



## **Planning and Public Safety Committee Meeting**

April 17, 2018

### **Summary and Motions**

---

CM Mossotti called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Committee Members Kay, J. Brown, Smith, Gibbs, Lamb, Worley, Bledsoe, Henson, and Plomin were present. Council Members Stinnett, Moloney, Evans, and F. Brown were also present as non-voting members.

#### **I. Approval of March 13, 2018 Committee Summary**

A motion was made by CM Bledsoe to approve the March 13, 2018 Planning and Public Safety Committee Summary, seconded by CM Plomin, the motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. New Initiative to Combat Violent Crime**

Lou Anna Red Corn, Fayette County Commonwealth's Attorney, presented the item. She said the goal of Project Safe Neighborhood is to reduce violent crime and make Lexington a safe place to live and raise children. She said this goal is accomplished by the timely sharing of information and close coordination with law enforcement, and focusing resources on those individuals who are responsible for driving crime in our community. She said it is a collaborative effort between Lexington Police, Sheriff, Detention Center and school law enforcement. This also a collaboration of prosecutors and it is a focused enforcement. She said they took two law enforcement initiatives and joined them. They redefined what is considered violent crime to include things that may not have been included previously and expanded that to include possession of fire arms by convicted felons, armed drug traffickers, robberies, home invasions, gang related activity, and threats of violence. She said this is not a quick fix, it will take time. Sargent Daniel Burnett from the Intelligence Unit provided an overview of what his team's role is in Project Safe Neighborhood. He spoke about initiatives taking place, behind the scenes work being done, and developing strategies. Sargent Todd Phillips spoke on gang violence and crime.

A motion was made by CM Lamb to add more time to presentation, seconded by CM Plomin and there was no objection.

CM Henson said she has an area in her district where there has been a great deal of effort put forward for the children and trying to save them. She said people deserve a safe place to live. Phillips said when you talk about youth and people who go after our youth to do their bidding; it is a big focus of this initiative. He said there are bullies in the community and they push kids to do things they should not be doing. He said the collaborative effort will hopefully get those folks in a place where they do not affect the youth and youth have places to go for assistance to move on.

CM Plomin commented on the identification of folks that are out there that are high risk and coming back with a profile. She asked if there have been any success stories. Burnett said one thing they have seen is that people age out of it. CM Plomin asked how many gangs have been identified in this city. Phillips said for issues of protection, they do not get into the discussion of the number of gangs or gang members. He said there are mainstreams and localized gangs in the area. He said gangs have been around for a very long time and this is not new. He said there is a misunderstanding about what that really means and what the face of gang members is. He said without crossing lines for investigative purposes, there are a number of different types of gangs in the community.

CM J. Brown asked who is leading the initiative and Red Corn said United States' attorney, Jeff Sessions, put upon all US attorneys to provide their federal resources to local and state law enforcement to help reduce violent crime. She said these groups came together to form Project Safe Neighborhood and it is a collaborative effort. CM J. Brown asked about federal funding for the initiative. Red Corn said there is no funding; there might be grants available, but we have not applied for any of those. She said the resources we are using are the current resources that all of these agencies have. CM J. Brown asked Public Safety if the two sergeants are dedicated to this initiative

or if there are other commitments we need to make to ensure it is successful. Lawrence Weathers, Chief of Police, said our commitment is 100% and the two sergeants are committed to what they do. He said whatever resources we have and whatever we can provide to be part of this collaborative effort, we will do. He said if we have to look for a grant, we will do that.

CM Evans commented on whether it is more locals or people coming into the area, ratio-wise, in the last five years. She asked if they could provide a percentage or a ratio that shows this. She asked if they have seen a pattern or growth. Phillips said the best way to answer that is to stay away from numbers because that is ever-changing. He said it depends on arrests, family movements, or things that go on naturally. He said this will be an ongoing thing that the Police Department will have to look at and address because it will change. CM Evans asked if they are keeping track of crimes that have been solved and they have numbers for statistical purposes to show how many crimes are being solved. Phillips said any statistical numbers that Council would want would be best to be dated and through the Chief of Police. He said they are improving on a daily basis how they share information on the front lines of the patrol staff who respond to activity to investigators. He said it is coordination between departments that shows the connection between people. He said efforts are being driven very actively to get information to the right people so we can affect things the right way. CM Evans said this will encourage neighbors to report things they see.

CM Henson said she used to see a lot of graffiti and over the last few years, it has diminished considerably. She asked if gangs have found another means of communication like social media. Phillips said yes, the Sheriff's office has had a graffiti cleanup crew for a number of years and they work hard to keep it cleaned up. He said gangs used to communicate through graffiti or face-to-face and now a lot of it is done on social media which makes it difficult for law enforcement to see messages.

CM Mossotti said we have always had a collaborative effort and Red Corn said yes, but not to this extent. CM Mossotti asked if gun violence or increase in opiates has been the impetus for this. Red Corn said there a sense of increased violence and people are concerned.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

### **III. One Lexington Update**

Laura Hatfield, Director of One Lexington, presented the item. She said the mission of One Lexington is too coordinate, leverage, and mobilize city government and community resources to enhance the safety and quality of life in Lexington. She said this plan was developed using a lot of research. She said she received responses to a survey she conducted that shows the top categories for services needed would be for youth, low income families, and seniors. She reviewed the One Lexington Neighborhood PIER Team whose purpose is to inspire a generation of youth and young adults to see a positive future for themselves. The PIER Strategy includes Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Re-entry. She discussed the One Lexington Engagement Team which includes 30 or more partners who serve neighborhoods. She said they took all the information to determine strengths and weaknesses to develop strategies to address youth violence. She reviewed the progress report of the teams and discussed the next steps moving forward.

CM J. Brown thanked Hatfield and her team for the presentation. He said he has been supportive of this initiative from the start. He said the SAP and the investment this Council has made in the Winburn community are perfect springboards for us to use to start work in neighborhoods. He said the template Hatfield is building can be used throughout the city to do this work and empower neighbors to advocate for a way to develop and be part of programs that will enhance the safety and quality of their community.

CM Lamb said she appreciates the presentation. She said this is a good focus and we do need to drill down into neighborhoods. She said we are identifying what we need to do and finding ways to handle things and do more. She mentioned [lexgiveback.org](http://lexgiveback.org) which is the Compassionate Lexington Campaign April 22-28. She said this does not end on April 28, it will continue and this is a way to get people involved from all over the city. She suggested that

One Lexington use this web site as a tool for service projects moving forward. Hatfield said they have an event on April 28 and it is because of this. CM Lamb said it is important that we use all of the resources available and she supports this.

CM Worley thanked Hatfield for the presentation and he said this is a great opportunity and template. He said our neighborhoods are unique, but their problems are similar.

CM F. Brown said this is a step in the right direction and he would like feedback on this to see how it is working. He said an SAP was done in his district and those would be good to supply One Lexington with. He said this can go throughout the community and he wants to be in line. Hatfield said it is good to know that partnerships are already assembled so we need to look at how to develop a maintenance plan for some of these neighborhoods and then move on to others.

CM Henson expressed appreciation for the work Hatfield has done. She said they have put several things for kids in place in Cardinal Valley and there is strength in numbers when you bring people together. Hatfield said the real success in this work is the partners involved. She wants to make sure we are doing this with our neighbors and not for our neighbors. CM Henson said the neighborhood cleanups and other neighborhood events bring people together and she appreciates the work being done.

CM Plomin said she is excited about this program. She asked if there are defined measurements for reaching goals. Hatfield said each of the different teams have goals that they work toward. She said collectively we do not have that, but it is something we are working on.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

#### **IV. Sign Ordinance Amendments Overview**

Commissioner Paulsen presented the item. He gave an overview of the sign ordinance and the content neutrality issue. He said the sign ordinance workgroup is made up of representatives from Planning, Building Inspection, and Law. He reviewed the proposed amendments and discussed the next steps which include a recommendation that Council initiate a text amendment for Planning Commission consideration.

CM Lamb asked what is meant by Planning Commission having a limited time to review. Jim Duncan, Director of Planning, said if Council initiates Text Amendment, Planning Commission has 60 days to consider it and return it to Council. There would be a public hearing and comments would be included in a final report. CM Lamb asked if the 60-day timeframe is set by state law and Duncan said it is state statute. CM Lamb asked if this would be vetted further. Duncan said if Council initiates the text amendment, there would be a public hearing with Planning Commission and citizens could comment and Planning Commission could make recommendations to the text presented to them. He said at that point, there is no time limit; council can consider this as long as they need to. He said they are concerned about the content part of this and that is why they are moving at the pace they are. He said they do not want this to drag it out too long because we need to address the content portion of this in a reasonable timeframe. CM Lamb asked if the Content Neutrality issue provided a timeframe. Tracy Jones with the Department of Law said there is no timeframe and there is not a specific complaint against our ordinance, but they are trying to be compliant with the Supreme Court Case.

VM Kay asked about the email from Fayette County Neighborhood Council and if there was a response to that. He said if there are concerns about the current draft, he would not feel comfortable moving it forward until those have been discussed. Paulsen said his division has not had time to read it or discuss it yet. He said they are not trying to make any decisions until they can get everyone together again. VM Kay asked if the increase in size of signage and lighting issues as opposed to content. Paulsen said there has not been enough time to read it to respond as he just saw the e-mail yesterday afternoon. VM Kay asked if it would be a problem to hold this up for another month to get specifics on size and lighting. Paulsen said the only urgent timing issue is the unknown about the content. He said there would not be any hang-ups if they came back in a month.

CM Worley said the issues have been discussed and they would be addressed throughout the process.

A motion was made by CM Worley to approve the Sign Ordinance Amendments item, initiating a text amendment, to bring forward to the full council, seconded by CM Plomin; the motion was withdrawn after some discussion.

CM Lamb said she wants to make sure we are addressing the concerns of the Fayette County Neighborhood Council and they are notified when this will be brought forward to the Planning Commission before she can support the motion. Paulsen said they will be properly notified.

CM Plomin said the size increase is really dramatic. She said many of them have more than doubled in size and that is a significant increase. Paulsen said percentages are not his favorite thing and an increase from 1 to 3 is a dramatic increase in percentage. He said the sign ordinance is not written in percentages; it is written in linear sizes. He said he is not sure the increase would be as dramatic size-wise. He said he would like to be able to look at that and respond to it. He said this is the beginning of the process and the letter received will be taken into consideration as well as other concerns. He said it might help to speed some conversations along if we can get it to the next stage, but it will not bypass public conversation.

VM Kay expressed concerns about moving it forward and the motion that has been proposed. He said it is really based on not wanting us to send something to Planning Commission where we might have notions about something that should not be in there. He said the Planning Commission will have the opportunity to have a public hearing regardless of what we send them and people will have a chance for input. He said he would us to send as considered a proposal to them as possible rather than having some questions that have been raised and not addressed. He said given that another month would not materially affect the issue, he would not be in favor of the motion.

CM Worley said this is not a pressing issue and if some councilmembers are more comfortable waiting a month, we can do that. He said his office has reached out to the Fayette County Neighborhood Council and he understands the concerns, but he is ready to move forward. He said he will withdraw the motion and continue this for a month, but he would like to encourage his fellow colleagues to help pick up some of the lift on dealing with the concerns because this is ready to go and we are causing some inevitable delay. He made a motion to withdraw his previous motion.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

#### **V. Subcommittee on Planning Commission Appointments and Member Attendance**

CM Bledsoe presented the item. She provided an overview that included a background, notes, and summaries from each meeting. She said this subcommittee was originally tasked with reviewing the Planning Commission membership and the scope was amended to include a review of the Board of Adjustments (BOA) as well as the Rural Land Management Board (RLMB). She talked about the subcommittee members as well meeting dates. She discussed the legal parameters and said that they reached out to the Attorney General for a second opinion, but have not received that yet. She said after lengthy discussions, they came to two themes; part of these affect the RLMB and part come under the Planning Commission BOA. She said the goal is to strengthen the boards, adding transparency and diversity. Throughout the process, they received guidance from the Law Department. She said throughout this process they came up with recommendations for the confirmation of committees and appointments to bring to the Council Rules and Procedures Subcommittee for a one-body piece of legislation. She said the recommendations for the RLMB would be passed on to the RLMB for consideration and come back to this committee with a joint ordinance change.

VM Kay made a motion to provide more time to the presentation, CM Lamb seconded and there was no objection.

CM Moloney expressed concern about having no councilmembers on the board and he asked why that is. CM Bledsoe said it is important to make little changes to the overall board. Frank Penn, with the RLMB, said he was

one of the original incorporators of the PDR program. He said they never imagined that the PDR program would become political. He said this is about land, not who owns it; and it is about the soil quality. He said the purpose was to select 50,000 acres out of 113,000 acres and it would be there to preserve what makes Lexington unique. He said it is difficult to get 22 people to agree, but they all agreed it did not need to be political and that is why no councilmember was put on it. CM Moloney said it would be nice in a Link meeting to have a councilmember who is knowledgeable about the board. He said he is big on diversity and the numbers he has seen do not show much diversity on this board.

CM Bledsoe said they did look at diversity on these boards and they asked about the background on the RLMB and according to their research there has never been a person of color on the RLMB. She said she does not think this was intentional. She said one of the reasons they thought about adding the neighborhood leaders to this group was to have more intentional diversity of thought and background on this.

CM Plomin said she does not remember RLMB being part of the conversation on this item. She said the purpose of the RLMB is tasked with requiring expertise and interest in rural and natural land; preservation and conservation; and agriculture and finance. She said the RLMB is not best served by people who do not know what the rural area is about. She said we should have someone from RLMB on Planning Commission for continuity and she is opposed to changes.

CM Lamb said she appreciates this and it is important to review and see where changes can be made. She has no problem with changes suggested today. She said an easy solution to this would be to carbon copy the Council on letters that go out and she suggested that the Mayor's office ask for more diversity when requesting nominations. She said the RLMB had an ordinance subcommittee that reported out in February 2017 and they did not recommend changes to the makeup of the board. She said she does not want to make the RLMB political. She said the proper place for this to be reviewed is with the RLMB and she is happy to take the ideas to the Council Rules and Procedures subcommittee.

CM Stinnett asked if the Mayor can only pick from a list of recommendations and he asked what the intent of this is. He asked if the Mayor just has to accept the recommendations or if there is any flexibility. CM Bledsoe said the Mayor can pick from the names submitted and Council has no influence. She said the goal of the subcommittee is to raise the concerns and the thought to add neighborhood leaders was to give Council more influence on recommendations to that board. CM Stinnett asked why we would not have a representative from Keeneland instead of two from Thoroughbred Association since Keeneland is our biggest asset in rural land presently. CM Bledsoe said they were not on the original membership list and the goal was to not alter the original membership list from entities.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

## **VI. Items Referred to Committee**

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by CM Plomin to adjourn, seconded by VM Kay, the motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

KT 5.7.2018