

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING
MARCH 2, 2016**

PRESENT

- Mayor Jill Boudreau
- Council Members
 - Mary Hudson
 - Mark Hulst
 - Joe Lindquist
 - Gary Molenaar
 - Ken Quam
 - Dale Ragan
- Chief of Police Jerry Dodd
- Fire Chief Roy Hari
- City Attorney Kevin Rogerson

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Council Member Mark Hulst. Public Safety Meeting Minutes from the former meeting were approved.

CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY TOM MOLITAR - SKAGIT COUNTY INTERLOCAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT (SCIDEU)

- SCIDEU Mission Statement targets mid to upper level drug trafficking organizations and assists local communities as well
- SCIDEU governed by Executive Board
- Mount Vernon is hub for drug trafficking on I-5 corridor
- Heroin is everywhere
- MVPD officer assigned to SCIDEU is “great” officer

JERRY DODD – CHIEF OF POLICE

- Years ago, SCIDEU was funded by Department of Justice
 - Over time, funding has been less and less
 - Soon will receive no federal funding

DOG KENNEL UPDATE

- Special thanks to Dean Gilbert who is the lead on this project
- Weather has caused delays
- Need to add doors to prevent kennels from getting wet when raining

PERSONNEL UPDATE

- Provided information/statistics
 - Average age of officers is 35
 - Very young Department
 - Average years of service is
 - Staffing levels – 45 commissioned officers
 - No change in number of officers in 11 years
 - A lot of community changes

- More calls for service
 - Increased population
 - Gang activity
 - Neighborhood issues
- Hiring timelines for last 11 employees
 - 13.98 months from oral board to solo status
- Two commissioned officers left/are leaving MVPD
- Officer Brandon Young to be promoted to Sergeant
- Sergeant Mikel Moore promoted to Lieutenant mid-year
- Officer Tyler Clark graduating from BLEA next Wednesday
- Officer John Flaherty to graduate from BLEA 06/21/16
- Officer Ed Gless to graduate from BLEA 06/09/16
- Additional candidate has been given conditional offer of employment and will be hired in May
- Will continue hiring, promotion, and selection process
- Currently down five officers
 - Three vacancies
 - Two out on disability
- Working with homeless

MAYOR JILL BOUDREAU

- Mayor Boudreau, Chief Dodd, and others visited Everett to specifically learn about their Law Enforcement Embedded Social Worker Project (LEESW)
- Discussed this “dynamic model,” “revolutionary project”
- Homelessness in Mount Vernon has increased dramatically
 - Currently, police officers are attempting to do social service work with homeless
- Also researching Bellingham model, which does not have law enforcement piece
- County is willing to advocate for position through .01 health funding
- Will bring ideas before City Council when fully prepared
 - Will have more programs available
- Police officers combine with licensed social worker
 - Nothing less than Masters in social work for this position

2015 PRELIMINARY SERVICE NUMBERS

- Provided 2015 crime numbers/statistics
- Provided calls for service information
- MVPD has 48 outstanding volunteers
 - Provided 4,417 hours of service in 2015
- Defined neighborhood successes
 - Addressed 82 neighborhood issues
 - 52 were resolved
 - 22 were reduced in frequency
 - 8 are on-going
- Discussed use of force
 - Policy updated regularly

- Three tier process
- Comprehensive analysis of outcome
- Constitution standard
- MVPD reviews and tracks all incidents where force is used
- Provided various statics regarding use of force in 2015
- Provided “road map” on MVPD moving forward including upcoming challenges

SOUTH 27TH STREET UPDATE

- Provided handouts to Mayor and Council Members
- Discussed strategies
- Used Citywide approach - Problem Elimination Team
- Great success and everyone’s work is appreciated

MISCELLANEOUS

- New radar trailer
- Awarded Traffic Safety Grant
- 22nd Citizens Academy
- 14th Preparatory Academy
- Provided information on S. 25th Street Block Watch Captain’s Concerns
 - Department/City continues to address concerns
 - Mayor Boudreau discussed City property/park issue
- Change fund increase request

ROY HARI - FIRE CHIEF

- Supports homeless plans
- Burlington Fire Interlocal Agreement discussion
 - Automatic Aid Agreement
 - Increase response ability for Burlington and Mount Vernon
 - Will bring before Council next week

- **KEVIN ROGERSON – CITY ATTORNEY**

- Provided Mayor and Council with documents regarding fireworks, drought, restrictions, emergency ban, RCWs, House Bills, etc.
- Proposed RCW that heavily regulates fireworks discharge
- State law allows local jurisdictions to adopt further restrictions
- Emergency ban on fireworks due to drought
- City Attorney Rogerson to research language for emergency ban under specific conditions.

MAYOR BOUDREAU wanted Council to be aware of the following

- AWC update going on in legislature
 - Budget negotiations for nine days
 - Eliminated funding to MRSC
 - Eliminated fire insurance premium tax shared with City of Mount Vernon
 - \$35,000 hit to City of Mount Vernon
 - Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) used to be fully paid by State

- Want to eliminate any funding
- Significant hit to City budget
 - \$12,000 per officer
- Looking to merge LEOFF 1 Retirement system with Teachers retirement system
 - Cities have funded LEOFF 1 system; why merge?
- AWC has written a letter submitted to legislatures
- Mayor Boudreau considering writing letter to our legislators and asked Council Members to consider doing same
- Housing authority putting in application for funding of 75 unit housing project
 - Have asked City if they'd be interested in signing on as supportive
 - Council is supportive

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.