



**Public Safety Committee Minutes
February 4, 2026**

Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place

Present

Mayor Donovan

Councilmembers: Beaton, Daman, Hudson, Oliver, Tercero, Vander
Stoep, West

Staff: Fire Chief Harris, Police Chief Christman, Lieutenant Moore,
Lieutenant Green, City Attorney Rogerson, Finance Director
Volesky, City Clerk Jensen

Citizens: 28

- 1. Opening Ceremonies:** Councilmember Tercero called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** The January 21, 2026, Development Services Committee and January 28, 2026, Finance and Parks & Recreation Committee minutes were approved as presented.

Councilmember Beaton moved to approve the January Development Services and Finance and Parks and Recreation committee minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Vander Stoep. Motion carried 7-0

4. Police

A. K9 Program Discussion: Chief Christman, Lieutenants Moore and Green responded to questions from Council and Mayor.

- The purpose of the dual trained K9 is to detect people and drugs.

- The process for deployment of the K9 is incident specific. The department will follow Washington State's very rigid guidelines for the K9 Program. The City has adopted the state's Model Policy. Deployment only takes place for a felony crime and includes a warning to the suspect that the canine is present and will be deployed if they do not surrender. A K9 is considered a de-escalation tool. The K9 will be deployed for drug detection as well and will likely be deployed for this purpose the majority of the time.
- When the dog becomes certified they may be able to join county drug task force. This will require 400 hours of training and re-certification every two years.
- Requests to other jurisdictions for K9 assistance occurs weekly (average). A canine isn't always available when called for.
- The annual cost for the program, after start-up costs, is approximately \$4500. Veterinary needs are unpredictable. A K9 Heros foundation has been established to assist local departments. There are other groups that assist by donating items such as leads, leashes, ballistic vests, and kennels.
- When a K9 deployment occurs and makes contact with a suspect, the suspect receives a medical examination by EMS on scene and is transported to the hospital. This is the same protocol used following a taser deployment for a 'fit for jail' release.
- The canine is covered, as are all police officers, under the City's Washington Cities Insurance Authority policy. There have been no K9-related lawsuits filed since Mr. Rogerson has worked in for the City beginning in 2004. No data was readily available for prior years.
- The keys to a successful K9 program are selecting the right officers, training them properly, and supervising them properly.
- Previous K9 deployment statistics were shared.
- The K9 will also attend events in Parks and schools for community engagement and demonstrations.
- Chief Christman provided information that countered comments that were made during public comments about violent and misuse of K9 officers.
- The department will track and report program statistics to the Washington Data Exchange for Public Safety, a state-wide collection and exchange for use-of-force data.
- Mr. Rogerson confirmed that funding the K9 Programs is an approved use of opioid settlement funds.
- Deployment for violent versus property crimes was reviewed. Chief Christman will share the City's K9 policy with Council.
- Chief Christman discussed the partnership between the IOS program and the K9 Program to address the drug crisis affecting our community.

- Chief Christman shared crime statistics collected by WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), which show overall crime decreasing in all categories except drug and narcotics, demonstrating the value of a narcotics dog.
- B. ALPR Discussion: FLOCK cameras – There are six operational FLOCK cameras in the city that take pictures of license plates 24/7. The camera takes pictures of the rear vehicle license plate. HB 6002 is currently under consideration and would exclude the FLOCK data from being released to the public under the Public Records Act. The bill would limit law enforcement’s use of the data, restricting data use for felonies only and does not allow searches to be filtered by characteristics of the vehicle. It would also amend the current retention period of the data from 30 days to 21 days.

There was a brief discussion about possibility of moving to an internal system hosted by the City’s IT department. It’s been determined by staff to be cost prohibitive. Also, the FLOCK data is held on a secure Criminal Justice Information System server.

Mr. Rogerson will respond to retention and data ownership questions following a review of the contract.

5. Agenda Requests

- Discussion of staffing the Library on Sundays

6. Miscellaneous

- Chief Christman explained that on January 28th, when the North Sound Behavioral agreement was presented the incorrect dollar amounts were given. The agreement will be on the February 11th consent on the agenda for approval.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by: Becky Jensen, City Clerk