

MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting

July 8, 2020

Teams Video Conference

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present

Erich Reed
Sharon Chamard
Charles An
Garry Gilliam
Amber Fullmer
Emily Edenshaw
Kendra Kloster

Members Absent

Andalyn Pace
Charlene Apok

Representatives Present

BC Tom Wescott, AFD
LT Burington, APD
Andrew Preis, OEM

Call to order Meeting called to order at 4:44p.m, quorum present.

Minutes: ~~May-June~~ minutes approved.

Introductions:

Erich Reed: Has been a member of the PSAC for 3 years. Prior to that was a member of the Transportation Commission which assisted in improving the use of taxi services as well as Uber and Lyft. Joined the US Army 20 years ago to make a difference in the community and country. Feels that being a part of the PSAC is a more direct way of influencing local policy and assisting our community to become a safer environment. Was a police officer in Utqiagvik and understands the importance of community policing, providing adequate care and fire safety prevention.

Ashley Ruhl: Administrative Assistant at AFD, here to provide admin support to the commission, organize meetings, take minutes, and any other duties necessary.

Charles An: GCI Sr. Software Architect, with commission for about 2 years

Sharon Chamard: On Commission for a long time, professor at the Justice Center at UAA, research and teaching interest in policing and homelessness, specifically homeless encampments.

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Kendra Kloster: Executive Director of Native Peoples Action and Native Peoples Action Fund. Tlingit and originally from Wrangell and Juneau. Spent a lot of time in policy, worked in legislature for about 10 years, has done extensive work in public safety. In current role is working closely with APD on how to enhance cultural trainings and ensure we are maintaining diversity. Also worked a lot with missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. Currently sits on the Russian Jack Community council.

Emily Edenshaw: Yupik and Inupiaq, family originally from Emmonak, was raised between Alaska and Texas. Has lived in Anchorage about 13 years, after husband passed away in motorcycle accident. He worked for Department of Corrections and was my inspiration to get more involved with public safety. Since then has focused heavily on her education. First internship was with APD, founding member of Forget Me Not program which utilizes social media to assist people living on the street with connecting with families in rural Alaska. Graduated from UAA, Masters from APU, and currently working on PhD through UAF.

Gary Gilliam: Alaska Resident for 40+ years, retired chief at APD. Specialties in police community relations, K9, Swat. Has been actively involved with commission for many years as APD Chief. Retired in 2017 joined the commission as a member.

Amber Fullmer: Was professor of Human Resources at UAA, also working on PhD at UAF. Has research interest in violence and how it affects our systems, with emphasis on intimate partner violence and family treatment. Have been absent for a little while due to scheduling conflicts. Current director of Native Student Services at UAA. Excited to hear a lot of community action talk right now.

Reports

AFD, Battalion Chief Tom Wescott – Eastside – 20 years at AFD

- About 12 separations and retirements in the past 60 days, some to other departments, many are retiring. DC Brian Keene retired after long career. Mark Monfore has taken over as new Operations Chief. New Battalion Chief of Dispatch is Bill Hayes, came from the health department. AFD is currently exploring the option of hiring in the fall, to bring people on sometime after the first of the year.

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- Run volume has been consistent, saw a small dip in April and May during hunker down, other months are at or above normal levels. COVID-19 has increased response volume. Actively transporting positive and suspected positive patients. The department works very hard to keep exposures out of the stations. Worked to get proper PPE and to implement best practices to avoid exposure. The department has a unique situation since staff live together in stations. We stress the importance of avoiding exposures. We have had no positive employees, which is a testament to the work that we put into avoid that, along with a little luck. Will continue to monitor.
- Fire wise program has begun. Department staff may visit properties and give advice on how to prevent wildfire and property damage.

Edenshaw: CITC will have a new department Alaska's Peoples who may be a good partner to recruit Alaskans for upcoming hiring period. Nikki Graham would be good contact person for that.

Reed: Wife is Director of Internships at UAA, will be a good contact as well.

Chamard: Has there been a geographic change regarding homelessness and inebriates? Have calls for service moved from 3rd and Karluk, a former hot spot?

- **Wescott:** Calls for service have spread out amongst the city, eastside and south Anchorage which haven't traditionally had calls for service for the homeless are seeing an increase.

Kloster: Have been looking at cultural training with Chief Doll and evaluating APD's current training processes. Would like to extend offer to AFD to see what kind of cultural trainings you currently have and if assistance can be offered.

- ~~**Anchorage Firewise:** Information on muni.org has been removed, working with IT to get it back up. The program encourages the public to schedule evaluations at their property to help mitigate wildfire danger.~~
- ~~**Brush Apparatus:** Pickup style apparatus w/ pump is doing intermittent patrol through trail systems and areas commonly known for unauthorized burning. Fire Chief Hettrick has directed the team to proactively patrol during necessary fire conditions. Program runs from beginning of day through early evening. Brush apparatus provides easier trail access to catch fires when smaller. Working closely with Parks and Rec who has widened some trails for easier access.~~
- ~~**COVID-19:** Continue heightened posture, AFD is well protected with PPE, stand to serve the community, conduct ongoing training, take calls quite seriously. To date we continue to see symptomatic members of the community, anticipating a potential climb in numbers, encouraging public to wear masks and practice~~

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~~social distancing as well as hand washing. We also reinforce this in the stations.~~

~~○ **Lemen: How are employees doing? Are they staying healthy?**~~

- ~~▪ We are very fortunate, city leadership and early acquisition of PPE, PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator) which is a hooded helmet w/ HEPA filter. Allows personnel to stay longer with patients while remaining safe. Photo attached for reference. Staff has remained healthy and proud to serve in that capacity.~~

~~○ **Reed: Have any employees contracted the virus?**~~

- ~~▪ We have not had any positive tests, although there has not been widespread testing throughout the department. We remain diligent in protection as we anticipate increased numbers over future months. We are concerned with the current modelling of 10+ cases per day and continue the message of safety.~~

~~○ **Lemen: Has the department continued to limit family and visitors from stations and segregate shifts?**~~

- ~~▪ Yes, but we have eased slightly to a more normal model as far as staffing goes. We are continuing to limit contact with other stations, as well as wearing masks and social distancing while in the station. Members of the public, including families, are not currently able to enter stations. We have conducted some virtual tours of stations and are willing to meet members of public outside the station when necessary.~~

- ~~● **Bike Helmets:** Safe Kids Alaska conducted an event today and will conduct another on June 17th from 12pm-3pm to provide bike helmets to the public. Information on upcoming event is attached. Helmets are not currently available through AFD.~~

APD, Lieutenant Burington – 27 years with APD – Alaskan since 1980 – Lieutenant of Crime Analysis and Mobile Intervention

- Discussed last month the new dashboard for camp abatement. Currently 240 structures abated, 150 tons of trash cleaned.
 - <https://addressing-homelessness-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/camp-abatement>
- Clothesline project – Opportunity for APD employees to have positive interactions with children. Typically, is an event to provide school clothes and supplies to kids. Due to COVID this year the event is significantly smaller. APD is looking for donations of new socks and underwear for kids grades K-12. Information was in last month's meetings minutes. Donations will be accepted through the end of July.

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- Academy started a month ago, currently running. APD is also running supervisor school to promote new sergeants.
- Working on publishing APD policies, ongoing process and devoting a lot of time to updating and maintaining.

Reed: We've talked before about community policing and programs specifically targeting neighborhoods and associations to promote community involvement. Who is point of contact?

- **Burington** - Patrol Division has taken that over, working to keep same officers in the same area and getting officers out to community councils. If there are specific community issues or address that need attention above and beyond that, they can be routed through Lieutenant Burington.

Kloster: Appreciate the CAP team, have worked closely in previous positions and in community council meetings. What are some of the things that we are doing during COVID now that outreach is minimal? Is there a plan for keeping those activities going?

- **Burington** - COVID has put huge damper on ability to do community events. Unsure when COVID will allow them to continue. We are back to normal with handling calls to service, CAP does still go out when there are requests for additional trainings on an operational basis, but additional outreach is currently on hold.

Kloster: Is interested in taking a ride along when we are back to normal and would love to hear how we can support the CAP team and supporting the community.

Edenshaw: Kendra brings up a good question, how to continue to engage with the community while still considering COVID. Has learned recently not sending a message out is sending a message. It might be beneficial to look into potential virtual options: Coffee with a Cop, etc., where we can find entry points during COVID to continue to engage the public.

- **Burington:** Great idea – will run by Public Relations team.

Reed: With everything going on, is there additional training required regarding sensitivity?

- **Burington:** We have not been required, and at this point we have not conducted classroom training.

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Edenshaw: During the pandemic, there seems to be no bikes. Lots of people who are trying to turn their lives around are looking for these for transportation. Is APD doing anything with the bikes they have?

- **Burington:** APD donates bikes that we have to the YMCA who auctions them every year.

OEM, Andrew Preis, Emergency Manager - 3 years

- Difference between OEM and EOC –
 - OEM: Muni department for day to day operations.
 - EOC: Activated during emergencies such as earthquake or COVID. Acts as disaster response agency for MOA.
- Had been monitoring conditions from mid-late February when plane came in from Wuhan, China. Officially activated EOC at Level 2 on March 4th. Soon after, the team outgrew the current EOC. At the end of March was moved to the 3rd floor of Loussac library. At the end of May it was determined the team could run current operations with fewer staff. The EOC on E Street was renovated to allow for social distanced workstations at the end of May and the team moved back.
- Currently working through ICS – Incident Command System. 4 Sections, Finance, Logistics, Operations and Planning
- Trying to project forward future planning efforts while following guidance from CDC and the State health department and Dr. Zink. Anticipating what we will need to prepare for.
 - Public Information Officer: Working with Mayor's Public Affairs Team to keep public informed on conditions, emergency orders. Also working to keep the MOA COVID-19 website updated. Responds to media inquiries. Most news stories you read in ADN or see on local news is coming from PIO Team.
 - Liaison Officer: In charge of keeping active relationships with outside agencies. Hospitals, homelessness coordinators, etc.
 - Safety Officer: In charge at EOC, making sure the agency is responsive and doing things safely; keeping up with health guidance.
 - Finance: Pays invoices, tracks expenditures, provides financial reporting to leadership and assembly, keeps track of contacts and purchase orders from outside vendors.

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- Logistics: Works through resource requesting process. All about getting things, people, facilities and contracts to do what the teams need to do. Currently creating a distribution system from scratch to track PPE and distribute items to local medical community. Received a lot of PPE from the state. The current objective is to organize and inventory to fulfill requests from local organizations.
 - Purchasing/Contracting: Hiring personnel for various tasks, most recently contact tracing. With increase counts, contact tracing has increased.
 - Planning: Keep on track with meetings and agendas with current and future planning measures. Puts together Situation Awareness Updates to keep track of local cases and additional data.
- Specific projects – EOC working with Providence to keep drive through testing open. Approximately 130 samples are collected every day. Working to cleanup traffic issues caused by site.
 - Currently entertaining bids for expanded testing strategy to include widespread sample collections in different and specific sectors of the community. Continue drive throughs, but also reach out to assisted living, grocery store workers and others who have remained active through pandemic. More details to come on that testing strategy.
 - Developing agreement with UAA to explore genotyping. Unable to go into detail about science of it, back can give contact information for interested individuals.
 - Cloth coverings made by Hanes provided by Maritime community. They were used at port and remaining masks have been donated to Muni. Working to get those masks out into the community to those who are unable to purchase them.

Gilliam: Noticed in news recently the Muni identified a number of bars as possible locations where there may have been contact. Why don't we hear more about how these cases are contracted? Do we not know, or are they not published?

- **Preis:** In general, especially now that public places have opened, the guidance remains the same; that social distancing, wearing a cloth face covering, washing hands consistently and using sanitizer are the best ways to prevent the spread. Anecdotally, those are the types of things that are not being adhered to in some of the public places we hear about. Without singling out the industry, there are larger numbers of people in bars and restaurants, alcohol limits inhibitions and masks may be removed. We have

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opened these places where people can gather, and some people are considering that their green light to gather, without continuing to take precautions. For more scientific answers we can reach out to Contact Tracing. Will provide additional information regarding trends from them at next meeting.

Fullmer: In regard to contact tracing, UAA has been working on getting contact tracers recruited and trained through College of Health.

Chamard: Is currently taking online course for Contact Tracing, it is quite interesting. Several options for all levels of experience.

Old Business

New Business

Discuss timeline for electing new officers:

Chamard: Thinks it's a good time with change in leadership to also discuss meeting times and objectives for the commission. Later meeting time may allow for Commissioner Pace to attend.

Edenshaw: Agrees. Thinks it's a good time to start doing some strategic planning. Is happy to offer up the Heritage Center if we decide to meet in person where we can still socially distance and start deep diving into what we want to do as a commission.

Kloster: Agree with everything just said. Would like to have a planning session, no objections to in person meeting w/ masks and social distancing. May have an objection of changing time to later as the Russian Jack Community Council also meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Chamard: Unable to participate in person for at least 6 weeks due to travel and quarantine restrictions.

Gilliam: Need to remember that meetings must be posted publicly, so any changes will need to be reflected on the Muni website.

Fullmer: Also, unable to attend in person, but if virtual options are available would be happy to participate in planning sessions.

Edenshaw: The heritage center can accommodate an in-person meeting with virtual option.

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Reed: Move to table conversation on officials until September to allow for additional planning and discussion. Seconded by Gary Gilliam. All commissioners approve motion.

Preis: Mayors conference room may still be able to be utilized as that is where he is holding press conferences. Will allow for in person and virtual opportunity.

Public Comments

None

Commissioner Comments:

Gilliam: Welcome to the new members.

Chamard: Second that. Excited again about the future of the commission.

Kloster: Glad to be on board. Looking forward to a work session and figuring out what we can do together.

Gillam: Motion to close. Seconded by Edenshaw.

Next meeting: August 12, 2020

Adjournment: 6:08 p.m.