

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 5, 2020
Meeting held virtually

Present: Councilmember Neff, Councilmember Litten, Councilmember Bullock

Also Present: Mayor George, Fire Chief Dunphy, Planning Director Leininger, Acting Police Chief Stone, Clerk Bach taking minutes, Deputy Clerk Lascu

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Public Safety Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Public Safety Committee. A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

Yeas: Neff, Litten, Bullock

Nays: none

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

Update from Planning Department regarding the parking study at Edwards Ave. and the Lakewood Truck Park.

Director Leininger reported that staff have completed a parking study for the area surrounding the new Lakewood Truck Park & Edwards Ave. The study involved performing parking counts at twelve different times between September 18th – 26th. A previous parking study had been performed in 2018 to understand the baseline parking conditions in the neighborhood. City Planner David Baas is currently analyzing the data and comparing both studies. That analysis will be available within a few weeks.

In response to questions by Chairwoman Neff, Director Leininger stated that the findings will help to guide potential solutions such as signage, identifying new parking, or other possibilities. Director Leininger acknowledged that there is a lot of demand in the area and that residents are experiencing issues. He stated that the department is working quickly to analyze the data.

Chair Neff communicated new complaints regarding the Truck Park that neighbors are reporting delivery trucks on Lauderdale. The owner is supposed to be speaking with the delivery drivers.

Michael Gill of 1372 Edwards Ave. was present for public comment. He explained that he lives two doors north of the Truck Park in a double with a tenant on one side. He stated that his tenant lives alone and experiences tremendous issues finding parking which requires landlord and tenant to sometimes share the driveway. He detailed the many inconveniences this has caused his family and the tenant and asked for solutions.

Councilmember Neff expressed empathy and hope that the results of the study will dictate solutions for residents in the neighborhood.

Update from Lakewood Police Department regarding the changes to the police portal for citizen complaints.

Chair Neff wanted to highlight that the LPD recently improved its process for citizen complaints against an officer. This was implemented at the suggestion of a resident. Complaints against an officer can now be done anonymously and online. Chair Neff noted that she visited the online portal and tested it out. She thanked LPD for taking this step to promote transparency and make citizens feel more comfortable.

Update from Lakewood Police Department regarding mask/social distancing violations and citizen complaints.

Chair Neff asked for a summary of complaints related to masks and social distancing. Acting Chief Stone reported only a small number of such cases when speaking with the patrol officers. Chair Neff asked if the Board of Health reports the results of any inspections to LPD and Acting Chief Stone replied that they have not.

Mayor George stated that Lakewood has had one establishment cited by the Ohio Investigative Unit that will go before the Liquor Control Commission this week to face penalties. She stated that this should be a reminder to all bars and restaurants. She noted that Lakewood has taken a proactive approach, having officers visit the bars to remind them of the orders.

Councilmember Kepple noted that she visited a restaurant that has locations within Lakewood and outside Lakewood and that the location outside Lakewood was much less strict. She attributed this to the City's proactive approach and commended the police and administration for going a step above.

Chair Neff stated that she has been very impressed with the safety practices in place in Lakewood restaurants. She commended business owners, the Mayor and safety forces.

Summarize discussions from previous meeting related to law enforcement reform, trainings and policies.

Chair Neff summarized the Committee's previous conversations related to Lakewood Police Department and its policies. She mentioned that the Committee heard a lot about de-escalation training, which is ongoing. Furthermore, all officers receive an average of 100 hours of training per year. The Committee has heard from Detective Fiorilli who trains officers with a focus on human behavior and addressing the needs of people in crisis in a humane and safe way. She noted the introduction of body cameras in 2016 as an accountability tool and reminded all that all

policies are generated by Lexipol, which bases them based on the latest legal cases and then has them reviewed by a group of citizens. Finally, she added that the Lakewood Police Department maintains its policies and protocols even when outside the City assisting neighbors. She expressed thanks and appreciation to LPD for their work and for sharing all of this with the Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn Public Safety Committee. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Neff, Bullock, Litten

Nays: none

Motion adopted. Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.