

## **City of Bainbridge Island Public Safety Committee**

### **9.13.18 Meeting Notes**

by Ron Peltier

1. **Called to order:** 6:00 pm
2. **In attendance:** council members Sarah Blossom, Joe Deets and Ron Peltier; Police Chief Matt Hamner; City Manager Doug Schulze; Kitsap County Behavior Health Navigator, Kelsey Lynch; citizen Cindy Anderson.
3. **Public comment:** none, per se, but Cindy generally participated in our discussions.
4. **Agenda** approved as presented

#### **5. Minutes modified and approved**

Chief Hamner requested that the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting notes be modified to more accurately state that Bainbridge Police officers only remain at Island schools after a threatening event if requested to do so by school officials.

#### **6. Police Chief's Report**

##### **Complaints**

The Chief's report included a complaint regarding the unintentional discharge of an assault rifle during a call responding to assistance in dealing with a possible shooter at the Clearwater Casino this past Summer. Video from the casino showed that the officer's finger was not on the trigger of his AR-15 when it discharged. The trigger, however, may have been depressed by something on the officer's vest touching it. Chief Hamner described how he met with Suquamish Elders to apologize for the incident and that he was well received and thanked by the Elders.

##### **Generally:**

- Relatively lower level of crime on the Island in 2017 compared to previous, with 2018 shaping up to have more. No obvious reason why.
- Calls for service have increased by double digits over recent 12-month periods.
- Corporal Process: department has started the process of phasing out supervisors and appointing, instead, 4 corporals who will be promoted based upon merit. "No good old boy process".

#### **7. Kitsap County Behavior Health Navigator Program**

Presentation by Kelsey Lynch

The Behavior Health Navigator Program is a collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals in Kitsap County. Kelsey works closely with the Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island Police Departments to assist in responding to mental health crises that involve law enforcement. Police officers are very often the first point of contact for mental health related crisis events. Kelsey, in her role as a "navigator", reaches out to persons experiencing law enforcement related mental health issues to help connect them with mental

health and other services. The overall goal is to prevent more serious law enforcement issues and to prevent or minimize incarceration.

**Crisis Intervention Training** – CIT – is required for police departments in Washington State as a result of the “Osling Bill”. Bainbridge Island’s police department is a leader in CIT training, with BIPD having its own crisis intervention officers (CTOs), who have advanced training in crisis intervention and are able to provide CIT training to other officers. This level of motivation and training help to make BIPD a good partner for the County’s Behavior Health Navigator Program.

### **Goals and benefits of the Behavior Health Navigator Program**

- Reduce 911 calls.
- Reduce rates and duration of incarceration for individuals with mental health issues.
- Complementing officer’s CIT training with follow up help for individuals experiencing law enforcement related mental health crises.
- Help connecting persons experiencing crises in connecting with supporting services and resources.
- Outreach and assistance to persons who have attempted suicide.
- Help for individuals to comply with court imposed treatment, typically resulting in better compliance and reduced jail time.
- Assistance to both prosecuting and defense attorneys to help achieve better outcomes for persons experiencing law enforcement related mental health crises.

### **Request for funding**

Kitsap County will be requesting \$30K in annual funding for the Behavior Health Navigator Program as part of the City’s upcoming draft biennial budget discussion.

### **8. Possible expanded Public Safety Committee**

Currently the City’s Public Safety Committee is made up of three city council members, the City Manager, and the Chief of Police. There is no ordinance describing the committee’s mission statement. Committee members share an interest in expanding the committee, to include members of the public and an ordinance clearly stating the committee’s mission. One requirement suggested by Chief Hamner, and generally endorsed, would be for members of the committee to have completed the citizens police academy program. Joe and Ron agreed to work on an outline for an ordinance describing the Public Safety Committee’s mission statement and makeup ahead of new committee appointments at the first of the year. City Attorney, Joe Levan, will be asked for his assistance putting together an ordinance for city council consideration.

### **9. Meeting Adjourned.**

