

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 18, 2022**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on October 18, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Dawn Carbone-McDonald; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Linda Barath, Joanne Krejci, John Nickell; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Thomas Kelly; **Other:** Julie Rielinger, James Kulikowski, Don Bryant, Nozomi Ikuta, Joel Spatz.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dietrich moved to excuse Mr. Wos from the October 18, 2022 Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Approval of September 20, 2022 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Police & Safety Report**

See report.

Chief Tarase provided an update on deer hunting, which as of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 25 deer have been harvested; 13 doe and 12 bucks.

**2. Hydrant Painting and Maintenance**

Chief Chegan reported that we will be reviewing the painting aspect after next year again; that was completed. This can be brought up again next spring when we are working on the next batch; it is put into the budget for next year for approval. Once that is complete, we have the next batch of main roads.

Pertaining to maintenance, folks are going to be getting out in the next couple of weeks. During any down time, we will go out and pump, for those hydrants, if any, that appear to have not been drained properly; to ensure we have dry barrels for the winter, and that we do not have frozen hydrants. However, that does not eliminate the possibility of frozen ones, but it is the most we can do for prevention. He encouraged residents that if anyone observes anything, such as any leaking, they should call the Fire Department's non-emergency number. We will address it and work very closely with Cleveland Water to get all hydrants repaired as quickly as possible. If a hydrant is repaired, they also contract the landscaping service, which could take anywhere from 30-90 days. If there is a hydrant replaced in the winter, they would come back in the spring to do the landscaping.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA UNTIL SPRING

**3. Safety Town**

Chief Chegan advised that we are still waiting to have a meeting with our Superintendent and all will be updated when that time comes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Proposed legislation: Cuyahoga County 2022-2027 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan**

Chief Chegan explained that this is a replica of the one that was passed five years ago. The Cuyahoga County Hazardous Mitigation Plan is an effort to mitigate hazards and return to normal operating status after large incidents; such as disasters or flooding, that is going to impact people and infrastructure. If executed, it is a Federal mandated program, in which all of the counties' EMA's (Emergency Management Agency) approve this legislation. Basically, it puts us in the same level playing field throughout the county. Also, it assists us in moving forward when we have events that significantly impact an area. It is more of a planning process and is done every five years. There are a lot of documents required; it is a rather complicated process. He offered to share that document with anyone that is willing to give up an hour or two of their time. Ultimately, it is a process in which the hazards are identified in the community, the likely impacts are determined, and mitigation goals are set; appropriate strategies determine, prioritize, and are implemented. As the Emergency Coordinator for the City, Chief Chegan wanted to provide examples of how important these plans are, which are the following:

In 2003 and 2004, our City experienced some flooding. In 2013, we had Hurricane Sandy come up from the Gulf. In 2014, we had another significant weather event. Through this, when we identify issues in our City and in the County, it quickly connects the Local, County, State, and Federal resources. With that, we were able to start the mitigation process. If we prepare and plan out the mitigation process like we do every five years, it helps make it less challenging. The one in 2014, himself and the City Engineer put together packages for roughly between 12-15 projects that were a direct result of the weather event. We obtained approximately \$500,000 in funding. This plan helps us plan and move forward. Much of what we do here also affects whether we are provided grant funding through either State Homeland, or UASI (Urban Area Safety Initiative grant program); which Cleveland is sometimes awarded that grant. We act on this at the County level to make sure that all of the jurisdictions in the County are on the same page; all of which will be doing the same as what we are asking here.

Ms. Barath asked whether this was a county wide plan or a plan for North Royalton; or both. Chief Chegan explained it is actually a plan that assists the local communities like ourselves. It really connects us with the County, in which they have put some good people in place. Also, if the state determines it to be a disaster, it opens up Federal funding. He went on to say that it really reaches down from the local level all the way to the top. We have had a lot of smaller events that have impacted our residents, which usually does not allow for any funding for those individuals unfortunately; it has to be a significant amount of damage. However, there is public assistance that could be done.

As far as proper planning, Chief Chegan was part of the funding that came through, even with the super storm Sandy. He recalled that we got roughly \$70,000 in recoup damages on that as well. He stated besides himself, it is really all of the departments, such as the Police and the Service Department. We put all of this together because he needed the documentation from each department. They are not easy; they are difficult to maintain. Many times, we have been successful.

Mr. Dietrich moved to recommend Ordinance No. 22-166 to Council for approval. Seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired about the ordinance involving 55 pieces of gold jewelry valued at \$8500.00. She wanted to know what would be done with the money. Chief Tarase indicated that this money goes back to our Seizure Fund to be used for the Department. Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked if it would be possible to use the money for tasers. Chief Tarase stated that money could be used for equipment that is outside of the budget.

### **Residents**

The following section is Verbatim:

*Mr. Don Bryant of 4053 Akins Road, North Royalton –*

Mental health is an important (unclear) of our health and body. And a protective right in a valuable community, (unclear) if mental health fails, the body, they soon follow. When rights to mental health are a bridge, no person can feel secure and that they will be protected in a crisis. Such protection should be upheld by elected officials, emergency response and Police. Communities afford emergency service to their residents in exchange for taxation and to uphold the humanity of our community. Health care is a human right. To abridge that right is violation of the law and the agreement between residents and their community leaders. On October 28, 2016, that right and that agreement were violated and broken when Jun Wang was killed by North Royalton Police under orders to serve a medical health probate order. Two officers broke protocol and vacated orders (unclear), which led them to Mr. Wang's death by gun shot at close range by officer Kip McDonald and the second officer Jason Kimmel had cancelled his commander's ambulance call before the officers even entered the home of Jun Wang and his caregiver and sister. Jun's murder was incorrectly determined to be in line of duty. The officers responsible for his murder continue to be employed at NR PD. This is a (unclear) of justice and a security risk for our entire community. These officers must be removed from duty, anything less is a violation of our community agreements. Anything less gives indication to other officers that they can also (unclear) with such violations. There are many group homes in North Royalton Ohio and these establishments are responsible for the mental health of the residents that suffer varying degrees of mental illness. The residents of these group homes deserve respect and security at their residence and with any crisis intervention agents that they encounter. People suffering mental illness are especially vulnerable and may possibly be capable of uncontrolled vocal or physical actions. Special training is required to stabilize and de-escalate such actions. The NR PD falls short on that crisis intervention training for officers to administer de-escalation measures. At the time of the Police murder of Mr. Wang at (unclear) was (unclear) as it is to this day. Our community is at risk until the City of North Royalton removes officers McDonald and Kimmel from Police duty. Our community is at risk until (unclear) is (unclear) acclimated for all police officers. One must speak out for the voiceless, and the unheard, (unclear). Our own family members or people in our circles may suffer mental illness. It is up to us to maintain human rights and security and (unclear). Thank you.

*Mr. Kelly –*

This matter that the gentleman makes reference to is currently the subject of pending litigation in the Common Pleas Court. It is therefore, my advice and my suggestion, that it would be inappropriate for any of us to comment until that litigation is resolved. Thank you.

*Mr. Dietrich –*

Thank you, Mr. Law Director, and thank you audience for speaking out. And is there anything else under new business or would anyone else like to speak from the audience.

*Julia Rielinger of 9611 Sunrise Boulevard –*

Before I start, I have a question. (completely unclear)

I want to ask if that pipe on 82 operated because the only way to stop the flood is we need to (unclear) operate the pipe. (unclear) the one area. And now there are so many homes and so many businesses that pipe (unclear) so many years ago on Route 82 is (unclear) of the homes there. Since the Fire Chief (unclear) about the flood, (unclear) is it operated.

*Mr. Jordan –*

If you're asking about the stormwater line that serves Route 82. When Route 82 was upgraded between West 130<sup>th</sup> and York Road, and actually there's been a series of tests recently, they were upgraded as part of that project; for that section of Route 82.

*Julia Rielinger –*

Okay, I'm talk about the section from State Road to Broadview, Route 82, that areas there, with many businesses, Giant Eagle, is that area pipe upgraded. On the homes there (unclear) first floor all get flooded.

*Mr. Jordan –*

That section was not recently replaced and is not scheduled to be replaced, the stormwater line that is in Route 82. We are aware of that area of town that is prone to flooding. Some of that is due to the way that property was built. That's all I have to offer at this point though.

*Julia Rielinger –*

Because like in North Royalton, like all the condos value went up to \$150,000 and that will (unclear) because the flood. The homeowner has hard time to sale the property. Every year that condo can only rent a couple of months because from May to October, it some times flood twice. Last year the Mayor came there. So almost half year, that place cannot get rented. So (unclear) the pipe on Route 82 between State Road and Broadview needs to be operated to bigger pipe.

*Mr. Dietrich –*

I can speak to this because it is in my ward. There's more to it than just the main. There's some board responsibility that sits on the ownerships. I've sat on those Boards where I was the Vice President of a Board of Condo Association in North Royalton before I moved. So, I understand these things and there's some responsibility to be laid there as well with the Condo Association or the HOA they have formed over there. There's a lot to it, we have met with them. It is a combination of things. It's not just the man on 82. There is some responsibility there with the homeowners and HOA.

*Julia Rielinger –*

I'm glad you mentioned that because I did talk to the association and the management company a lot of times. Because they, every year, besides the association fee, we pay at least \$3,000 estimate, that property since 2012, I had that, we pay assessment fee every year. so, they said that they paid a lot of engineers to research. They showed me the research results. From me reviewing their engineer results, because I'm a developer, I build houses with my other partners (unclear), so that is why I come to suggest that we need to look into the pipe on Route 82 there to see if you can upgrade to a bigger pipe. If there is Federal funding, I can help you to (unclear) perhaps "pay" to upgrade the pipe there.

*Mr. Dietrich –*

My suggestion is outside of this Council, if you want to contact our Economic Developer Tom Jordan, is that okay Tom to suggest that, so you can suggest those things or maybe offer those or that information to them, at that time. So again, when you leave, you can get the information. It is just the Building Department, you can ask for Tom Jordan, he's the highest up when it comes to those things.

*Julia Rielinger –*

Okay, thank you Jeremy.

Next, I need to talk briefly about a very urgent matter. Today is the first time in my life time to stand here in front of you all to address a very urgent matter. I have been a very loyal, a very supportive to City of North Royalton. My children grew up here. One of my children was one of the two students in the whole high school to join the U.S. Navy. I have volunteered for twenty or more years for the City of North Royalton as PTA mom and High School Band (unclear) Chairwoman. Today is my birthday and my birthday wish is no more dying, no more dishonesty, no more dying. You all know about my little brother's death; he was only sixteen (not clear). Unclear 16:34 – 16:22. It is very urgent to make a change no matter what the litigation or not. It is (unclear) change to make the City save more money. Because I have briefly talked about my situation here. My situation was instead for my brother to get medical help, unclear 16:01-16:59, and he was unfortunately, unexpectedly executed in front of me, after he was in custody. I went through 15:48-15:43 unclear, not home to go, I could not stay in Ohio. Because everywhere I go is a black flash of my brother, because they hound me with all of the Real Estate (unclear) while wasn't able to work. (unclear) So I have to leave the Country. And in 2014 (unclear), 15:19-15:09 (unclear), to build an International Village to help revive the City. And then my (unclear) 15:01 -14:55 and my next step was to talk to the Mayor to do the same thing in the City of North Royalton. And the funding that I was trying to bring 14:45-14:39 (unclear) was going to create 6000 jobs. Because of what happened to my brother, I could not stay here. I could not work on the project. So, because of the tragedy, not only I lost my little brother, and my older brother died after,

and then all the jobs I could have created for Ohio because I could not be here working on the project. Enough said. I feel it is very important right now to (unclear) the Police Force with our Social Worker, Psychologist, or Therapist. And there is Federal funding that I can help obtain in order to buy the Taser to equip every Police Officer and then to hire on call social worker, because it takes time for Legislation change. I would like to propose the Legislation change for all the 911 calls, all the (unclear) orders sent to the Fire Department, which in most cities is called EMS. Because when people suffer mentally, their behavior, that is their illness symptoms, they are not a criminal. But most time they are mistaken and they are treated as criminal. So, I was sent here by my parents over thirty years ago, I did not have any relatives or friends here. Because I told my parents I want to find God. Now I feel obligated to tell everyone what I'm here as a guest, we should stop the violence toward each other. And all the gun violence in the society here. As a Police Officer we can take the initiative to stop. I understand the Police job is very difficult, I support the Police. But we cannot abuse immunity if somebody in every career, there is somebody makes a mistake. 12:28 -12:52 unclear. To man up and acknowledge the mistake and correct the mistake. Covering up is not doing any good for us. So, I feel we should make a habit here before we part from this world (unclear) to remember my brother and (unclear) for my little brother and the foundation and all of us would like to see a list 11:52 (unclear) Jun Wang Foundation.com. Also, I want to urge the Department and the Mayor to consider removal of (unclear) McDonnell and Kimmel because they had over 20 disciplinary actions against before the tragedy. If the City of North Royalton is like the City of Akron, City of Independence, they fired the Police Officer when they have first disciplinary action. So, if our City do the same, my little brother would still be alive here today. So, we have so many (unclear) homes in the City of North Royalton here. And so, I urge that we should be more strict with the hiring because you can place some good Police Officer more money (unclear) more officer who could not do the job and could cost the City lots of money because if this is not happening. When I come to Council meeting (unclear) City of North Royalton. Because of this, you can't imagine how much money this City already lost, I could bring to the City. And thank you very much.

*Mr. Dietrich –*

I want to thank you for coming up and speaking to this committee and Council. As I would for anybody, I am sorry for your loss. But as the recommendation from the Law Department, we are not going to speak on this. Is there anybody else from the audience that would like to speak.

*Nozomi Ikuta of 3278 West Boulevard, not in the City of North Royalton –*

So, first of all, I wanted to thank you for this opportunity to share these concerns. I am a minister at the Denison United Church of Christ in Cleveland Ohio. Honestly, I see people with mental health issues every day. I grew up in the Berea City Schools, I'm sure there were people who had mental health issues but I was not aware of them, it was not like something visible to me. The first people I knew who had a mental health issue even in their family was a college friend who admitted to me that her father had some kind of history of bipolar of something like that, and she was worried because it is hereditary. But it was so rare. I ended up volunteering at a mental hospital once a week, we had a party, made a cake and stuff. Which was my first exposure to it, so, I don't know what your lives are like. I imagine as adults, you probably have a few people that you know, but its often a very hidden type of situation, unlike in the neighborhood I now serve. I wanted to talk not only as a minister, but also as a tax payer, not a North Royalton, but a tax payer, homeowner and a business owner with my husband; Upcycles Bikes in Cleveland. A lot of people assume that just because I'm a minister, my sympathies would like solely with the most disadvantaged, martialized and dispossessed, part of the community, which you know a lot of my sympathies lie that way. But I also understand, I understand the need to protect our homes, our properties, our businesses, to have that sense of sanctity and security in these places in which we invest our time, our money, our energy, our love, and our resources. It was precisely that security and sanctity that Julia and her brother erroneously assumed would be honored and protected by officers Kimmel and McDonald. And so, I would just like to ask you to think about how you would feel as a home owner, someone who has invested in your properties, it is a place that you expect to be safe, and instead to have the very officers that you expect to protect, serve, and help you, are the ones who violate the sanctity of your home, chase around somebody who has a known mental health issue who was eating cheese in his home; in his home. So even if you don't have people in your networks who have mental health issues, I would just like you to think about what it means to be the king or queen of your castle, and to have that violated. I think the residents and tax payers, and homeowners of the City of North Royalton deserve better. And so, I'm

just asking you to not just see this as a mental health issue, which it is, but what kind of town do you want to live in. It's a nice town. You deserve the quality of life that you expected to have and I don't believe that keeping these officers with such egregious disciplinary records is in the interest of your town. Thank you.

*Mr. Dietrich* –  
Thank you.

*Julie Rielinger* –

I have one more matter, it's called the bike path on Bennett Road, I have a property on Bennett Road. My concern is because my mail box gets knocked over so many times, there is no street light there. So, if you want to build a bike path there, I really strongly suggest the street light to be installed there because for ten years, I had the property there and I could not put a mailbox there. Even the Police have record about the people run over my mailbox. So, if you put a bike path there, there's no street light, it is very likely that somebody will get hurt. I just don't want to see anybody get hurt. In the intersection at the Bennett and parkway, there's accidents there all the time because there's only one way that has a stop sign and the other way has no stop sign. There are accidents there all the time. So, I want to express my concern is, I want to know if there is a plan to install a street light there and also, that is such a rural area, we need to reserve that the Metroparks, (unclear) if any bike path installed, that becomes a main street and then that atmosphere will be changed. So, I feel like, there is a bike path on Akins, on Bennett, I see a lot of people put bikes on their cars and drive down there and ride their bike. So, my concern is for the safety, I just don't want anybody hurt. So, I want to know if there is any plan for a street light to be installed there. Also, I want to know how are we going to reserve the property value, because I bought that house, that is my first investment. For three years, the house was listed, nobody came by and put any offer. I was the first one. So, very ugly bare house, that's when (unclear) everybody running, came by shake my hand that I made it so beautiful. That's my passion. I want to increase the property value of North Royalton, so that's the concern that I want to share with you.

*Ms. Carbone-McDonald* –

That's my ward. So, I understand and the increase in traffic there does not help much either. But Mayor, do you want to answer this.

*Mayor Antoskiewicz* –

I know Tom has been working with our engineers. The plan is been engineered. It is being done per engineering specs, ODOT specs, everything else. We are following all the regulations and everything that we need to follow to put that path in safely, as we have everywhere else in the City of North Royalton. We will continue to do that. We will continue to follow the rules and regulations that are set down and set forth.

*Julie Rielinger* –

Is any street light in the plan to be installed there. There is not street light on Bennett there and the other street, I don't know the name between Bennett and York Road, there's no street light there. My mail box knocks down so many times.

*Mayor Antoskiewicz* –

There not a plan at this time to have a street light put there.

*Julie Rielinger* –

When you install the bike path, do you have a plan to install a street light, because without street light, it is not safe.

*Mr. Dietrich* –

Ma'am, I would suggest, this is Safety Committee and that is a Safety concern so, it is relevant; however, I would suggest that you bring this and speak to the same matter in a Street Committee, which those are posted online on the North Royalton website. You can definitely speak on that. You can make it a topic.

*Ms. Krejci* –

November 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Mr. Dietrich* –  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, there we go.

*Ms. Carbone-McDonald* –  
And also, you can reach out to me. I would love to sit down and talk with you.

*Julie Rielinger* –  
Alright, thank you very much.

*Mr. Dietrich* –  
Thank you very much. Anyone else from the audience. Anyone else from Council like to speak on anything.  
Okay.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Dietrich seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald to **adjourn the October 18, 2022 Safety Committee meeting**. Yeas: 2 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.**

# North Royalton Police Department

Incident	September
MVA FATAL	0
MVA DEER	2
MVA HIT SKIP	4
MVA INJURY	0
MVA NON INJURY	28
MVA PRIVATE PROPERTY	9
PHYSICAL ARRESTS	63
SPEEDING CITATIONS	52
THEFTS (Includes Attempts)	19
York Rd/Valley Pkwy MVAs	
Full Year 2019	1 Non Injury 4 Injury 0 Deer
Full Year 2020	0 Non Injury 0 Injury 0 Deer
Full Year 2021	2 Non Injury 0 Injury 1 Deer
01/01/2022-09/30/2022	4 Non Injury 0 Injury 0 Deer