

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 22, 2016

Councilor Kirwan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Present were Councilor Hardin, Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald, City Manager Smith, Chief Edmiston, Captain Travis Eynon, Administrative Assistant/Evidence Tech Betty Nava, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Corporal Chris Martin, Sergeant Scott Clark, Sergeant Bryan Maess, Sergeant Kelly Parsons, Lilly Alarcon-Strong and members of the audience.

Chief Edmiston stated Captain Johnson has given a tentative retirement date of June 2017. Filling this vacancy will have a great impact on the department as a Sergeant can potentially fill this position and will require filling a Sergeant position as well. Chief Edmiston stated he will be switching the Captain roles for the next year to allow the Sergeants in patrol to work with different leadership styles.

Chief Edmiston stated in 2013 a Memorial Team was established to attend any line of duty deaths within a 500 mile radius. The Team has had three rotations and apart from showing comradery, another reason he has chosen to rotate officers is to slowly equip them all with Class A Uniforms, which run about \$700.00 each. Although a 500 mile radius was originally established, the Memorial Team has traveled outside of this perimeter due to the unfortunate number of police losses. Last year, the Memorial Team attended the funerals of two Las Vegas officers as Corporal Gill attended the academy with one of the officers killed. The Memorial Team also attended the funeral of Seaside Sergeant Jason Goodding.

Chief Edmiston stated there is 11% increase in overall crime but 20% decline in the 10 year average. There has been an unusual number of incidents of aggravated assaults that have led to the 500% increase. Burglary has been something the department has been highly focused on since 2012; out of the 10 burglaries that the department has, 9 were residential and 1 was commercial, with the commercial burglary being a storage unit. Auto theft has always been an issue but is very happy to see the 46% decline in this area.

Councilor Kirwan stated larceny is up by 16%, can this be attributed to someone being released from jail.

Chief Edmiston stated yes, but HPD is a Full-Service Agency that reports property crime as simple as bicycle thefts, unlike larger metro areas where they might not be reported, or if reported, not tracked. Although it may seem like HPD is doing a disservice to itself by being Full-Service, it is the right thing to do.

Chief Edmiston officer initiated activity is down but total arrests are up 10% from last year and are the highest numbers in the last 10 year period with shop lifting being a big contributor to this. Chief Edmiston stated it is important to take into consideration that Hermiston's population continues to grow but crime does not. Juvenile crime is also down 20% on arrests and detainments, but the number of charges are up.

Councilor Kirwan asked what curfew times are for unaccompanied minors.

Corporal Chris Martin stated 10:00 pm if under 16 and 12:00 am if under 18.

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Chief Edmiston stated during summer months the school resource officer will be working with Captain Eynon and Sergeant Osborne to provide CRASE Training at business locations on how to deal with someone who is hostile and/or has weapons. Chief Edmiston stated CRASE stands for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. Chief Edmiston stated all of the area Chiefs will be meeting to discuss standardized school protocols. Chief Edmiston stated he believes Hermiston has been in-front of this as Dr. Maiocco has been very visionary in this field, and over the last three years have had discussions over various items related to school safety. Last year, the school participated in a live exercise related to school safety, what roles staff must play, the reunification process, and what they can expect from first responders.

Councilor Kirwan asked if there was a protocol in place for surrounding area police departments to respond for active shooter cases.

Chief Edmiston stated yes, area police departments have a Mutual Aid Agreement and a Major Crime Team in place and are also trained on these types of situations to avoid what happened at Columbine, waiting for specialized teams to arrive. Chief Edmiston stated the City also participated in ALICE training which stands for Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate. Chief Edmiston stated after sending staff to CRASE training they feel this is somewhat better than ALICE and want people to know it's ok to defend and protect yourself and that's what CRASE teaches.

Councilor Kirwan asked if the PD was equipped with what they need in case of an active shooter event.

Chief Edmiston stated the Council can expect to see a budget request of \$10,000 for rifles and something similar to bean bag shotguns.

Chief Edmiston stated Drug Take Back Day will be on April 30th. HPD partners with the DEA to incinerate drugs from the drop box, which is a great tool instead of having drugs thrown into the garbage or down the drain.

Chief Edmiston stated Code Enforcement has been working to get the right of way through the City and around the Hermiston Plaza. Code Enforcement Official Mike Marcum has made good connections and will be able to work with the rail road through this process.

Chief Edmiston stated National Police Week- May 15th through May 21st. Chaplain Terry Cummings started Blue Ribbons for National Police Week in the Hermiston area.

Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald asked if HPD would be accepting food donations.

Chief Edmiston stated yes, and they are always grateful for them.

Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald asked if crime is balanced with the population increase.

Chief Edmiston stated that is a difficult but good question. Hermiston has always had a low violent crime rate but a higher property crime rate because HPD is a Full-Service Department. Since 2007, HPD

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has hired 3 to 4 more officers, but officers want to live in a place they like, and he thinks this is a good place to live and raise a family.

City Manager Smith stated the City's crime is trending down.

Chief Edmiston stated you must also take into consideration the population outside of Hermiston because they all come to Hermiston.

Chief Edmiston stated body cameras are still going great, the officers and department has seen great results from their use. There was a League of Cities article regarding body cameras, but he is not in complete agreement with what some of the Chiefs of Police had to say regarding their use. Chief Edmiston stated all pursuits and use of force videos are reviewed and stated after body camera implementation in Rialto California, there was a 59% drop in use of force and 87% drop in complaints against officers.

Councilor Hardin and Councilor Kirwan stated it makes everyone accountable for their actions and probably changes the way people act when they know they are being recorded.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.