

**CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2010
City of Maple Valley, City Hall
22017 SE Wax Road, Suite 200**

Committee attendance: Councilor Bill Allison, Deputy Mayor Victoria Laise Jonas, and Chair Layne Barnes, and Chair Victoria Laise Jonas.

Staff present: Police Chief Michelle Bennett, Police Civilian Assistant Robin Larsen, and Deputy City Clerk Bonnie Barney.

Chair Barnes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Sean Kelly, 23813 SE 282nd Street, attended the meeting and spoke to the Committee about this being the time of year when juveniles are experimenting with alcohol, drugs, and parties. He stated that he felt strongly that the party patrol emphasis and liquor sting operations were effective tool to help combat teen drinking, and lives could be saved. He urged the City to support continuation of the party patrol. MVPD is working on getting funding.

**I. Approval of Meeting Notes from prior meetings
September 29, 2009 and January 26, 2010**

The minutes for the meetings of September 29, 2009 and January 26, 2010 were approved as submitted.

II. Police Civilian Report

Police Civilian Assistant Robin Larsen's report included the following:

- Per the Committee's request, the interlocal agreement between King County and the City for law enforcement services was included in the packet.
- MVPD was awarded grants of \$2,500 for equipment (digital in-car video system) and \$500 Educational/Promotional Grant (for key chains and pens). Ms. Larsen will see that Councilors receive a pen and key chain.
- MVPD participated in a Stranger-Danger event for preschoolers. The Fire Department also participated. It was a big hit with the kids.
- The 2010 Citizens' Police Academy started March 18 with 25 students. There were 40 applicants for the program.
- There have been no complaints against MVPD Officers.
- Excerpts from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission 2009 Annual Report reported that WTSC conducted X52 DUI patrols quarterly and the Drive Hammered Get Nailed DUI crackdown as part of the NHTSA August/Labor Day campaign. One hundred forty-six enforcement agencies participated in the patrols. Law enforcement overtime funding was matched.

III. Miscellaneous Reports

- **Annual Police Service highlights & Data 2009**
- **Staffing Report**
- **"Neighborhood Watch" Newsletter**
- **"Business Watch" Newsletter**
- **Crime statistics report & charts**

- **Alternative Call Handling report**
- **Commercial Vehicle Enforcement report**

Chief Bennett reviewed with Committee Members the Annual Police Service Highlights & Data 2009 report.

- Part 1 crime rate index went up four points.
- Traffic complaints are up. The City does not have a traffic officer.
- Arrests are up.
- Dispatch calls for service have gone up since 2008.
- Alternative call handling numbers are up. This may be due to an even greater increase in calls for service.
- The numbers for average response times for high priority calls are still good, even for Priority X calls.
- Chief Bennett has discussed police staffing with City Manager David Johnston. The level of service expectations should be established. As the gap in per capita coverage increases, officers can be less and less proactive.

A discussion regarding the potential for the removal of the Precinct 3 facility from Maple Valley and how that might impact the City included the following comments:

- The City needs to start a dialog about where the City is going with policing.
- MVPD should be proactive not reactive.
- Due to annexations of unincorporated areas into various cities in King County, KCSO staffing will be reduced even more. There are fewer deputies at the precincts expected to provide the same level of service.
- Chief Bennett reported that nothing is decided yet about precinct numbers and locations. The County has someone looking at the facilities and discussing what to do with the buildings. Some precinct facilities are in the middle of cities. It might make good business sense to shut down some of the precincts. Nothing is set in stone, but reduction of staff at the precincts will continue.
- Of 32 cities, Maple Valley has the lowest police staffing to population ratio.
- The Council should see the comparison data, determine the City's goals, and be proactive.
- Chief Bennett stated that she would like to see more staffing and more traffic emphasis. Currently officers are working short-staffed and cannot do a lot of proactive policing. She wants Maple Valley to be a full service community.
- The City pays one of the lowest per thousand per capita rate in King County at \$1.11.
- Robbery, commercial burglaries, aggravated assault and forcible rape have all increased substantially from 2008.
- Officer Jeff Harmon moved to a patrol position to provide coverage once the patrol sergeant comes on board.
- Chief Bennett spoke to Captain Fryberger today and was told that MVPD will get a temporary replacement for Officer Kearney beginning April 1. Deputy Gagnon was chosen, and he has worked in the City in the past.
- Chief Bennett reported that City Manager David Johnston is trying to speak with command staff at KCSO to work together to get the sergeant on board sooner.

Chief Bennett reviewed with the Committee the Crime statistics report for January and February, 2010, and reported the following:

- Larcenies have increased
- With the City's increase in population, there have been increased calls for service. Officers on graveyard are still doing on-views.
- There were not as many commercial vehicle enforcement inspections during the period due to weather. Maple Valley is the only city in the region that does the inspections and

has the only officers who are trained to do them. The inspections are more about educating than citing the drivers.

IV. Chief Bennett's report

• Overview of King County Jail Contract Extension

Chief Bennett explained that a decision will have to be made by May 1st on whether or not to extend the King County Jail contract. The extension would increase booking rates by \$108; decrease daily rates by about \$16; create new variable rates depending on type of inmate service such as 1-on-1 guarding, psych housing and care services, and infirmary; and provisions for inflation. Chief Bennett stated that some cities are not signing the extension because of the rate increases. The cities who do not sign the jail extension contract, they would benefit from the current contract rates through December, 2012. She said that the surcharges are to cover the added expenses for housing higher risk inmates, such as those with mental, drug, alcohol, and medical problems. If a city does not sign the extension and has to use the King County Jail for such inmates, there would be retroactive surcharges of 250 to 400 percent.

Chief Bennett reported that she and Ms. Larsen met with Penny Bartley, the current Director of the new South Correctional Entity (SCORE) facility currently under construction in Des Moines. The facility should be operational by November 2011 and accepting prisoners by February 2012. Four or five partner cities are assisting with the construction of the facility and have an agreement to use approximately 450 beds at the facility. SCORE wants to keep beds open for contracting cities.

Chief Bennett stated that SCORE will be able to house and treat medical, mental, substance abuse, combative inmates, but at no additional cost. Chief Bennett stated that the SCORE facility will also have an in-camera service for first appearances and preliminary appearances and will have a transport unit to transport prisoners from jail to court and back, eliminating the need for officers to be taken off the street to transport prisoners for certain courts. The City may want to look at consolidating jail and court services in the future.

Chief Bennett reviewed the City's options for signing or not signing the King County extension:

- If the City signs the extension, fees for jail bookings will increase in November 2010.
- If the City does not sign the extension, rates would continue at the currently contracted amount through December 2012. However, if the City were to need to book a prisoner into King County Jail, it would be subject to a retroactive 250 to 400 percent surcharge.
- If the City instead were to sign a contract with the SCORE facility to start booking prisoners by February 2012, the SCORE Director stated that their facility could basically provide the same type of service that King County now provides. If there is a delay in the SCORE facility being ready (10 month window) the City would be faced with the risk of booking high risk prisoners at King County Jail, incurring the surcharge rate.
- One of the risks is that if the SCORE facility is not completed on time, Maple Valley will have no viable option for booking.
- Chief Bennett reported that SCORE was looking at developing potential contracts in the next month or so. Chief Bennett has asked to see a potential contract as soon as possible to evaluate the fiscal impact, contract model, and rates.

In response to a request from Chair Barnes for a cost comparison between inmate housing between Enumclaw and King County jail services, Chief Bennett stated that there is no way to predict how many people will be booked. MVPD does not have the number of prisoners or days available to them.

Chief Bennett stated that she could ask Penny Bartley to meet with the City.

Deputy Mayor Laise Jonas stated that the Committee can do a briefing to the Council. She would like to present the JAG briefing. When Chief Bennett gets the contract model and additional information, the briefing could be scheduled for a Council study session. Deputy Mayor Laise Jonas suggested a mini-briefing to the Council in April.

Councilor Allison stated that there is a concern among many Maple Valley officers about their existing Department patches. The “police” should be more recognizable. Chief Bennett reported that they came up with a model patch some time ago and displayed a form of the patch to the Committee Members. There was Committee agreement that the patches should be changed to the new design.

Chair Barnes asked that the agenda format be modified by add “Public Comment” and “For the Good of the Order.”

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Bonnie Gillen Barney
Deputy City Clerk