

MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission Meeting
February 13, 2019 at 4:30 pm
City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 8th Floor
Anchorage, Alaska

Members Present: Nick Danger (chairman), Loren Leman, Sharon Chamard, Gary Gilliam, Charles An, Andalyn Pace

Members Absent: Amber Christensen Fullmer, Erich Reed (military obligation)

Representatives: The Assembly was not represented. Chief Jodie Hettrick represented AFD. Lt. Jack Carson represented APD. OEM did not attend and did not submit a written report.

1. **Call to order/housekeeping:** Chairman Nick Danger called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm. He proposed to follow the agenda he had distributed by email. This was accepted without objection. Draft minutes for the January 9 meeting had been distributed electronically. The motion to approve them with minor spelling corrections passed without objection.
2. **Introductions:** Chairman Danger welcomed Chief Hettrick and Lt. Carson.
3. **New Business/Reports:**

Assembly. Chairman Danger reported on his attendance at Assembly meetings. The Assembly continues to work on the liquor tax increase proposed by Mayor Berkowitz, is assimilating new members, and has yet to appoint a member to attend our meetings and coordinate with the PSAC. Its last Public Safety Committee was canceled.

AFD. Chief Hettrick provided statistics from reduction in calls by the good work of the Mobile Intervention Team. This team intervenes at locations with more than 50 calls. The top five callers logged more than 500 calls (911) to AFD last year. Its three main approaches are to connect the person with housing; get them to a primary medical care provider; and provide taxi vouchers. AFD bills for the call-outs when it can. With the reduction in calls, its revenues have gone down, but this has enabled it to focus on its other priorities. More detail is available in a written report. AFD has worked out arrangements to add 12 people to staff two ambulances. A new academy with 22 recruits started on January 23 and is planned to be completed on May 17. PSAC members will be invited to graduation. Jodie will be meeting next week with other MOA directors regarding "Lessons Learned" from the November 30 earthquake. AFD is using a Stryker gurney to lift patients to reduce injuries to its employees. Workers Compensation claims are expected to go down. Jodie has proposed to reorganize staff in the Operations Section, for both represented and non-represented employees. On-scene management is being improved by the presence of a Health & Safety Officer. The union has agreed to reduce staffing on fire apparatus so AFD can transfer staff to EMS ambulance crew. Overall the plan will save money and improve safety. This plan will go to the Assembly on February 26, and Jodie hopes it can be implemented by April 2, but it may be April 9 before the Assembly can do this. In response to a question about flame retardants, Jodie said AFD is now against using them. They don't work; don't stay on the products; are known carcinogens; and may cause neuro deficits. Even with the care AFD exercises, they can be absorbed onto the skin and could, for example, cause thyroid cancer. The Assembly is considering an ordinance to ban the use of retardants—and the AFD supports it, as it does a similar proposal in the Legislature that would apply statewide. The #1 approach to fire is still to prevent it from happening.

APD. Lt. Carson reported that: 1) phones are being issued this week; 2) in-service Training Officers (TOs) are being selected; 3) APD is working with Parks & Recreation on homeless camp clean-ups. Temporary employees can be hired for less than 6 months of a calendar year. They want a longer clean-up period during May through October or November. 4) Billings issued under AMC 8.80 are very effective in suppressing calls. The only ones getting fined are those with very excessive calls. Warning letters were sent to six businesses and 89 residences with greater than 80 calls. An establishment must generate more than 9 calls to get a warning letter. APD has billed \$122k total last year and is seeing 75% compliance after a recipient receives a warning letter. 5) the CAP 2 vice unit observes drug deals in parking lots. If you take away their money it really disrupts their business—this can be even better than taking their drugs (which APD also does). In one recent case involving a man in a lime-green Charger, APD confiscated \$90k in cash. Beans Café helped with this arrest and have also been very helpful with reducing calls for service. 6) the police academy continues with its 18 cadets. 7) Lt. Carson suggests that we delay our visit to the new Downtown headquarters at 716 W 4th Ave, especially if we want to have our PSAC meeting there and see all of the move-in. He suggested May, but he can arrange individual tours before then.

OEM. No report.

4. **Old business:** Chairman Danger asked for reports and encouraged members to participate in AFD station visits and APD ride-alongs.
5. **Public/Commissioner comments:** No members of the public attended. The PSAC is still looking for staff support and a closer connection with the Assembly. APD has been busy—we congratulated the department on breaking several theft rings and dealing with other societal misbehavior. Any new information on the spate of fires, especially in commercial buildings? AFD continues to work these with other investigators. Some are clearly arson, but so far neither APD nor AFD know if they are connected.
6. **Next meeting/Adjournment:** March 13, 2019 at 4:30 pm, in Mayor's Conference Room on the 8th floor. Plan on May 8 meeting at APD at 716 W 4th Ave. Chairman Danger adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Draft minutes prepared and distributed by Loren Leman on February 27.