

REPORT – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
August 12, 2024

The Standing Committee on Public Safety to which was referred the following reports as follows:

#1 on agenda

having considered the same, report POSTPONED until the next Public Safety Meeting by Motion of Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Thompson.

#2 on agenda

having considered the same, report POSTPONED until the next Public Safety Meeting by Motion of Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Thompson.

MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
August 12, 2024

The Standing Committee on Public Safety was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Councilor Griffin with Councilors Farwell, Griffin, Teixeira, and Thompson present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

#1 on agenda

Comments by Police Chief Brenda Perez
(conduct of officer, ready to answer questions)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(9 years had not seen rules and regulations of the police department, like to see the updated rules and regulations, interested in ATV procedures, chase policy, court cases affecting operations and police conduct, internal affairs, looking for a continuance after this so the police department can pull together some information)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(re inviting comments by the Sargent)

Comments by Sargent Amaral
(here to answer questions)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(who develops the rules and regulations)

Comments by Sargent Amaral
(rules and regulations for officer conduct, policies and procedures are guidelines, standards, being modified for policing best standards)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(when were rules and regulations drafted)

Comments by Sargent Amaral
(sometime prior to 2003, in the process of modifying now, we take Mass Police accreditation standards, compares, if policy does not meet the standard, we will update it, discuss with subject matter expertise, unions, police, then published, doing 1 at a time, going to be a 2-year process)

Comments by Councilor Farwell and Thompson
(re what policies come before the council and the mayor for approval)

Comments by Sargent Amaral
(chase policy, can provide old policy, amendments expected in the 2-3 year process)

Comments by Police Chief Brenda Perez
(rules and regulations for the officers, not so much the policies and procedures of the department, everything is under review, long process, looking at other cities and towns, some are mandatory policies, rules and regulations to come before the mayor and council for approval)

Motion to report POSTPONED until the next Public Safety Meeting by Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

Next the Committee considered the following:

#2 on agenda

Comments by Councilor Griffin
(Grant pass decision passed by Supreme Court, invited several community leaders, select few, detrimental impact, need to be more effective)

Comments by Joseph Angelo
(affecting everything, can't get out of your car, someone is going to get killed, need rules and regulations, every day it's the same thing, can't walk without being worried about being harassed, looking for help and direction)

Comments by Ronald Bethoney
(thanks for the help, embarrassing the police department who does not have enough help, downtown Brockton not the same any more, customers don't want to go into the store, can't leave doors open for his store, shamed as to who is not here)

Comments by Ted Carmen
(developer, enormous problem with railroad street, hangout, drug transactions, pick up needles every day, yelling and fighting, groups congregating, major problem, fix it shows someone cares, when you don't fix it then shows you allow it, things that can be done, some want help, some don't, have seen increased police present, impact on the street, very impressed)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(are these issues in other communities you have developments? What have they done?)

Comments by Ted Carmen

(not a problem in the other communities he has developments)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(humane issue for persons being homeless, but also balance of public safety, criminal conduct, can be humane but cannot turn a blind eye, technology options)

Comments by Ted Carmen

(national problem, business improvement district would be huge help)

Comments by Jason Korb

(station lofts, preserved history of the building, photographs, drugs, need to protect the residents, threats on employees, shows pictures, trash, injections with dealers, encampments, harassment, broken window, problem is bigger than so many of us, happy to be part of the solution, not sure what to do, employees quit, residents want to leave)

Comments by Police Chief Brenda Perez

(complex issue requiring many different agencies, collaborative efforts, have been working with Mayor's office and Councilor Thompson on an Ordinance)

Comments by Captain Hallisey

(collaboration with social service department, 2 clinicians go out every day, focusing on Finnegan park, undercover and detectives, taking care of illegal activity, trying to get homeless persons the help they need, enforcing dusk to dawn, arrests, warrant sweep resulted in 35 arrests, directed patrols, looking to have bridge closed in Finnegan park, effect on officers, will help when homeless shelter relocates and becomes 24 hour location)

Comments by Councilor Griffin

(re arrests, how many were held, section changes)

Comments by Captain Hallisey

(not sure, bail changes, clinician help, community court, ordinance change will help)

Comments by Director of Social Services Jazmine Bradsher

(encampments, makes contact, housing services, does this on a daily basis, 300 hours of outreach in the last year, able to house 15 people through direct services, doing encampment removals, did one on July 30th, have not seen those people create new tents, has a list of 70 encampments, have been telling people to move along, MBTA has put up signs, city will put up new signs, live time tracking, resource packets, continuing housing applications, still seeing lack of affordable housing, restrooms, giving out food, cutting back some trees, looking into grants)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(important issues, all been working on collectively, need to do better, policies needed, Ordinances, Grant Pass empowered municipalities, team working on ordinances, prevent sleeping on public property, immediate removals, 24 hour notice and removal process, notice posted, punishment, loitering ordinance, preventing safe passage, increase enforcement by police department, funding, need a downtown day program, effective and enforceable policies)

Comments by Councilor Griffin

(compliments work on ordinance draft)

Comments by Councilor Teixeira

(experience as a business owner himself, deals with this daily, taxes, need to protect the business owner, enough is enough, sleeping in his van)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(talk about this issue year after year, losing the battle, re videos, photographs)

Comments by Police Chief Brenda Perez

(has access to camera system, no line item in budget for this)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(frustrated, something has to change, thanks Attorney Verde from the law department)

Comments by Assistant Solicitor Verde

(camera in public areas okay, hesitates on searches)

Comments by Council Farwell

(all options need to be employed)

Comments by Councilor Griffins

(thanks community members, complex issue, going to be pushing the police to be more proactive, first order of government is to protect its citizens, need development)

Motion to report POSTPONED until the next Public Safety Meeting by Councilor Farwell, 2nd by Councilor Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Thompson, 2nd by Councilor Teixeira at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21p.m.