

Public Health & Safety Committee Report for the Meeting of January 8th, 2014

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johnson, and myself. Absent were Alderman Johanson and Alderman Buckner. Also present was Treasurer Carmine Bilotto and Alderman Hawley. The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Citizens Concerns

No citizens were present.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 365 emergency calls in December, 189 were EMS calls
177 Patients were treated
152 Patients were transported
46 Patients refused transport

They responded to 21 general fire alarms, and 14 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 105 auto aid calls, including 6 car fires.

They had 35 calls to man the firehouses.

They received 1 mutual aid calls.

They responded to the Blue Island Phenol Plant Fire. A propane tank started leaking and eventually exploded. Two plant employees were injured. Chief Luety monitored the wind direction during the fire to ensure that businesses or residences were evacuated as required.

The total number of calls for 2013 were 3,408.

The Fire Department collected \$25,515.64 in Medical Reimbursements in the month of December and \$377,864.28 for all of 2013.

General

A Public Safety Announcement was made for Holiday Fire Safety Tips and was run on the Blue Island Cable channel. The Fire Department will be making a short monthly Public Service Announcement for the cable channel Home and Fire Safety.

There were no reported fires during the month of December due to Christmas trees or holiday decorations.

The Fire Department assisted with the Holiday Light Parade, and the New Year's Eve ball drop and fireworks display.

A new billing company (Fire Recovery) is being reviewed by the city for emergency services.

Both front line fire engines at station #1 and #2 have a new in-line foam system that are good for vehicle fires and fires that are hard to put out with water alone and will use less water to extinguish. The two systems were donated by Metro Recycling and Metal Recycling Systems, both of Blue Island. Live fire training for use of the new systems was conducted with all three shifts.

Maintenance

Engine 2123 was out of service for several days due to an engine problem from the manufacturer that was repaired.

A total of 10.5 hours in-house maintenance was performed on various equipment.

Training

The training division has completed 525.25 hours of training for the month of December. The department completed and documented 6,301.52 total man hours of hands-on and class room training for the year 2013 in Firefighting and EMS topics along with some specialty classes that members attended. We have six members on specialty teams including Haz Mat, Technical Rescue and Fire Investigation.

Lt. Joe Olson will be taking over as training officer, freeing up Lt. Kunz who will be concentrating on maintenance and care of all equipment in the department. At present Lt. Kunz has been taking care of both jobs that require a large amount of work.

Manpower

The Fire Department is down four full time Firefighters and a Fire Prevention Officer at this time.

Grants

The department is still waiting for the portable radios and computers from the radio grant and has not received any further word on the air packs from the air pack grant.

Durable Roofing won the bid for the repair of the roof of the old water tower and will repair it when the funds from the infrastructure grant are received.

The AFG Grant for two new ambulances was submitted last month but awards have not been issued yet.

No word has been received on the Safer Grant for staffing of new Firefighters.

Harry O'Hagan Lawsuit

A lawsuit was filed by Firefighter Harry O'Hagan regarding a full time position with the Fire Department.

Police Department Report

The Police Department patrolled 16,537 miles for the month of December. 1999 calls answered.

572 Parking Citations
340 Moving Citations
229 Traffic Stops
21 Felonies
37 Misdemeanors
10 Warrant Arrests
29 Local Ordinance Violations (equipment violations, seatbelts)
54 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$36,810.53

November Detective Report

51 Cases were assigned
15 Burglaries
12 Larceny
10 Property Damage
14 Other Cases
35 Cases were cleared

General

The Police Department and BIEMA assisted with the Holiday Light Parade, and the New Year's Eve ball drop.

Code Red EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell are looking into the Code Red EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION program. Citizens will be able register their cell phone numbers or emails and be alerted in case of a local emergency in their neighborhood or on their block.

Well Being Checks

125 well-being checks were made from Monday, January 6th, to Wednesday, January 8th. If a citizen wishes to be added to the well-being checklist they should contact the Police Department.

Facebook account

The Police Department Facebook account is up and running since Monday, January 6th.

Snow Routes

The Police Department assisted Public Works in clearing designated snow routes after the recent snow storm.

Commendations

Four Police Officers will receive commendations at the January 14th City Council meeting.

Commander Position

Sergeant Sisk will be sworn in as Commander at the January 14th City Council meeting.

Aldermen's Concerns

None.

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Vieyra, second by Alderman Johnson.

Our next regular meeting is February 5th at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Carr
4th Ward Alderman