

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MAY 17, 2022**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on May 17, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Dawn Carbone-McDonald; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Joanne Krejci, John Nickell, Linda Barath; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Assistant Law Director Donna Vozar; **Other:** Joel Spatz, Michael McDonald.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of April 19, 2022 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. COVID-19 Local Response**

No report.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA.

**2. Police & Safety Report**

Chief Tarase reported on stats monthly which included the following: 7 hit skip accidents, 34 non-injury accidents, 5 private property, 60 physical arrests, 49 speeding tickets issued, one school bus light citation, and 24 theft complaints. April was Distracted Driving Awareness Month, whereas 37 citations were given for hand held wireless phones, and there were 13 citations for texting or typing while driving. Currently, there have been four conditional offers of employment for new patrol officers; one was a lateral and three were from the Civil Service list. He mentioned the increase of catalytic converter thefts in the City.

Pertaining to the speeding on Apollo Drive, there were no violators. We are in the process of doing a review for Bunker Road. There had been complaints for speeding on Pamela Drive, with no violators while we were present. There were complaints on Pinebrook Drive for increased traffic, for cutting through due to construction. One citation was given and a couple of warnings. Mr. Nickell asked if officers are going through that area more often at this time. Chief Tarase indicated that officers are aware, and they go there when they can; they sit there randomly. Also, we did a review for York Road and Sunrise Blvd., in which we did not have any violators.

Mr. Vos brought up question about the catalytic converter thefts, as to where they were happening. Chief Tarase clarified they are happening mostly in the apartments; some businesses with vehicles. Mr. Nickell commented that if we had a system with license plates, it could be of help. Ms. Barath felt that it would be of help if those businesses had their own safety type equipment.

Mr. Nickell asked about the ATV's (all-terrain vehicles). Chief Tarase commented there have been a couple of complaints; not many, however, the weather is getting better and there may be more.

**3. Hydrant Painting and Maintenance**

Chief Chegan noted they are still in Ward 1 for maintenance; we continue putting the updates on social media. Once we start a new Ward, it is on Facebook and Ready Notify. We will be doing the rest of Ridge Road, somewhat out of order; all the way up to Route 82 before the construction starts. The hope is to get in Ward 2 by the end of the week.

For painting, there is no date yet. We had discussed painting on private streets, which are those that are not dedicated. We maintain those streets, although they are streets like the apartments, because Cleveland Water has taken the responsibility of most of them; the ones that we do not maintain as much as the yard hydrants. We have discussed this and we believe the apartments, streets, and the condo associations are part of the water main systems; we were looking at adding those to our list. They would not be done any time in the near future. Chief Chegan noted that we will not finish the main roads until 2024, which will also be the year in the developments.

Mr. Marnecheck wanted to know if we have the ability to charge them since it is a non-dedicated street. Chief Chegan explained that he has a call into Cleveland Water, in which he has not had a returned call yet; to get some clarification on that. However, we are required to do the maintenance of them. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated if there is a development that wishes not to wait and have their hydrants painted. He went on to say if we can get a price and they want to pay for it, then yes. Chief Chegan noted that we feel it is our obligation since we maintain them and fix them. He indicated that if someone does not want to wait, we can certainly look at it. Mr. Marnecheck inquired about the number of hydrants. Chief Chegan indicated it is roughly 175; with a total of about 2400 hydrants in the City.

#### **4. Safety Town**

Chief Chegan advised that we are still working on the physical layout. We had a busy couple of months with some events with some tentative plans for a fall fundraiser. He and the Mayor have another meeting with the school the following evening.

Ms. Krejci raised question on other events that may be scheduled in raising money for Safety Town. Chief Tarase clarified that we have one in the fall we are planning. Mayor Antoskiewicz brought up that there were a few inquiries about making a donation, in which Ms. Esarey has established if anyone just wants to make a donation for Safety Town.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked how much needs to be raised. Chief Chegan clarified that we would have more information after the architect gives us the plans back. Mr. Nickell brought up sponsoring. Chief Chegan is also looking at how Brecksville did theirs, which was close to \$75,000 in cost. We would look at the best and cheapest way to do this using the fundraising that we have. We would know more after we get with the architect. We will look into all options when fundraising.

Mr. Marnecheck asked if there is potential conversation with the schools; they might be able to manufacture things. Chief Chegan indicated both the Career Center and our schools would be able to assist, and this can be a nice project for them. Mr. Marnecheck also brought up Boy Scouts. Chief Chegan indicated that Police and Fire would be working with our schools with the Safety Town, and those dates have been set in June; which are likely on their website. June 13-24<sup>th</sup>, June 27-July 8<sup>th</sup> is the second session; those have been posted by the schools.

Chief Chegan pointed out when we have the Safety Fair, it is usually to kick off EMS (Emergency Medical Services) week, which brings together the local communities; medical personnel, and honor their dedication front line. He expressed gratitude for his guys and members for what they provide this community. This year's theme was EMS rising to the challenge. The past couple of years hit hard, on top of the normal services that we provide, and the team work that we have with the hospitals; especially with all that we did over the last couple of years. He took the opportunity to thank the team for what they do every day. Also, he thanked the Police officers because it is National Police Week. He went on to thank our residents for continued support. We had a levy that was passed; he was very humbled.

He provided information for everyone. Our mission statement reads: To provide excellence and public service in the fields of emergency medical care, rescue operations, fire prevention, suppression, and public safety education. Such level of services is achieved through a combination of innovation, training, leadership, teamwork, and the commitment to the safety of the citizens of our community. He felt that holds true with

EMS week, with what the residents have conveyed with their trust; he thanked them once more. He stated we will continue to provide that care that they deserve.

Our biggest event is our Safety Fair, which was absent for two years due to Covid. We had more people there, whereas we ran out of everything again. The amount of people was amazing. A lot of things were donated. It is a great way to give back. He thanked everyone that was involved.

Chief Chegan indicated that on Sunday they participated in the American Lung Association Fight For the Climb. We have been doing this for over ten years. We had eight members of his department participate; a lot is raising money for this cause. He reported that the guys climbed over 1200 steps, with full gear and air packs for this, in which they trained for months. This year they finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place; he was very proud of their effort. He expressed his gratitude. Mr. Marnecheck asked about the weight of the packs that they carried. Chief indicated about 75 lbs. total; with the gear and air pack. We do have save the date for the City Health Expo that we have with the schools, which will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at the High School; we are still meeting about that and will have more information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Leashing of dogs**

Resident James Kos, of 12923 Kingston Way, spoke. He has two German Shepherds. He takes exception to the ordinance regarding dogs at large. He spoke about going beyond premises unless dogs are properly leashed. He demonstrated having shock collars, which is legal, and are being compared to electric fences. He wanted to know how many people in the city have their eyes on their animals all the time, when they have an electronic fence, noting that if you do not, then you are in violation of the law. There is a huge difference between an electronic fence and these instruments, he wanted to point out. Once the dogs hear a certain tone, the next thing is going to be electric shock. He wanted to consider these collars as a means of control, which he felt was as effective. He brought up that if police can control a perpetrator with a taser, why can't a human control a dog with an electric static shock collar, which is not the same as the fence. He pointed out injuries that have happened when having hard leashes on pets, one in which he knew turned out fatally.

Mr. Vozar pointed out that the electronic fences are different, because that is what his dogs have while on private property. What the ordinance says on Subsection C, pertaining to when your dog is on your property, it states that you have to keep the dog physically confined or restrained upon the premises; by voice or signal, leash tether, adequate fence or secure enclosure to prevent escape. Then it talks about electric fences are not considered to be a confinement. People can put them up, but they must be present in their front yard with their dog. When there are complaints, the police go out and enforce the law. She clarified that no one would know how his dog is. She stated other dogs may not be well behaved like his own, and not all dogs are the same. Not everyone has well trained dogs.

Her recommendation was if Council wants to consider this, to actually have the Police Department, the Animal Control, and manufacturers and experts on this issue to see if it is safe; to come to Council. She asked about the leash giving protection. There are people that have been attacked by people not having their dogs on a leash; the property owner not keeping control of their dog. If we are going to change anything, we need to have testimony before we would make any recommendation for change of an ordinance.

Mr. Dietrich asked about the Legislative Director checking with other cities regarding this. Ms. Barath stated her biggest concern, which was that the resident has a very well-trained dog. She agreed with Ms. Vozar that not everyone has a well-trained dog. That is going to be the biggest problem. Details are needed regarding certain equipment on this.

Mr. Dietrich also felt that more research would need done. He compared rules in other situations such as hunting, a very strict process where you must pass a test in order to hunt. Mr. Nickell concurred with Mr.

Dietrich about Ms. Schroeder researching other cities to check with other municipalities to see if they have done this in the past or where they stand.

As discussion ensued, stories of personal situations and pets were spoke about. No decision would be made tonight. Mr. Dietrich suggested that we take this out and put it on for discussion on the next meeting, and do some research in the meantime. He wanted to leave it on the agenda. Ms. Carbone-McDonald agreed, as well as Mr. Vos.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Vos seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald **to adjourn the May 17, 2022 meeting**. Yeas: 3  
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.**