

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Council Conference Room
15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond, Washington
Tuesday, September 24, 2013
4:30 p.m.

Council

David Carson, Chair (*via teleconference*)
Kim Allen
Hank Margeson (*Acting Chair*)
Hank Myers (*Attending Council member*)
Pat Vache (*Attending Council member*)
John Stilin (*Attending Council member*)

Staff

Ron Gibson, Police Chief
Todd Short, Deputy Fire Chief
Thomas Conroy, Police Commander
Doug Kammerzell, Battalion Chief
Colleen Kelly, Assistant Director of Community
Planning
Timothy Gately, Police Commander
Mark Haggren, Police Commander
Erik Scairpon, Police Commander
Michelle M. Hart, MMC, City Clerk

Meeting Summary

Convened: 4:35 p.m.

Adjourned 5:08 p.m.

Acting Chair Hank Margeson opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda items, and noted Council members in attendance. Chair David Carson attended the meeting via teleconference.

East Metro Training Group Interlocal Agreement

Deputy Fire Chief Todd Short introduced Battalion Chief Doug Kammerzell to discuss the East Metro Training Group Interlocal Agreement. Battalion Chief Kammerzell stated that the agreement will bring structure to the organization and allow for future expansion with other outside agencies. The agreement also pools funds from the different agencies to spend on training.

General discussion ensued regarding if the action is for the renewal of a current agreement and if there is joint training.

Panhandling- Consideration/Discussion of Options

Police Chief Ron Gibson introduced Police Commanders Erik Scairpon and Timothy Gately to discuss how Redmond and other cities deal with panhandling and to answer questions from the Committee. Chief Gibson also introduced, from Human Services, Colleen Kelly, Assistant Director of Community Planning, who ensures the Police Department enforcement in this regard is in alignment with the rest of the City.

Commander Scairpon said there are two different types of panhandling complaints: either the panhandler who is standing on the corner, or the 911 call for aggressive panhandling, which is starting to occur more often at grocery stores. Police enforcement is in accordance with the current laws of disorderly conduct, harassment, or assault. A problem the Police Department is having with enforcement is that witnesses, victims, and store owners won't cooperate or file a complaint. The Police Department is providing outreach to help businesses realize they have to file a complaint to keep aggressive panhandlers away. Police advise the public not to give money or engage the panhandler, but instead to give the money to a local charity or provide the panhandler with socks or a gift card for food.

The City Prosecutor informed Commander Gately that there are no immediate issues with the current processes and no need for additional ordinances because we have the laws in place to deal with aggressive panhandling. There are programs in the region that have taken different approaches to this issue. Change for Better in Spokane Washington advises residents to keep their change and donate to specific charities instead. The City of Issaquah and the City of Seattle have chosen to implement a code regarding aggressive panhandling. Chief Gibson stated that cities in the region have shown no interest in having a common enforcement strategy.

Ms. Kelly said that the homeless challenges are growing in the area. Human Services is focusing on outreach efforts towards panhandling, which other cities in the region are in agreement with.

General discussion ensued regarding the number of complaints of aggressive panhandling received by the Redmond Police Department in a year's time; the reasons residents do not follow through on filing a complaint; and if there is a card or information to give the mentally-ill, homeless in order to put them in touch with resources.

University of Washington Emergency Resiliency Study

Police Commander Mark Hagreen reported earlier this year the City of Redmond was approached by FEMA and the University of Washington to be part of a study funded by FEMA. The purpose of this study is to look at resiliency as far as prevention, response, mitigation, and recovery from natural disasters. Cities have different demographics and different needs, so there is no one size fits all response to a natural disaster. Redmond is participating and will receive specific information that can be used for a hazard mitigation plan. This Thursday evening, September 26, 2013, from 5:30pm-8:30pm, there will be a workshop in the Public Safety Building.

Washington Military and Redmond Police Department Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid Deployment

Chief Gibson stated that the agreement is for mutual aid from dispatchers and communication specialists from around the country during an emergency. The team is called the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce and is organized through FEMA and Washington Emergency Management. If activated, the taskforce will provide assistance at a communication center for a week and any costs would be reimbursed.