



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
280 MADISON AVENUE NORTH
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA /
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
6:00 PM

CHAIR: JOE DEETS

MEMBERS: SARAH BLOSSOM

RON PELITER

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 4, 2019 NOTES (5 MIN)
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (10 MIN)
4. RACE EQUITY TASK FORCE (RETF) MEMBERS JAMES FRIDAY & KIAN ASHABI –
INTRODUCTION OF RETF TO PSC & DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF
COLLABORATION (10 MIN)
5. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT (30 MIN)
6. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER (5 MIN)
7. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

Committee members and other public officials present:

Council members Sarah Blossom, Joe Deets, Ron Peltier

City Manager Morgan Smith, and Interim Police Chief Jeff Horn

Members of the public present:

Cindy Anderson, Senji Kanaeda, Gilberto Perez, Terry Zumwalt, Dave Schutz, Andy Rovelstadt, Charlotte Rovelstadt, Devin James

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The agenda was approved as presented. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

2. December 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Public comments: Cindy Anderson presented a document regarding what she described as a “bogus internal investigation” which the Public Safety Committee declined to discuss.

4. Election of new committee chair: Joe Deets was reelected as chair of the Public Safety Committee.

5. Police Chief's Report

- a) Deputy Chief Jeff Horn has been appointed interim Chief by City Manager, Morgan Smith, to serve in that position for six months.
- b) **BIPD's incident report** shows that in 2017 there were about 17,000 calls. In 2018 there were 21,752.
- c) **Four open positions for officers:** Jeff explained that in addition to the two new positions authorized by the 2019-20 biennial budget, two officers were leaving for other jobs. One leaving to take a position with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and one leaving for unspecified reasons.
- d) **Canine training in Minnesota:** One of our officers is in Minnesota with our new police canine, Whitney, for training before bringing her home to Bainbridge Island. Whitney is a female bloodhound.
- e) **Finch accident:** Last Summer there was a serious accident on Finch Rd., in which a vehicle struck two joggers. One was killed and the other seriously injured. The Chief reported that the investigation of the accident is currently in the hands of the County and no further comment. Council member Deets asked how such accidents could be prevented in the future. Chief Horn said they will use Facebook to get the word out regarding safety issues related to the accident and that BIPD may place a wrecked car at BI High School, to serve as a warning to young drivers of the consequences for impaired driving.



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- f) **Partial cleanup of homeless camp:** Jeff and Morgan reported that two persons previously living in part of the homeless camp by SR305 just North of High School Rd. were no longer staying at the site. No specific details were provided as to why, though offers of housing have been available to at least some of the people occupying the encampment in the past. Time was allowed for Helpline House to help the residents recover personal items and then BIPD then conducted a cleanup of the site. The individuals who had resided there were told they would not be allowed to return. Two campers still remain to the North, a man about 70 years old and his 90+ year old mother.
 - g) **Threats reported at council meeting:** During the 2/26/19 city council meeting a member of the public mentioned having received threats. I asked if Chief Horn was aware of any threats having been reported. He indicated that information of that nature would require a public records request.
 - h) **School Resource Officers?** Charlotte Rovelstadt asked if the marijuana tax, which potentially provides funding for SRO officers would be used on Bainbridge for that purpose. Chief Horn indicated that it would not.
 - i) **Wants Jeff to continue as BIPD Chief:** Terry Zumwalt, who has attended the Citizen's Police Academy, commented that she wants Jeff Horn to be the permanent police chief for Bainbridge Island. Council member Blossom commented that the 6-month interim appointment would give Jeff an opportunity to show what he could do. Morgan Smith commented that it's a very important position and she wants to be very deliberate in the selection process for a permanent Chief.

6. Possible expansion of the Public Safety Committee:

- a) Council member Joe Deets shared his proposed mission statement for a possibly expanded Public Safety Committee, with the possible addition of 2 or 3 members of the Public who would be required to have completed the Citizen's Police Academy. The new mission statement proposed by Joe included, "...to serve as an ongoing bridge between the community and the police department", and to advise, and the engage in community outreach.
- b) **Complaints:** there was general agreement amongst the committee, the Chief, and City Manager that the committee's new look would not include the handling of formal complaints. The need for confidentiality was one reason cited. Sarah said that complaints submitted to the committee should not about specific incidents but rather related to policy only.
- c) **Membership requirements:** Joe added to the previously agreed upon requirement that new members of the committee from the public would need to have completed the Citizen's Police Academy a desire for the City to encourage diversity on the committee. We didn't discuss that any further.
- d) **More frequent and longer meetings?** Joe floated the idea of more frequent Public Safety Committee meetings that would last for 2 as opposed to 1-1/2 hrs. Joe shared that he envisioned expanded committee discussions to include topics such as police training and pending state legislation pertaining to policing and public safety.

Future City Council agenda: We discussed getting a proposal for an expanded Public Safety Committee on to an upcoming city council agenda for discussion and feedback from our colleagues in time for the upcoming selection process schedule for approving new advisory committee members from the public (April-June)



7. Good of the Order / Additional Public Comment

- a) Dave Schutz suggested that the increase in incidents reported by BIPD might have something to do with the City's new agreement with the County for their 911 service which charges the City by the call. Morgan Smith said that some activities had been added to the 911 category.
- b) Andy Rovelstadt commented that he was amazed by the number of "monster trucks" parked along Winslow Way.
- c) **Are we prepared?** One of the Buddhist monks in attendance, either Senji or Gilberto, asked if Bainbridge Island is prepared for a disaster. Morgan Smith responded that the City has a robust emergency preparedness program and noted that we need to be prepared to host people coming off the ferries in the event of a disaster as they may be stuck on the Island for some time.
- d) **New emergency preparedness position:** Morgan mentioned that a new staff member has been hired to fill the emergency preparedness position and will be introduced to the city council soon.
- e) **Neighborhood plan:** There was additional discussion of neighborhood emergency preparedness plans, which is a voluntary program in where neighborhood organize themselves.
- f) **EOC:** Morgan pointed out the City's Emergency Operations Center, just off the room we were meeting in (city council conference room), which is where emergency responders meet to get organized.

Meeting adjourned about 7:30 pm

#7 Good of the Order...subsection d...she (Morgan) didn't say the person will be hired...that person has already been hired and will be introduced to the council.

Prepared by Ron Peltier 3/11/19 Version 3

Revised per comments by Chief Horn on 3/12/19