

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
June 8, 2020
Meeting held remotely

Present: Councilmembers Bullock, Litten & Neff

Also Present: Councilmember Kepple, Rader, & Shachner, Mayor George, Police Chief Malley, Fire Chief Dunphy, Human Resources Director Dillinger, Police Captain Stone, Captain Wilkins, members of the public including Mary Ann Crampton of Moms Demanding Action, Clerk Bach taking minutes

Call to Order: 6:01 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the December 9, 2019 Public Safety Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 minutes of the Public Safety Committee.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, Neff

Nays: none

Motion passed. Minutes approved.

ORDINANCE 10-2020 - AN ORDINANCE to take effect June 1, 2020 provided it received the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, amending Section 135.05(c), Traffic Guards, Rate of Pay; Exceptions, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood to allow to suspend salaries to Traffic Guards during an emergency where students are no longer attending classes in schools. *(Referred to Public Safety 5/18/20)*

Mayor George explained that the existing ordinance required the City to pay crossing guards while schools were closed due to COVID-19. The intent of Ordinance 10-2020 is to allow the City to cease payment to crossing guards should a similar emergency arise in the future which would require schools to be shuttered for an extended period.

In response to questions from the committee, Mayor George clarified that the crossing guards will continue to be paid as usual for spring and winter breaks. They are part-time employees not covered by a union.

The administration and the committee discussed the perennial difficulty of finding and retaining reliable crossing guards. When guards call out, the role is filled by a public works employee, a parking employee, or as a last resort, a full-time officer.

Councilmember Bullock questioned if the City should continue to pay the guards during an extended emergency in order to retain them.

Chief Malley responded that the ordinance allows guards to be paid for up to five consecutive calamity days per incident but that the City must also be sure to spend tax dollars wisely.

Councilmember Litten remarked that he anticipated challenging staffing decisions ahead, but that he considered this one straightforward.

In response to questions from the committee, the administration clarified that the City only provides guards to the public schools and two parochial schools.

Councilmember Bullock questioned if using the words “calamity days” was too specific for an incident such as COVID and requested that Law reconsider this.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Ordinance 10-2020 to Council for adoption. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, Neff

Nays: none

Motion passed. Ordinance 10-2020 recommended for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2020-32 – A RESOLUTION to join together with concerned citizens, advocates, and survivors of gun violence to declare June 5, 2020 as Gun Violence Awareness Day in Lakewood, Ohio. MAC - great to mention suicide help and promotion of BeSMart. Discussion of stats on gun violence.

Councilmember Neff remarked on Gun Violence Awareness Day and the importance of spreading the message of gun safety. She advocated for a collaboration between the schools and police, to get these messages to kids.

Gun safety advocate Mary Ann Crampton remarked that the Be Smart framework emphasizes the importance of educating adults about responsible gun storage since adults are ultimately responsible for the safety of kids.

The Committee, the administration, and Ms. Crampton brainstormed the following ideas for sharing the message of gun safety in the community:

- Discuss these messages with the school board and strive for a collaborative approach.
- Share these messages with new residents
- Share these messages with Early Child Care Centers and incorporate into Safety Town curriculum.
- Put a link on the City website.
- Incorporate into the H2O Home Alone program.

- Provide this information at Pre-K/Kindergarten registration and at registration for rec department sports.
- Partner with the PTA.
- Reach out to pediatricians.
- Incorporate into children's library programming.
- Include a flyer with free and reduced-price lunch

The Committee agreed to meet again to continue discussion on this topic.

Best practices for police use of force.

Chief Malley explained that the department's use of force policy was amended in 2017. All of the police policies are developed by a subscription service called Lexipol. Lexipol develops police policies based on best practices and court decisions. Lexipol also provides daily training bulletins to officers.

Lakewood's use of force policy was also certified by a diverse group of stakeholders called the Ohio Collaborative. The policy was scheduled to be re-certified through an audit process in March. That was cancelled due to COVID and will be rescheduled in late summer/early fall.

Chief Malley emphasized that the policy is a living document that can change based on court decisions.

Committee members complimented the Lakewood Police for its recent focus on training and building its crisis intervention team. The Crisis Intervention Team by nature deemphasizes use of force and prioritizes other strategies for gaining compliance.

Without objection the Public Safety Committee adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.