

Public Safety Advisory Commission
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 6:00 PM
Fire Station 12 Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Lynda Zaugg
Ray Faust
Mark Mew
Karen Cameron
Sam O'Connor

Absent and excused:

Tony Piper
Sharon Chamard

Deputy Chief Michelle Weston, AFD
Deputy Chief Ross Plummer, APD

I. Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 6:11 PM

II. Approval of minutes for October 8, 2008

- Minutes approved unanimously

III. Guests

Ed O'Neil, Anchorage Responsible Beverage Retailers Association

- For the past 8 years they have been cleaning up homeless camps
- APD posts the camp and then ARBRA pays day labor \$8 an hour to clean up the camp. Community work service picks up the garbage brought out.
- Costs approximately \$50K a year
- There are approximately 300 or more illegal camps in Anchorage
- Not a homeless problem, it is a lifestyle choice for some who "camp out" They prefer isolated, quiet areas
- Camps are long established before they are found – 3 or 4 years in the same location. Tons of garbage is taken out of these camps.
- Proposes managed campgrounds with facilities and security for this population, to be managed by a non-profit
- Anchorage Townsite - also proposes a tent camping facility downtown for visitors such as backpackers. An outdoor hostel of sorts.
- Commissioners discussed the costs of street inebriates. When the costs of the reactive services such as Community Service Patrol and the costs

incurred by the Police and Fire departments dealing with this population is considered – perhaps \$2 million annually spent on a population of 100 people - proactive measures such as housing and treatment seem less expensive.

Rick Sinnot, State of Alaska Wildlife Biologist

- Fish and Game sees the illegal camps in Anchorage, and has seen Ed O’Neil’s group cleaning up.
- Resolution 253 sponsored by Bill Starr is before the assembly, ADF&G cannot support the resolution as written
 - i. Due to emphasis on hunting in the city
 - ii. We already have increased hunting in Chugach State Park
 - iii. Hunting in city parks and neighborhoods runs the risk of having wounded animals in our parks and neighborhoods. This is a great public safety problem.
- Problem is the habituation of bears to the city’s garbage. Estimates ½ of the homes in Anchorage have garbage out and accessible to bears.
- The Municipal ordinance is weak and not enforced.
- Juneau’s ordinance has worked; it is simple and addresses specifically the problem.
- Commissioners discussed Resolution 253. Motion was made for the commission to oppose 253 as written and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul Honeman, Candidate for Mayor

- Introduced himself to the commission and outlined his background in public safety.
- Interested in chronic inebriate problem and the views of others
- Points out that being drunk in public and panhandling at one time were illegal in Anchorage, but is no longer due to legal/judicial actions

IV. Reports

Deputy Chief Michelle Weston, Anchorage Fire Department

- Bond in April for Lifepack (defibrillator) replacement. AFD has the oldest Lifepacks in the market, cannot procure replacement parts for them.
- Offers tour of Station 12s remodeled kitchen and the Dispatch center after meeting adjourns. Kitchen remodel was courtesy of Home Depot in remembrance of September 11th.

Deputy Chief Ross Plummer, Anchorage Police Department

- New academy is now in Field Training.
- 37 persons to start Academy on 12/1.
- This brings APD the closest to their authorized staffing levels in “quite awhile”
- All officers attended Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) training. PIT is an aggressive maneuver that ends a pursuit quickly. The officer taps the fleeing vehicle with their patrol vehicle.

- APD plans to Bond for the expansion of the APD campus with a new building for property and evidence facility and a firing range.

V. Old Business

- Motion made and passed unanimously to postpone election of new officers till next meeting.

VI. New Business

- Ray Faust asked Deputy Chief Plummer to comment on the recent issues with memos of understanding and the Assembly. DC Plummer explains that has been the past practice for many departments to make minor “tweaks” to a contract through a memo of understanding rather than bringing the entire agreement to the Assembly. The example DC Plummer used is when a patrol officer needs to temporarily change a shift schedule for a Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) issue.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

VIII. Next meeting December 10, 2008