



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Friday, September 16, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Hall, Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:42 p.m. with no quorum

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair

Councilmember Adam Hussain, Vice Chair- arrived at 3:45 p.m.

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Member- arrived at 3:46 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Scott Sanford, Lead Code Compliance Inspector

Marc Tyler, Assistant Chief LFD

Mark Dotson, Deputy City Attorney

Mary Ellen Purificato

Mike Morofsky

Mary Ann Prince

Elaine Womboldt

Meredith Johnson, Code Compliance

David Klein, Code Compliance

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 26, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 30, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 2, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Morofsky spoke regarding his concerns over the Crime Mapping.com program and the City use as to if it reflects what is actually happening or not. Within the Colonial Village area, it appears as if some crimes are not being reported in the system.

The Committee had a quorum at 3:45 p.m.

Ms. Womboldt spoke about recent vehicle break-ins East Lansing and questioned whether they were connected with those in Lansing.

PRESENTATIONS

Crime Mapping

Chief Yankowski outlined the Crime Mapping vendor program LPD utilizes through crimemapping.com. LPD also tracks crime with a system that reports all crime to both the State and Federal government. The Crime Mapping vendor offers an option to track 17 crimes, even though all agencies have different practices on how they report crime. The system is not owned by the City therefore we are not able to write our own parameters this is vendor owned product that works with a great number of other Law Enforcement Agencies across the United States. The City provides an interface with our record management system, and it tracks 17 crimes and offers options for residents to receive alerts on their phones or by email. You are also able to customize searches by a time range so you can see crime data for up to six months. Chief Yankowski noted, and provided an example of a continuous crime in an area which is thought to be connected and how that one report would be generated for more than one crime.

Councilmember Wood asked for clarification on serious of crimes that maybe connected such as breaking in cars and fraud is committed with a stolen credit card. The noted that when a report is written the more serious crime maybe the one that shows up on Crime Mapping because of the way the vendor pulls the information out of the system. Chief noted it may also depend on where the police officer puts the venue of the crime. It might not be in the particular neighborhood where it started. The officers still write reports as required under the letter of the law. There are cases a police report is not done because the person that calls it in might decide they do not want it formal report once the officer is on site. This is decision based by officer as to the nature of the crime whether they believe a report is needed or not.

Chief Yankowski wanted the Committee to know that information sharing has never been better between LPD, the State and the Federal agencies.

Councilmember Wood asked if they had looked at other vendor programs besides Crimemapping.com. Chief Yankowski confirmed they had researched others, but this vendor is currently better than the other ones. Councilmember Wood asked how the LPD disseminates the information for example if there are several breaking and entering into vehicles in a certain neighborhood. The Chief stated that if residents do not see it in the in Crimemapping.com, to call and the neighborhood Watch Officer, if you have CPO that officer or you can call him directly can we will follow-up with them on it. The Chief also let the Committee know that recently the Neighborhood Watch Officer launched a Facebook page also.

Ms. Prince asked what the tax payers pay for the service. Chief Yankowski stated individuals do not pay for the Crimemapping.com; the LPD pays \$2,500 annually fee to the vendor which allows residents to have access to the information.

Ms. Womboldt asked if a report has to be written for car accidents. Chief Yankowski stated it is not required if it is damage is less than \$1000.00, and if both do not want a report, the LPD asks them to exchange information.

Mr. Morofsky spoke in opposition to the Crime Mapping program because it is not showing all the crime in area 1 of the City, specifically Colonial Village. Chief Yankowski confirmed his office along with himself tried calling Mr. Morofsky back after he called in July, but there was

no voicemail. He offered to speak to his staff about the July incident reported earlier by Mr. Morofsky. Mr. Morofsky asked whether the Police had made contact with Ms. Connie Jennings who was a witness to crime they had tried to report.

Councilmember Hussain suggested making recommendations to the vendor about some of the short comings of the system with regards to showing all the crime within a report when doing mapping. He also asked was the Chief aware of what it might cost to modify the program to do this.

The Chief stated LPD is paying an annual fee of \$2,500 and it was his understanding it could upwards of \$47,000 to possibly modify the program and he was unsure of what other ongoing cost could be.

Councilmember Wood acknowledged she will work on putting together report for all Council Members so if questions come up at public meeting they can address them.

Code Compliance Update

Mr. Sanford referenced a handout on Code Enforcement Activity from 1/1/2016 to 9/1/2016. Fees were increased 9/1/2016 based on the approved budget that went into effect on July 1st. It has shown an increase in the compliance by landlords to licensing their property and scheduling inspections. The failure to register fee will not be assessed to everyone, but landlords that already are registered and fail to re-register.

Mr. Sanford introduced Ms. Johnson who is Premise Officer and handles the SW corner of the City, and Mr. Klein also Premise Officer who addresses the NE section.

Councilmember Wood as Mr. Sanford about the section of the International Property Maintenance code that was eliminated concerning vehicles must license and insured or they were cited. Mr. Sanford stated they were not currently looking at that, currently they tow under the LPD.

Some changes that will occur are inspection times during the day for rental inspections, and increased trainings. Councilmember Dunbar asked how many rental units there were, and Mr. Sanford confirmed 7,200 single family rentals. The next question was on the number of dwelling spaces in the City, and Mr. Sanford did not have those numbers, but it appears 60% of the City is rental.

Councilmember Wood asked if there were any thoughts to hire a Code Officer just to deal with commercial code compliance. Mr. Tyler admitted it had not crossed his mind, but he continues to look at junction or Code Compliance. One of the things he hopes to address is able to stream lining it; they are looking at other cities and models, to make the process better. Councilmember Wood encouraged Mr. Tyler to hire an Officer just for commercial properties.

Councilmember Wood asked about support staffing in the Department to assist in rental registration. Mr. Tyler admitted he is currently reevaluating the Department, doing ride-along to evaluate and make a clear understanding on how the Code Compliance operates so he can make appropriate adjustments to the Department's practices

Ms. Purificato asked Mr. Sanford for details on inspections at condos if they are being rented. Councilmember Wood offered her assistance to Ms. Purificato to review the BS&A system on ownerships in her condo development.

Ms. Prince asked Mr. Sanford about their roll, if any in the enforcement at the Magnuson hotel in the south side of Lansing. Mr. Sanford stated it is a hotel and therefore does not fall under Fire Marshall's office.

Councilmember Wood formally invited Assistant Chief Tyler and Mr. Sanford to her next Ad Hoc on Diversity meeting to discuss Code Compliance.

The Committee acknowledged Mr. Klein and Ms. Johnson for their work in the community.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Budget Priorities

The Committee reviewed the Budget Priorities for FY2017/2018, with a focus on page 6-7, items 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Councilmember Wood suggested adding to Code Compliance the hiring of an inspector for commercial properties. Councilmember Dunbar suggested with Public Safety items should be tied to the budget and not just things we wished they should do. Councilmember Wood stated she would work on the list and make sure each item leads to or references funding.

OTHER

Councilmember Wood stated that the Medical Marijuana Draft #6 A was sent to Planning Board and they would be having a Public Hearing on October 4th. Public Safety needed to also set the Public Hearing was asking for a motion to set a public hearing on the Medical Marijuana Ordinance for October 24, 2016.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER 24, 2016 FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE MEDICAL MARIHUANA ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Ms. Prince asked what version the hearing would be on, and if the Mayor could veto. Council Member Wood noted it would be the last version the Committee saw which was Draft #6 A, and the Mayor could veto, however Council can override the veto with 6 votes.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.
Submitted by, Sherrie Boak,
Recording Secretary Lansing City Council
Approved: September 30, 2016