

Public Health & Safety Committee Report for Meeting of September 4, 2013

Present were Director John Rita, Fire Chief Mark Luety, Deputy Chief Michael Cornell, Alderman Johnson, and myself. Also present were Agostino Korkis, City Clerk Randy Heuser, Alderman Stone, Alderman Pittman, citizen Marcia Heuser. Absent were Alderman Buckner, Alderman Vieyra, and Alderman Johanson. We did not have a quorum, however, the following information was shared and discussed. No votes were taken.

Special Presentation by Agostino Korkis

Agostino Korkis presented information about the GPass program and handed out folders containing the information to those present. A question and answer period followed.

Citizens Concerns

There were no citizens present.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department had 324 emergency calls in August, 234 were EMS calls
234 Patients were treated
191 Patients were transported
43 Patients refused transport

They responded 24 times to assist other towns.

They had 33 calls to man the firehouses.

The fire department responded to 17 fire alarms which were assisted by other towns.

Other responses:

- 4 calls for downed power lines
- 4 calls to reset the fire alarm panel
- 1 trouble alarm
- 1 calls for carbon monoxide alarms
- 4 calls for natural gas odors
- 1 garbage can fire
- 1 detector activated by a smoke machine
- 1 call for railroad ties burning
- 1 car fire

Engine 2103 was returned to service after maintenance work and passing pump test.

Truck 2104 was sent out for a hydraulic piston repair.

The water tower storeroom was repainted and new electric wiring was installed for the new compressor system.

One kitchen fire safety class was presented for 53 seniors at the Senior Suites on Ashland Avenue.

“Old Bess” was on display for the last two “Cruise Nights” of August.

For the month of August most Firefighters received approximately 20 hours of training.

In July, the Committee approved a schedule of increased fees for the Fire Department, which was forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for review. The Judiciary Committee has requested that these increases be approved by Director John Rita before any action is taken. I have forwarded Director Rita a copy of the email outlining the fees.

The FEMA Radio Grant Fundraiser exceeded the goal for money raised. 22 radios and 2 computer systems were ordered on August 30th.

Chief Luety has submitted an application for a SAFER Grant for six new firemen for two years. This would be 100% coverage of salaries for two years.

Director Rita and Chief Luety discussed stationing an on-duty ambulance at District 218 for football games in lieu of an off-duty ambulance at a higher rate. There are six home games scheduled for this season.

Fire Chief Vrshek retired.

Deputy Fire Chief Luety was promoted to Fire Chief.

Lieutenant Klinker was promoted to Deputy Chief.

Police Department Report

The Police Department patrolled 25,024 miles for the month of August. 2850 calls answered.

509 Parking Citations

505 Moving Citations

345 Traffic Stops

13 Felonies

64 Misdemeanors

11 Warrant Arrests

64 Local Ordinance Violations (admin towing fees)

61 Vehicles Impounded

Total Fees Collected: \$50,967.12

Detective Division

xx Case Assignments in August

xx Cases closed

xx Cases pending apprehension

xx Cases pending lab

xx Open cases

x Warrant Cases

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell have met with Posen, Midlothian and Calumet Park in regards to the dispatching service in an effort to build a better working relationship with these communities.

City Clerk Randy Heuser and Director Rita met with School District 218 to renegotiate the pay of the School Resource Officer.

The Police Department met with District 130 to address problems surrounding the schools.

Director John Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell will be interviewing this week to fill the part time dispatch positions.

Six part time officers began the part time academy on Saturday, August 24th.

The Police Department has been reviewing the attendance policy to cut down on unnecessary absenteeism.

Deputy Chief Cornell met with St. Benedicts and the Blue Island Park District to prepare for the 5K race on Saturday, October 5th.

Director Rita and Deputy Chief Cornell met with AFSCME and have taken steps to reduce clerical staff overtime.

The boot program will officially begin soon. The letters notifying the violators were sent out. The worst offenders will be targeted first.

The information regarding the increase in the fine for violation of the Handicapped Ticket Ordinance to \$350.00 was brought before the Judiciary Committee for amendment to the current Ordinance.

Deputy Chief Cornell contacted Lieutenant Rafferty Gang Unit for help with a program to address the number of robberies occurring.

Aldermen Concerns

Alderman Johnson expressed concern that the youth in the California Gardens area are lacking guidance and a place to go now that the Rec Center is closed. He has been discussing possible options with Bob Manthei from the Blue Island Park District.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Carr
4th Ward Alderman.