Public Health & Safety Committee Report
for the Meeting of June 4th, 2014

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Jim McGeever, Don Marchbanks, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Marcia Stone as a guest, and myself. Absent were Alderman Johanson, Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Buckner. We did not have a quorum, but as no votes were to be taken, we continued with the monthly reports. The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Citizens Concerns

No citizens were present at the start of the meeting. Mr. Allan Stevo arrived at 7:37 but had no comments.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 333 calls in May, 212 were EMS calls
184 Patients were treated
174 Patients were transported
36 Patients refused transport

Average call to patient response time 5.1 minutes

They responded to 25 general fire alarms, and 27 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 28 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 40 calls to man the station.

They received 1 mutual aid response call.

Calls of interest for May: A kitchen fire at 12737 Division, the CSX Bridge Railroad Tie fire, assisted the Blue Island Police Department with a suicidal subject at 1933 Vermont Street.

Medical Reimbursement Services for May $32,757.21.

Fire Recovery submitted 18 claims for a total amount of $7328.00

General

Probationary Firefighter Adam Marcolini started May 5th, 2014 and has been working day shift until his initial training is completed at which time he will be put on a permanent shift. The next candidate will be starting June 9th 2014.

The new sidewalk at Station #2 from Canal Street at the driveway entrance around to Division and on Division to the side drive has been completed.

Marine One has been fixed and is moored at Fay’s Point. It is in service for the boating season. Firefighter Abbatacola will be conducting the training for the boat operations and is also setting up combined training sessions with the United States Coast Guard.

The roof over the water tower at Station #1 has been repaired.
Maintenance

Diversified Inspections will be testing all ladders including the Tower Ladder on the ladder truck per NFPA standards within the next few weeks.

Training

The training division has completed 350.25 hours of training for the month of May.

Firefighter Abbatacoca attended a Specialized Swift Water Rescue Class in Romeoville and is certified through the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

The proposed training tower at Station #2 has been put on hold. Midwest Water Reclamation District has explained that the site is considered undeveloped land and would require a yearly lease of $2500.00.

Grants

No information has been received on the AFG grant for 2 new ambulances.

House Fire on Ann Street

Fire Chief Luety

Chief Luety announced that he will be retiring on July 16th, 2014, after 30 years of service.

Police Department Report

Summer Assignments

Officers will be assigned to foot and bicycle patrol on Western Avenue. The Police Department goal is to eliminate physical barriers and be an active part of the community. Officers will be required to get out of their squad cars in the residential neighborhoods or business district during their shift and walk around the block to make contact with citizens beginning next week. This will allow officers during their shift to see things from a different perspective with the intent of building personal relationships with our citizens.

Reports

The Police Department answered 2275 calls including 192 business premise checks. 93 liquor establishment checks were done.

Stats/Cases of Interest

124 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)
   4 Armed Robberies (2 unfounded)
   1 Robbery
   2 Commercial Burglaries
   16 Residential Burglaries
   11 Shots Fired (5 unfounded)
123 Domestic Disputes
Detective Division

48 cases were assigned in April, 43 cases were closed.

Calls of Interest

On May 1st, 2014 Officers responded to an Armed Robbery call that occurred in the 2300 block of 121st Street. The victim stated that he was approached by two male subjects.

There were several catalytic converter thefts, including May 2nd, May 28th, and May 29th.

On May 6th, 2014 Officers responded to an Armed Robbery in the 2000 block of Union. The victim was walking and was approached by one offender who produced a handgun.

On May 11th, 2014 there was a reported burglary at the Forge Pub. It appears that entry may have been made through a window. Approximately $2000.00 in cash is reported missing.

On May 14th, 2014 Officers responded to a call of SHOTS FIRED in the area of Centennial Park. The witness told dispatch that the offender’s vehicle was travelling north on Wood Street, leaving the area. Officer King observed the vehicle on Wood Street and began to follow. Other Officers picked up on the vehicle and a short chase ensued. The offender drove erratically and crash into landscaping blocks in front of a residence at 127th and Harvard. The offender fled on foot and Officers gave chase. Officer Colone took the offender into custody, despite being injured as he jumped a fence to apprehend the suspect. Chris Sobczak from the Blue Island Park District assisted the Officers. The weapon was located at 127th and Wood Street where the offender threw the weapon out of his vehicle.

On May 20th, 2014 at approximately 9:00 pm Officers responded to 2213 W 120th Place for a gun-shot victim. Detectives have interviewed the victim and it appears he may not be forthcoming with information.

On May 21st, 2014 at approximately 10:00 pm Officers were called to 1933 Vermont Street for a suicidal subject call. The caller initially told dispatch that he took 10-20 pills. Officers responding to the scene were advised by dispatch that the caller’s 21 year old daughter was on the scene and he was not allowing her to talk on the phone. This call completely engaged the 911 Center, since they could not put the caller on hold or allow him to hang up. A negotiator was called in. The caller also indicated that he had a bomb inside the residence. The caller was a 44 year old male with psychiatric issues and may have been off his medication. The South Suburban Emergency Response Team was called to the scene as a precaution. BIEMA assisted at the scene. At approximately 12:45 am officers entered the house and took the person into custody without incident. Director Rita praised the Police Department, Fire Department, BIEMA, and the 911 dispatchers. There was a wrap up meeting held with Tim Johnson of SSERT.

On May 31st, 2014 Officers responded to the 2200 block of Grove for domestic disturbance. Officers arrested the female half of the disturbance for domestic battery. When the Officers were processing the arrestee, they observed child pornography on the cell phone. Officers went back to the residence and arrested the owner of the phone.

Overtime Paid

| Supervisors: | 120 hours |
| Patrol Officers: | 107 hours |
| Court: | 114 hours |
| Detectives: | 143 hours |
Late calls/Paperwork: 21.5 hours

**Liquor Establishment Calls**

6 disturbance calls were received in May on liquor establishments.

**Training**

Tim Sisk and John Miller attended a 40 hour Truck Enforcement Program.

Supervisors are receiving updated information on various issues on a quarterly basis.

**Miscellaneous**

Code Red is up and running.

The Boot Program should begin this week.

Facebook has added 110 followers in the last month, and is up to 783 likes.

Kid/Cop Day was held June 7th.

**911 Center**

The 911 Center received 13,911 calls in May. Calls are slightly down from last year. One trainee has left the program.

The air conditioning unit for the 911 Center needs repair to keep the call stations running.

**BIEMA**

Total dollar value of hours submitted is $7925.18.

Events: First Midwest Bank 10K, the fire on the CSX bridge in April, multiple inclement weather situations, and assisting other municipalities.

Several vehicles need repair, and uniforms are needed.

Braniff was contacted to perform yearly service on the sirens, but due to bad weather they have had to reschedule.

**Public Health**

Tom Mailhiot received 1 complaint about food establishments which was unfounded and performed 23 health inspections on businesses in the month of May. He will begin checking businesses for current licenses.

**Aldermen’s Concerns**

Ald. Vieyra asked about changes in the Detective Division.
Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about the noise at Raven’s Place.
Ald. Vieyra expressed concern over the number of reports of shots fired.
Ald. Vieyra asked about the upcoming contract negotiations. They are just beginning.
Ald. Vieyra asked about the Public Health report being part of Public Safety.
Ald. Stone asked about the Category and Risk values in the Public Health report.

**Other Events**

Deputy Chief Klinker gave a report on a house fire on Ann Street which occurred on June 1st. A call was received for a gasoline smell outside the home. When the Fire Department arrived they saw smoke coming from the second floor, and the alarm was upgraded. They were told that there was still a person in the building. When the house was entered, it was clear that this was a hoarder’s house. Multiple accelerants had been poured throughout the house. The man inside the house was rescued, and charged with arson. Other Fire Departments that responded were from Posen, Calumet Park, Alsip and Midlothian. Dispatchers had quickly thought to also call in an ambulance and fire engine from Merrionette Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is July 2nd at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Carr
4th Ward Alderman