

REDMOND CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
Council Conference Room, City Hall
Thursday, May 15, 2008

Council

David Carson, Chair
Kim Allen
Pat Vache

Staff

Steve Harris, Police Chief
Larry Gainer, Assistant Police Chief
Kristi Wilson, Police Commander
Doug Shepard, Police Lieutenant
Deb Ayrs, Deputy Fire Chief

Convened: 8:30 a.m.

Adjourned: 9:00 a.m.

Hiring Status for Police Department

Commander Wilson reported two new officers will be on board this month and a Volunteer Coordinator has been hired. A person from Skagit County Dispatch has submitted an application, which is timely as the interim dispatch person has resigned. The Department is losing two officers, so that means the department is up two officers and down two officers. Another lateral position is in process and there are many entry level applicants on the list. To recap, the Department is still down four officers and one dispatch position.

At the previous Committee meeting, Chief Harris reported that the Mayor has requested all technical systems be coordinated through Information Services. The Police Department will be hiring one technical support person as soon as the details are worked out between Police, Human Resources, and Information Services. This technical support person will assist with maintenance of Police systems with the ability to fix and keep the technology up and running. For example, the mobile data for officers and police cars and desktop computer issues as they arise. Police will have a report on the progress of this position next month.

Auto Theft Grant Funding

Lieutenant Shepard distributed a Project Abstract outlining the efforts of Redmond regarding auto thefts and car prowls. He reported that in 2003, Seattle was in the top 10 for auto theft and had been since the 1990's.

In 2004, the King County Auto Theft Initiative work group, involving King County police, sheriffs, prosecutors, and state corrections personnel, submitted several recommendations to reduce car theft in the region. Redmond joined the effort and as a result, auto theft rate in Redmond declined 23 percent from 2006 to 2007. The Redmond Police Department has one of two special enforcement teams in the county devoted to auto theft, and has tallied 162 arrests and the recovery of \$1,485,000 of stolen property in 2006 and 2007 alone.

The auto theft rate in King County has declined nearly 37 percent since 2005. Several high profile offenders have received sentences of five to eight years in prison for auto theft, a sentence unheard of just two years ago. The King County Prosecutor's Office staffs a four-person team solely devoted to prosecuting vehicle crimes. The State of Washington passed several laws in 2007 cracking down on auto theft, and created a commission on auto theft reduction, which will provide grant funding from increased traffic fines. The Auto Theft Tactical Analysis Center of King County (ATTACK) serves as a coordination, analysis, and intelligence clearinghouse for over 40 law enforcement agencies across three counties, with over 220 e-mail partners involved in the identification, apprehension, and prosecution of auto theft and car prowls suspects. Lt. Shepard noted that Yakima County is now leading Washington in auto theft crimes, while King County continues to decline.

The Car Theft Initiative has been an unmitigated success, and the ATTACK model is becoming the standard for effective crime fighting in the region.

Lt. Shepard reported that through the Kirkland grantwriter, Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland are combining efforts in applying for grants for more officers, training, and other services. June 2, 2008, is the deadline for submitting a grant request.

Chief Harris commented that identity theft is another huge area where enforcement is needed and an identity theft conceptual model may be modified to work similar to the very successful car theft model. He also noted that comprehensive information sharing by the Social Security Administration and FBI, with the ATTACK center, is being fed back to the local police departments.

Chief Harris distributed an Auto Theft table with a list for measuring outputs and examples of outcomes.

The traffic division (currently with two officers) should be up to full strength (eight officers) by January 2009.

Regarding car theft, Redmond has the highest recovery rate in King County. Redmond crimes are mostly related to the methamphetamine problem and are crimes where the stealing of cars is to commit other crimes, not selling to chop shops.

Business Operations Manager Hiring Update

Deb Ayrs, Deputy Fire Chief, reported interviews have concluded for the Business Operations Manager. The ranking will be sent to the Civil Service Commission for certification next week. Background checks have been completed and they hope to have the new person on board by June 2008.

Ms. Ayrs responded to Councilmember Carson's question regarding other hiring updates, stating that Bob Oliver, Chief of Operations, is organizing training using leadership skills and will open the training to outside people who want to participate. She concluded that there will be testing in September for a driver/operator position.

Miscellaneous – Police Department

Chief Harris distributed an article Harnessing the Power of Corporate Partnerships by William J. Bratton. The article touches on the benefits to the law enforcement community and communities that have entered into public-private partnerships.

Councilmember Carson inquired about the status of Microsoft and internal camera surveillance. Chief Harris responded that the Department responds to incidents and have requested access to video streaming of reported crimes in progress. This is a process that is being refined, but is not yet operational. A test period may start with Public Works cameras to see how the system works for the Police Department. He confirmed that the surveillance would only be for crimes in progress and concluded that is where technology is headed.

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