

**Public Health & Safety Committee Report  
for the Meeting of July 2nd, 2014**

Present were Director John Rita, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cornell, Deputy Fire Chief James Klinker, Jim McGeever, Inspector Tom Mailhiot, Alderman Vieyra, Alderman Johanson, and myself. Also present were Mr. Allan Stevo, and Tracy Waters, a journalism student from Columbia. Absent were Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Buckner. The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

**Public Health**

Due to time constraints for Tom Mailhiot we reviewed the Monthly Inspection Report first. Twenty-two health inspections were done on businesses in the month of June. Mr. Mailhiot also explained the coding on his reports for the benefit of the aldermen. Ald. Vieyra asked about unlicensed businesses operating out of homes, or buildings occupied by other businesses. Director Rita spoke about the new local ordinance tickets being issued. Ald. Vieyra asked about the hours that Mr. Mailhiot works.

**Citizens Concerns**

Mr. Allan Stevo had three questions: The first was concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and why it was not being held on Western Ave. The second was concerning whether or not the Police Department has new detectives. The third was concerning a petition which is reportedly being circulated about the property at 12807 Gregory.

**Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department had 323 calls in June, 208 were EMS calls  
179 Patients were treated  
157 Patients were transported  
51 Patients refused transport

They responded to 29 general fire alarms, and 32 minor fire alarms.

They responded to 21 auto aid calls, most calls were from Calumet Park.

They had 30 calls to man the station.

They received 3 mutual aid response call.

Calls of interest for June: An arson fire at 11953 Ann St., the resident has been charged. A dryer fire at Blue Kangaroo, 2106 Vermont St., storm calls on the night of 6/30 due to violent storms.

Medical Reimbursement Services for June \$27,475.85.

Fire Recovery collected \$348.00 in June.

**General**

Deputy Chief Klinker spoke about the new fees being charged for false alarms.

Probationary Firefighter Matthew Stedman started June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and has been working day shift. He will start his regular shift work on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on Black Shift. Probationary Firefighter Harry O'Hagan started June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He has been assigned to Gold Shift. The next candidate is in the hiring process and will start as soon as he completes the necessary testing.

Fill the Boot Drive for MDA dates are June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Luety's Retirement Open House is July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Station One.

## **Maintenance**

Diversified Inspections tested all ladders including the Tower Ladder on the ladder truck per NFPA standards on June 27<sup>th</sup>. One 16' roof ladder from 2133 failed the test. Repair estimates are forthcoming.

Ambulance repairs: 2162 rear brakes/sway bar repaired in house, 2152 torque converter/flywheel issue repaired at Bill Kay, 2182 oil/smoking issue.

## **Training**

The training division has completed 406.00 hours of training for the month of June.

METRA Rail Emergency Preparedness classroom and hands on training was held for each shift.

Lt. Olson and Firefighter Abbatacola will be conducting the training for boat operations. Combined training sessions with the U.S.Coast Guard are scheduled for later in the month of July.

## **Grants**

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

## **Police Department Report**

### **Statement by Deputy Chief Cornell**

The Blue Island Police Department's philosophy has made a slow progressive change towards the community policing model. Our ultimate goal is to completely embrace the concept which is successful in communities where it is implemented. Community Policing Philosophy is simply resource and responsibility sharing that allows officers access to more resources to address underlying problems long term, instead of just resolving the problem on a call short term. Often times calls for service in a certain neighborhood or structure is a symptom of a greater problem. My goal is to give the officers the tools to address the underlying problem.

Over the course of the last year we have addressed issues such as senior citizens in need and hoarding issues. The Blue Island Police Department is now addressing many quality of life issues, such as building ordinances in an effort to beautify the community and address the poor image that is sometimes associated with certain neighborhoods. The Day Shift and later the afternoon shift will be working with the building department to address maintenance issues, scrapping and poor public sanitary conditions.

## **Reports**

The Police Department answered 2293 calls including 208 business premise checks. 100 liquor establishment checks were done.

## **Stats/Cases of Interest**

131 Alarm Calls (all unfounded)  
3 Armed Robberies

3 Robberies  
7 Commercial Burglaries  
10 Residential Burglaries  
6 Shots Fired (1 unfounded)  
118 Domestic Disputes  
42 Foot Patrols in Residential Neighborhoods

Total money collected for the month of June \$27,102.18.

### **Calls of Interest**

On June 16<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a fight at Memorial Park.

On June 20<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a residential burglary on the 12800 block of Winchester and the 13500 block of Chatham.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> on the 2600 block of Cochran a victim had their cell phone stolen.

\*On June 25<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to 2006 Union for a gun-shot victim. The victim was rushed to Christ Hospital for treatment, where he later died. A person of interest has since been taken into custody.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to the 2700 block of Gruenwald for a shots fired call. A short time later a call was received of a gun-shot victim at MetroSouth Medical Center. The victim said that he and several other juveniles were playing with a gun in the basement of the residence.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to an Attempted Armed Robbery in the parking lot in the 12600 block of Fairview. The victim attempted to run and the offender stabbed the victim with possibly a screwdriver.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a robbery in the area of 13667 Western. The victim stated that he was approached by 2 offenders on bicycles. One of the offender's took the victim's wallet.

\*On June 28<sup>th</sup> Officers responded to a gun-shot victim/Armed Robbery in the parking lot in the 2100 block of 119<sup>th</sup> Street. It should be noted that the victim was with a friend that later admitted they were buying drugs.

### **Liquor Establishment Calls**

5 disturbance calls and 1 battery call were received in June on liquor establishments.

### **Injuries**

Two full time Officers are off on extended leaves, one Officer is due to return in July.

### **Training**

New part time Officers received training in radio procedures.

### **Miscellaneous**

Deputy Chief Cornell applied for the COPS Hiring Grant, which will allow Blue Island to hire officers. This is a 25% matching grant.

Officer Slattery is working on the Boot Program with parking tickets.

Deputy Chief Cornell reminded people to sign up for Code Red. Residents can sign up on the City website.

### **Upcoming Events**

July 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a Ceremonial Intergovernmental Agreement signing at 11:00 am at the Calumet Park Senior Center with Riverdale, Calumet Park and Calumet Township that will allow us to share resources to address senior issues through the TRIAD program.

Both Deputy Chief Klinker and Deputy Chief Cornell mentioned the Benefit Softball Game between the Police and Fire Departments. There seems to be some dispute as to who will win. Come watch for yourself, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at Hart Park at 7:00 pm.

August 5<sup>th</sup> will be National Night Out.

### **911 Center**

The 911 Center received 13,783 calls in June. Calls are slightly down from last year.

Jim McGeever supplied the Committee with a detailed time line of the storm on Monday June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **BIEMA**

We did not receive a report from BIEMA. However Ald. Vieyra, Ald. Johanson, and Jim McGeever highly praised the effort that was put out by these volunteers the night of the storm, Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the help with downed wires and trees that night and the following day.

### **Aldermen's Concerns**

Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about low hanging wires on Irving near the hospital.

Ald. Vieyra expressed concern about various properties that are falling into disrepair, and work being done without permits.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about burned and collapsed garages.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about the City phone system after the storm.

Ald. Johanson expressed concern about mosquito abatement.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Our next regular meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the East Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Carr

4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman