

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2022

The Safety Committee meeting was held on June 21, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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, Marty Toukonen, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Senior Animal Control Officer George Stuart; **Other:** Joel Spatz, Michael McDonald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of May 17, 2022 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police & Safety Report

See report.

Chief Tarase provided an update on the hiring process. Currently, we have four pending applicants. The process has been slowed down due to scheduling of different things that needed accomplished. Best case scenario, we are looking at mid to late July before they can hire the first one; that will continue into August. One would have to go to the Police Academy, which will start in August.

Mr. Marnecheck raised question about the four candidates, whether any of them are lateral transfers. Chief Tarase indicated they are not. All of the lateral applications received, none of them panned out. These are all from the Civil Service exam.

Mr. Vos inquired about whether ATV (all-terrain vehicle) complaints involved any issuing of tickets. Chief Tarase clarified that the majority are warnings if we have not dealt with them before. Many complaints have been in Ward 1, in which most people will comply.

Ms. Krejci felt that most of the violations were around the noise; people can have them on their property. It is how late they can have it, or perhaps because they are only supposed to have them a certain number of hours. Chief Tarase indicated there is nothing when it comes to the length of time, as long as they are in the hours of noise rules. Many times, it is that they are trespassing, riding on the streets, or riding on property that is not large enough per the ordinance.

Mr. Dietrich asked about the size of the property that is allowed. Chief Tarse clarified that they have to be so far from the property line, but he would have to look into it. Mr. Dietrich questioned if there is a minimum of acreage. Mr. Vos did not believe so. Chief Tarase stated it has to do with the distance from their home. Mr. Dietrich spoke about a complaint years prior, whereas the officer came out and actually said the resident was following all of the rules; on nine acres. Mr. Dietrich was unsure about the ordinance and was curious.

2. Hydrant Painting and Maintenance

Chief Chegan reported on the maintenance, in which we are currently in Ward 3. We continue to put daily updates on the Facebook page and use Ready Notify; it is taking a while. We are hoping to get done by August 1st; however, this was doubtful.

For painting, we are still tentatively looking at the week of the July 11th to begin. That project will be completed by July. Mr. Wos inquired about the target area for paint. Chief Chegan clarified that he would email the street locations again for better recollection.

3. Safety Town

Chief Chegan advised we are still getting meetings together with the schools being off. His hope was hopefully to meet in the next couple of weeks.

4. Leashing of dogs

Mr. Wos stated that this remained on the agenda to see if we could find what other cities were doing. His opinion as a dog owner, is that there are a lot of irresponsible dog owners out there. He did not think it would be a good idea to use this as an alternative for a physical leash.

Ms. Krejci has had some neighbors bring it up. She pointed out that for people who would happen to be walking by, they would not know whether it is an extremely well-trained dog. That is the issue for her. If someone does not know, they could become afraid. This would make things too confusing.

Mr. George Stuart, the Animal Control Officer, conveyed that he could not see any benefit with removing that from the ordinance. It is going to increase all of the animal issues that you have with dogs. Not everyone's dogs are going to be that behaved; there is a reason we added that in 2012. It would not benefit the community in any way to remove that. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed.

As discussion ensued, Mr. Dietrich shared that he was open to see what other cities practice. It was interesting to him that the guy that was here who had two German Shepherds, had them well trained. Mr. Dietrich has two German Shepherds that are not well trained. He finds it difficult, he avoids people and other dogs. He recapped the situation brought up by the resident, where a woman passed away holding onto a physical leash; the dog yanked her so hard she had a fatal fall. There are positive and negatives to it. However, he agrees with Mr. Wos. He feels the shock collars are an addition to, and not in place of. Especially with big dogs. If the resident wants to use the shock collar, then go ahead, but you still have to adhere to the ordinance which means having them on a leash. He is not saying to change the ordinance. It could be a benefit as an additional safety precaution, having the shock collar; but not change anything. You still have to have your dog contained on a leash. Mr. Wos noted that we do not have to change our law in order to have that. Mr. Dietrich concurred.

Mayor Antoskiewicz pointed out that those are "electronic"; which means it may not always work. People do not always change their batteries and accidents do happen. Ms. Carbone-McDonald agreed. She went on to say you also have small kids that can run up to these dogs and they get excited, and the child can be bitten; that can be a huge liability. Mr. Stuart agreed that, at least someone could pull the dog back with a leash if needed for whatever reason. Mrs. Carbone-McDonald felt that residents from other cities like the leash law. Mr. Stuart made mention of retractable leashes as well.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed legislation: Fire engine change order

Chief Chegan advised that when we spec the larger apparatus', the apparatus or ladder, or even the rescue squads, we do what is called the pre-build; after we set the price. We set the price, do the build, and when we go to plant, we do the final drawings before they build the truck. While there, there were a couple of items that our vehicle committee thought were perhaps omitted from them. Two of them that we thought we had put in

there, were the additional lights. However, the tank fill and the tank discharged the hose outlets would be very beneficial. That is what the change order for this is.

Mr. Wos moved to recommend Ordinance 22-98 to Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

2. Proposed legislation: Fire pickup truck change order

Chief Chegan explained that this change order included accessory power upgrades for the iPads and cell phones; what we charge up front. Therefore, we needed some extra power to the front. We need a little more than most vehicles unfortunately. Ms. Krejci commented that the change is only \$331.00.

Mr. Wos moved to recommend Ordinance 22-99 to Council for approval. Seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

3. Proposed legislation: Senior Transportation Connection – fuel increase

Mr. Wos moved to recommend Ordinance 22-104 to Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

4. Ready Notify

Ms. Carbone-McDonald spoke about a resident that had signed up for it, but was not receiving alerts. Ms. Carbone-McDonald mentioned that she receives messages from Broadview Heights and not anything from North Royalton. Chief Chegan asked if Broadview Heights sent that out, or whether it was Ready Notify. He spoke with Broadview Heights and they did not send a message out during the night of the storm. She had a resident reach out to her and wanted to know if we can continue to add a little bit more into Ready Notify; for things such as water main breaks. There are a lot of elderly residents that are not getting them. They are not on social media. Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked who decides what goes out on Ready Notify.

Chief Chegan explained that it starts with the Mayor, and other than that, it comes to the Chiefs. We are all Administrators; we can put it out. We have been very selective on what Ready Notify is used for, because it has been known in other cities to give people too many messages. Actually, more of their residents then stopped using it. Similarly, is the Amber Alert. Everybody started getting those and now they shut it off because of how frequent they receive them. That is the problem we start running into. Chief Chegan spoke about putting too many things out there; that may not be as large. We are usually at water main breaks and talk to residents. The whole City really does not need to know there is a water main break on a street, although some of them are significant.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald felt that if there is something going on, it creates less traffic if you are put an alert out. Chief Chegan disagreed, not much at all. We have done it in the past for major incidents. For example, if Route 82 was going to be shut down for hours during rush hour, when it was under construction, we did a Ready Notify that it would be closed. We still had traffic and it really did not detour anyone. Ms. Carbone-McDonald brought up the elderly residents, as to how we could make it more convenient for them to have the knowledge of what is going on in the City. A lot of them do not go on social media; this was her concern.

Chief Chegan brought up a recent happening with the storms. That is automatically hooked up to the National Weather Service. There was a storm in the area, in which Northeast Ohio did not receive a warning or a watch. He had tried to explain that to a few residents that called, if it is going to be in the area, that will come out. We do recommend weather radios for everyone. It is a good back up in case your power goes out; having radios with batteries is beneficial. As far as emergencies and things, that will give you all the information that you really need. We discussed in the past about road closures, however, how much do you really want to inundate everyone with messages that are not emergencies; with all of the emails. Furthermore, if there is a road closure, there are detour signs. We understand we cannot be putting everything out and we can't pick and

choose. We have been very consistent with the emergencies. Sometimes, we do put things on FB between the three accounts, which have 10,000 residents; we try to be proactive. For consistencies sake, that is what the National Weather Service does. That is the information that gets put out. The goal is to do for the majority. The tools that we have available on Ready Notify, we do what we can. Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked about the number of elderly residents that are signed up. Chief Chegan can look into it; it is a very small percentage of people.

Chief Tarase commented that as far as the traffic goes, we do notify Metro Traffic control and that goes out on social media, radio, and television, when we know that the streets are going to be closed for a significant amount of time. Many traffic closures are for a short time; some are 30 minutes. He pointed out that by the time you send a second alert, it has already been cleared. We do use Metro traffic, which handles getting most of the information out. Ms. Carbone-McDonald thanked Chief Tarase for reaching out to her residents on Tradewinds and letting them know what was happening.

Mr. Nickell wished to keep it at the emergencies like it currently is. He would not want to have too much going out all the time. Ms. Barath found that many of her residents have e-mails even though they are seniors. Chief Chegan stated that as far as the emergencies, we have been pretty consistent. It is a difficult decision deciding what to put on there and what not to. He felt they have done a good job putting stuff out for Police and Fire. We do use Ready Notify for some non-emergency things. He does empathize with the older population. However, he does not want to put too many things on there to where people start shutting them off.

Mayor Antoskiewicz felt that we reach a much bigger audience when we post on either FB or our Website. He reiterated we have a very small number that are on Ready Notify. In many cases, the other avenues that we have work much better. We do a good job notifying those that are affected by something, such as a water main break. He pointed out that everybody can sign up for Ready Notify if they want, it is a click of a button on the website.

Mr. Wos asked if there is a cost associated with sending out messages. Chief Chegan clarified that is preservice that the County initiated. Not all the cities have signed up, most in the County do. We used to pay before they took that service over. We have switched a few times, in which the last two were County initiatives; it is the County's expense.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the June 21, 2022 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.