



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018
6:00 PM
CITY HALL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
280 MADISON AVENUE NORTH
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

AGENDA

CHAIR: JOE DEETS

MEMBERS: SARAH BLOSSOM
RON PELITER

CITY MANAGER SMITH
POLICE CHIEF HAMNER

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA /
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
6:00 PM
2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING NOTES
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MIN)
4. POLICE CHIEF REPORT (20 MIN)
5. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO COMMITTEE'S MISSION &
ROLE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP (20 MIN)
6. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER
7. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

Called to Order: 6:00 pm

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.

Public Comment: none, per se, but Cindy generally participated in our discussions.

Agenda approved as presented.

Minutes modified and approved.

Chief Hamner requested that the June 14th 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.

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”.

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

Crisis Intervention (CIT) is required for police departments in Washington State as a result of the “Osling Bill”. Bainbridge Island’s police department (BIPD) 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.



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- 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.

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.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting notes prepared by Ron Peltier.

**Recommended Changes to the Public Safety Committee's
Mission & Role and Committee Structure
By Joe Deets
December 13, 2018**

Background

At the September 13th meeting of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) it was agreed that Councilmembers Peltier and Deets would work on an outline for an Ordinance for the PSC. Shortly thereafter both Councilmembers completed the Police Academy on September 22nd. Coming off that experience I drafted these recommended changes and discussed them with Councilmember Peltier. These recommendations are to serve as a means for discussion. Changes, additions and deletions can be made as agreed by PSC Members.

Scope of Changes

Coming away from attending the Police Academy I decided that there is every reason to be impressed with the professionalism of the Bainbridge Island Police Department. Taking this into account, and that I am not aware of there being any clearly defined significant police-related issues not being addressed (i.e. an on-going problem falling through the cracks due to a lack of structural oversight), I do not believe an aggressive overhaul of the PSC is warranted. I therefore recommend that we should focus our efforts on implementing some notable improvements, while also providing greater clarity as to what the PSC does.

It is worth stating that I often found myself referring to the well-thought out February 28, 2015 memo from Councilmembers Tollefson, Townsend & Scott ("Police Department Oversight").

Recommendations

1. Mission & Role: The mission of the PSC is to serve as an on-going City-led communications bridge between the community and the Police Department. It serves as a venue for people to communicate openly and publicly with the Police Department, including submitting comments, suggestions and complaints. Members review the activities of the Police Department, advise the Chief of Police and the City Manager on key police issues, and help in public outreach efforts.
2. Change in Membership: Add two civilians to the PSC. Requirements for membership would include i), successfully completing the Police Academy, ii) passing a background check, and iii) passing an interview by sitting PSC Members. Diversity will be sought, with terms of service staggered.
3. Increase in Number of Annual Meetings: From quarterly to bi-monthly.
4. Increase in Meeting Times: From one hour to an hour and a half.