

# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

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October 24, 2016

Councilor Kirwan called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Present were Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald, City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Edmiston, Captain Travis Eynon, Sergeant Scott Clark, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Sergeant Kelly Parsons, Sergeant Bryan Maess (arrived 5:19pm), Lilly Alarcon-Strong and members of the audience.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Crime Report**

Chief Edmiston stated the calls for service number is relatively flat. There were quite a few people out on leave for military, illness, and vacation; leaving the minimum required amount of staff on duty. There was a 12% decrease in citations issued, this was not only due to understaffing, but due to the fact officers no longer issue citations to individuals with warrants.

(Sergeant Bryan Maess arrived 5:19pm)

Chief Edmiston stated there were 7 rape cases which is very unusual; but in all of these cases there were no stranger-to-stranger incidents of rape. 3 incidents were consensual but had a separation of age that led them to be a criminal act, with another one being a sex abuse case that was classified as a rape.

Chief Edmiston stated robbery had 0 incidents which is very encouraging and aggravated assaults are in normal ranges but are high from last year. Chief Edmiston stated charges of aggravated assaults can include threats of violence, regardless if a person was not injured. Burglary and car theft are both down, with larceny flattening down.

Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald asked what the age group is of those committing aggravated assaults.

Chief Edmiston stated there is no specific age group, but will look into it and get back with the committee.

Councilor Kirwan stated the overall crime statistics are flat or going down, which is a good thing especially since the City is rapidly growing.

Jason stated yes, but there is always room for improvement. Another important factor into crime statistics is that any time there is a legislative change or a new law is passed, there will be spikes in certain areas as officers will use this new "tool" to present a case to the DA's office. Chief Edmiston stated the City and Police Department are very transparent in giving crime statistics, but a big thing to consider is not only the crime statistics, but the clearance rates of those cases. The City's Police Department clears 51% of all cases, which is higher than surrounding areas. This is how the public knows its police department is being efficient and productive.

## **CRASE Update**

Chief Edmiston stated CRASE stands for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. There are 3 employees who are CRASE trainers with another employee seeking training. Chief Edmiston stated during the summer, the PD reached out to the community and asked if they wanted training on what to do in case of an active shooter event or dealing with a hostile person to come to this training.

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Captain Eynon stated Umatilla School District employees, Umatilla Electric Cooperative employees, Regional employees of Head Start to include Umatilla and Morrow Counties, and other individuals all went through CRASE Training during this summer. County employees to include courts house, dispatchers, and other employees in the Sheriff's Department will participate in this training later this month and in the month of November. Captain Eynon stated from January through March 2017 all Hermiston School District employees will have this training as well.

Chief Edmiston stated there are also other programs called ALICE and I Love You Guys, but the PD decided to go with CRASE. The PD would also like to provide this training opportunity to High School Seniors before they graduate.

Chief Edmiston stated he is very pleased with Captain Eynon, Sergeant Osborne, and Officer Miers for all the work they have done with this training.

Councilor Kirwan stated he felt this was a great community engagement program that the PD has undertaken, but wanted to know how this training is effecting staffing and work schedules.

Chief Edmiston stated much of the time used for staffing these events were flex time to avoid large amounts of overtime.

## **Organizational Structure Changes**

Chief Edmiston stated beginning October 3 Officer Erica Sandoval rotated back into patrol. Depending on the Sheriff's election, Detective Robert Guerrero who is running as an undersheriff may leave the department and may create a void in investigations. Instead of waiting for the election results the PD has created a 3<sup>rd</sup> detective position, which started October 17<sup>th</sup>, with Officer Freddy Sotelo. Officer Betty Nava also rotated into the School Resource Officer position starting October 17<sup>th</sup> and will report to schools on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Chief Edmiston stated the Detective Lieutenant application process ends tomorrow. This detective lieutenant will have a special emphasis on Arson investigation as the Fire District is growing. The Umatilla County Fire District #1 will contribute \$12,000 per year to this position. The selected individual will be registered for the National Fire Academy Training which is almost entirely paid for by federal monies. The position will not come online until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The PD will be a very unique department as there are only 5 or 6 arson investigators in Oregon, and they are all with the Oregon State Police. This arson investigator will also help other agency investigations as the PD currently does. Chief Edmiston stated he believes this will be a good partnership and knows the State Police is very excited as well.

Chief Edmiston stated in January 2017, a new captain will be selected internally as Captain Johnson will be retiring. There will also be a sergeant position open as he is sure that is where the person filling the captain position will come from. Officer Tim Miers will also change roles from the School Resource Office to:

- An Evidence Technician 40% of the time,
- Training facilitator 25% of the time.

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- And, with the remaining 35% of the time, helping detectives when needed and being proactive in things that are happening, like aggravated assaults.

Councilor Kirwan stated with all these position changes that will create vacancies, when will new officers be hired.

Chief Edmiston stated he would like to hire lateral officers in the area that could be a good fit to the PD. But more discussions will need to be held with City Manager Smith as there will be training and budget decisions that will need to be made.

## **2017 Police Department Goals and Objectives**

Chief Edmiston presented the 2017 Police Department Goals and Objectives and asked that if there are changes, the committee would like to see please let him know by mid-December.

Councilor Kirwan asked that Chief Edmiston forward the Goals to the entire City Council with a deadline.

Councilor Beas-Fitzgerald asked if the goals presented were attainable within the year, and if not, what the timeline is.

Chief Edmiston stated the goals range from departments, but how it is presented the goals are year to year.

## **Closing Comments**

Councilor Kirwan stated many people have asked him how he thinks the police department is now compared to 5 years ago. Councilor Kirwan stated the leadership Chief Edmiston has provided has been great. Yes, improvements can be made but nothing is perfect and striving towards greatness is what Chief Edmiston and his staff is doing with interactions with the community.

Chief Edmiston thanked Councilor Kirwan for his comments. And stated the PD would like to (in the future) form a partnership with an entity like BMCC to help create an unbiased survey for the community to participate in regarding the PD and future services they would like to see.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.