control laws.
- Impoundment of stray.
- Rescue of sick and/or injured animals.
- Responding to public safety issues involving animals- loose livestock, animals in traffic, vicious dogs at large threatening persons, etc.
- Assisting other first responders with issues involving animals.
- Assisting other agencies such as Federal Way PD, Tukwila PD, Normandy Park PD, Auburn PD, and Regional Animal Services of King County with animal care and control assistance.
- Assisting our patrol officers and other agencies such as SWAT, DEA, ATF, etc. with vicious dogs on scene at search warrants, alarms, and other calls.
- Dog Bite investigations (to a human and/or another animal).
- Animal Cruelty cases.
- Testifying in court almost every week- mitigation hearings, contested hearings, PDD/DD hearings, and Code Enforcement and Public Nuisance hearings.
- Community education in target areas such as the Marina, Beach Park, DM Creek Trail, other parks, etc. for off leash dogs, due to ongoing complaints about that.
- Require proof of current rabies vaccine for licensing, which assists in maintaining public health.
- Occasionally we impound a stray dog or cat and when it is not claimed by anyone, we use donated funds to pay for spay/neuter and vaccinations in order for the animal to be taken to a shelter for adoption. We use donated funds to pay for all this care, so none of the veterinary care comes out of the city budget.
- She does a lot of outreach presentations. She attends Coffee with a Cop meetings, the Farmers Market, Career Fairs, and many other community events to answer questions and provide animal care and control info to the public. She's a good ambassador for the department / City.
- Provides citizens with cat traps so they can trap feral cats. Once caught, she puts them down herself.
- She currently has 13 Potentially Dangerous Dogs or Dangerous Dogs in the City which takes up a lot of her time.

Vice Chair Bangs asked for more information about these 13 Dangerous Dogs? Assistant City Attorney Matt Hutchins explained because of their aggressive history, these dogs have to wear special muzzles and special leashes when out in public. At their residence, they have to be kept inside special enclosures. In addition to all this, they owners have to carry a \$250,000 insurance policy on these animals. It is a lot of work and ACO Magnuson is the one who makes sure they comply with all these requirements.

Councilmember Mahoney asked if we have a game plan to find someone to replace her when she does retire. Chief responded we need to talk about what our options are. We might even have to look into the option of outsourcing. There's a lot to think about regarding this and we will look for the public's input when it comes time.

### **Police Department Volunteers – Presented by Chief Delgado**

During the last Advisory Board meeting, Council Member Bangs asked us to look at our volunteer program. Chief Delgado has met with Steve Lettic, who is a member of our Civil Service Commission and the Advisory Board, about putting on a Volunteer Academy. Unfortunately, we don't have a person in the department who is available to coordinate the academy so Chief reached out to Steve Lettic.

We will be developing specific task descriptions for various tasks done by our volunteers and establishing training for those tasks. Steve Lettic is also working on criteria for interns from Highline College and other surrounding colleges and universities to assist with various tasks. The developed task descriptions will also serve as a guide for the interns. He is currently researching the level of interest and how many intern positions to have at any given time.

The academy would be geared more towards showing people how to "patrol" their neighborhood. It would include different areas such as identifying problem properties, how to document incidents, how to watch for graffiti and recognize the signs of mail theft occurring. They would also be used to assist with things such the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, or when the department has a booth at the Farmer's Market. They would also help with emergency management and HAM Radio operators in the area.

We will not only be figuring out what's best for our community but also taking a regional approach with neighboring agencies. We have already spoken with Kent PD and Renton PD. Vice Chair Bangs asked why does it have to be a police agency, why can't it be Highline College? Chief Delgado responded Highline College would do the training piece, but once trained the persons would be under the PD and abide by the department's policies. This would also help for those persons who go too far and become "citizen cops". They will be given an agreement in place outlining what they can do and what they can't do.

Vice Chair Bangs asked what the challenges are and what can we do to get past them? Chief stated as we look at increasing the number of CSO's we could have volunteers help in the interim. One example he gave was CSO Seaberry works with landlord issues and we could have volunteers help with that.

Chair Pennington suggested we speak with Chief Hwang from Federal Way PD as they have a very robust volunteer program. They have volunteers who help monitor community cameras, collect / return shopping carts, and assist with block watch duties, among other things. Vice Chair Bangs stated there are people who want to see something happen and who are willing to help.

Chief Delgado advised Steve Lettic has already been in touch with Doreen Harper and Kevin Isherwood regarding this subject.

Councilmember Mahoney asked how we will let people know there will be these opportunities. Chief responded through social media. In addition, once we get the core group established they will help us get the word out. Before we do that, however, we need to be ready to receive persons coming to help.

Chair Pennington commented we should look at someone other than a commander who should be willing / able to help run this. Chief replied he is open to that but we are just coming out of crisis mode for staffing and are currently unable to identify at this time a person who would manage it.

Chair Pennington asked if anyone had anything to add and no one did.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.