

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**APRIL 18, 2023**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on April 18, 2023 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Heidi Webber; **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, Engineer Justin Haselton, Economic Development Director Tom Jordan, Assistant Law Director Donna Vozar; **Other:** Cathy Miller, Butch Stuart.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of March 21, 2023 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Ms. Webber. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Police & Safety Report**

See report.

Ms. Barath inquired about distracted driving when people are discovered using their phones, whether officers are able to pull them over. Chief Tarase indicated that they were able to do that prior to the law changing; under the City ordinance.

Mr. Vos questioned if any of the school bus violations had been repeat offenders. Chief Tarase did not believe any of those were repeat offenders. Mr. Vos also inquired about the status of Flock Safety and installation. Chief Tarase explained that they submitted their items to the City for their permits, which was the last update.

Mr. Dietrich wanted to know how school bus violators are caught. Chief Tarase clarified there are cameras on the buses and typically, the bus drivers will file a complaint. They send the video over for the officers to review and see if there is an act of violation. Then the driver is contacted and a citation is issued. Mr. Vos asked if there are cameras for both directions on the buses; front and back. Chief Tarase explained that there are cameras in both areas that record.

Mr. Marnecheck asked whether we raised the penalty for those offenders. Mr. Dietrich added that we just talked about that recently in Council; yes. Mr. Vos did not believe anyone had been sent to jail yet, however he would imagine if someone is a repeat offender, that would be entertained. Mr. Dietrich agreed; we discussed this not long ago.

**2. Safety Town**

Chief Chegan advised that we are still working on the foundation and implementing the project in phases. We are trying to put it into phases, as to what we are going to do financially; as mentioned last month. We are still working with the PTA, the Career Center, etc., with those meetings as well. He still has some follow ups to make. Mr. Nickell asked for a reminder of the location. Chief Chegan clarified that it would be at the middle school.

**3. Fire Report**

Chief Chegan reported that our run volume has picked up. It will steadily grow however, we may have a couple of months where that may go down occasionally. He referred to the chart, showing the slow gradual progression. We are up from last year at this time. There were no significant incidents from the month.

There were three new members that were sworn in, in which they completed the initial training program and are now on shift. We are still planning for the fourth hire, as we have a Lieutenant retiring this week; with promotion of that lieutenant this Friday. Mayor Antoskiewicz announced that he would be swearing in another Fire Fighter on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Chief Chegan brought up a situation regarding Ready Notify. Last month, the County sent out a Ready Notify message during the statewide tornado drill. He stated that it took twenty minutes to receive that alert. The County Ready Notify system has over 55,000 people throughout Cuyahoga County. That system was not designed to notify the whole county of an immediate emergency. They cannot get those messages out immediately to 55,000 people; most systems cannot. Roughly thirty minutes after the drill started, some folks were still getting those messages. We had the Code Red system before we had Swift Reach, in which those companies had systems throughout Cuyahoga County with 53 entities; whereas, perhaps 25 of those had Swift Reach and the other half had Code Red. The County decided to offer the free one, which is by a different company and not Code Red; what we have now. It was fairly inexpensive in comparison to what we previously used in Code Red and Swift Reach; that smaller company got bought out. The County is back to offering the Code Red, which is our Ready Notify.

Mr. Nickell asked about the communication methods for the alerts. Chief Chegan explained that you receive a phone call, an email, and text as well; whatever you put into the system. There is also an app for it. He felt that Ready Notify is still a good system. If we were to have an issue in the City, we could have a message sent out to different wards; depending on how busy the dispatchers are at that time. He mentioned we have approximately 2000 people signed up for Ready Notify; which is not a lot. The alternatives for notifications for weather are improving year after year. He noted that 82% of global digital audiences access their weather conditions exclusively on their mobile devices, and most people are not watching the news. When it comes to the weather, there are a lot of other options including the apps, Weather Channel, and NOAA, which will give you alerts as well. Chief Chegan brought up that you may not have good cell coverage at times in the area. The alternative to apps is also the weather radios that are always on with a battery backup, and those can give you direct weather feeds also.

Mr. Dietrich inquired about who pays for this program, whether it is through the County. Chief Chegan agreed. Mr. Dietrich raised question if there are any dollars that come out of our budget to go to the County. Chief Chegan clarified, no. The last time we paid for service like that, it was roughly \$15,000-18,000, or perhaps closer to \$20,000. Mr. Dietrich inquired if the County just took it over then. Chief Chegan explained that the County offered the free service and we opted in; saving us \$20,000. He noted that it is a good system for notifying. We use it for the hydrant notifications at the beginning of each ward, as well as some road closures. He noted that we are not going to use it every single day.

Mr. Dietrich suggested having sign ups online. Chief Chegan indicated that we also share this multiple times throughout the year at events, such as Home Days. It is available, although not many people take the information we set out. Mr. Marnecheck asked about those that are signed up, the 2000, whether it is 2000 people, or 2000 emails. Chief Chegan clarified 2000 is the number of people total. Mr. Marnecheck wanted to clarify that he would count as one person even if he may receive both a text and an e-mail. Chief Chegan agreed; yes. Mr. Marnecheck, asked why the County did not notify people before the drill test if it was planned. He noted that they could have started it before the drill. Chief Chegan understood, however, when it is something massive, people are going to get it somewhat later.

Chief Chegan reported on our Hydrant Maintenance Program, which was planned for this week, however due to the weather, it has not started. Our Facebook page will have daily announcements as to where we are going to be, and we will use Ready Notify as we begin each ward; what streets. The Hydrant Painting Program will also start. That was budgeted again for the third year in a row; we are still on the main streets. The dates for that are still pending. We teamed up with several other cities in Northeast Ohio for this company to do them, in which they should get to us by July. We are at our third year for it being done correctly; the first-year hydrants still look really good. We estimate that the main roads are going to go approximately 5 to 7 years with the good coat. Once we get into residential areas, those are going to last 10-15 years. Next year we will

finish some of the main roads, which we have 300 remaining. We are going to finish some of the mains and then get into residential. Chief Chegan is happy with the program. He shared that the hydrants look great and hold up great. Mr. Marnecheck asked if we plan to have 250 done this year. Chief Chegan concurred, stating that is what we budgeted for the year, for this program.

He mentioned saving the date for the Safety Fair, which will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 20<sup>th</sup>; the flyers will be sent out to everyone. Eleven of our members are going to participate in the American Lung Association Stair Climb on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>; we have done this for the twelve years. It was inspired by one of our members that had a close family member with lung disease. We are always finishing in the top two. We have a good department with physical fitness as a priority.

Ms. Krejci asked if there is a place where people can contribute toward this. Chief Chegan stating that starting Thursday, he is going to put the link on our Facebook. Everyone will be able to see our team of eleven. Each member has to donate personally; a set amount. We are not only competing against the other fire departments on the stairs, we are competing against the fundraising also. He reiterated that will be posted on our website with the link.

#### **4. K9 Report Dog**

Ms. Vozar reported that a draft was sent. A MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is under consideration at the school, also for sharing the cost of the dog since we will have the therapy dog there; we are waiting to hear from them. Hopefully we will have something for the next meeting to amend the current MOU for the SCO (School Resource Officer) and to add the therapy dog. Mr. Nickell asked about the cost share. Ms. Vozar indicated that it would be the typical 50%.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Ohio Distracted Driving Law**

Mr. Wos wanted more clarification on this topic. Chief Tarase explained that according to this new State law, you can hold a phone to your ear, however you cannot hold it in front of you. Under the City code, you cannot manipulate your phone at all. Mr. Wos asked if it is in our rule that folks may utilize it all verbally. Ms. Vozar concurred, under the City code. Chief Tarase also agreed; using your voice commands. Mr. Wos wondered if we should make things clearer or leave it as is. Ms. Vozar indicated that it can be looked at once more to see if anything needs to be reviewed.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Wos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the April 18, 2023 Safety Committee meeting.**  
Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**

# North Royalton Police Department

Incident	# of for March 2023
MVA FATAL	0
MVA DEER	3
MVA HIT SKIP	6
MVA INJURY	0
MVA NON INJURY	19
MVA PRIVATE PROPERTY	7
PHYSICAL ARRESTS	23
SPEEDING CITATIONS	38
THEFTS (Includes Attempts)	18
Stopping for School Bus	4
Hand held devices	3