



Planning and Public Safety Committee Meeting

March 10, 2020

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Mossotti called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, James Brown, Josh McCurn, Susan Lamb, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin were in attendance. Council Member Worley was absent. Council Members Angela Evans, Fred Brown, Steve Kay, Richard Moloney, and Bill Farmer were in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of February 18, 2020 Committee Summary

A motion was made by Bledsoe to approve the February 18, 2020 Planning and Public Safety Committee Summary, seconded by Ellinger, the motion passed without dissent.

II. Five Year Public Safety Plan - Police

Lawrence Weathers, Chief of Police, presented the Five Year Public Safety Plan for Police, beginning with a review of the 2019 year-end statistics and the personnel hiring process which takes 4-6 months to complete as well as a 30-35 week training academy. He listed some of the staffing challenges including retirements, length of hiring process, etc. He reviewed the capital forecast for the next 5 years including fleet replacements, cameras, vests, and a mobile crime lab. He described some of the personnel requests including civilian employees, sworn officers, and a victim advocate. He spoke about the possibility of starting a 4th sector which would require 64 officers and 16 supervisors.

J. Brown asked if the Bureau of Investigation will need to be increased by 22 sworn officers within the next five years and Weathers said that is correct. J. Brown asked if we should be thinking of a new headquarters for Division of Police in the next 5 years. Weathers said currently we are crowded, but it is possible to remodel and shift people around.

Plomin asked if we looked at attrition rates and the lengthy hiring process. Weathers said the types of training provided are important he believes the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond reduced their training to 20 weeks, but now they are looking at adding some things back. He said the training could be shortened, but it would sacrifice the quality of training provided. Plomin asked if training programs are as intense in other cities and Weathers said we get a good caliber of officers who complete this program, but we aren't way over the mark on it.

Bledsoe asked if we are getting a diversified and qualified pool of candidates and Weathers said the recruiting is focused on diversity and there are special outreach programs utilized. Bledsoe asked about the record management system and Weathers said there have been hurdles, but we are working through those and we expect to have it up this year. Bledsoe asked if the 4th sector could be implemented over the next 4 years or if we could break this up to prevent a 4th sector. Weathers explained that they anticipate this would be a gradual implementation to increase officers. He added that if a 4th sector is needed, we can pull from those officers so we don't have to hire new ones.

Reynolds asked how many sworn officers in the next 5 years will be neighborhood resource officers and Weathers said it is difficult to say because it is based on the needs of the community. She asked if there is a goal for the number of sworn officers to be added per year and Weathers said it is based on the census and the particular needs.

McCurn asked how much money is put into updating vehicle technology rather than replacing vehicles. Weathers said some of them are so old, you can't update the technology and sometimes you can only supplement by bringing something in that is close to it. He said the mobile crime lab probably needs to be updated the most. Weathers said when we look at spending money on a vehicle with technology they take into consideration that this will last for a while. McCurn asked what the normal vehicle retirement would be and Weathers said it is about 120,000 miles. McCurn asked how many vehicles are replaced annually and Weathers said he was not sure but whatever allotment they get for these is spent and this year it was 40. McCurn expressed his support of a gradual build-up of the force.

F Brown asked if they have 2 classes per year in the budget. Weathers said we are back to 1 that includes 25-35 officers which F Brown said does not sustain the retirements. He referenced the personnel requests and said the numbers under Bureau of Patrol including 45 sworn officers and 6 sergeants could fit into a fourth sector plan and asked if these are being added to the three sectors. Weathers confirmed that they are being added to the three sectors we have now. F Brown said he is supportive of a 4th sector and it is time we have a plan of action. Weathers agreed and said we have to consider where to put a 4th sector with all of the growth taking place.

Lamb asked about the difference in authorized strength from 2019 to 2020 and she questioned if the current number would be possible if we did not have our own training. Weathers said that is a fair and accurate statement. He said if we were not able to have our own training academy, the process would take much longer. Lamb said she appreciates how the training academy's model reflects our own community and addresses specific community concerns.

Evans asked which is more important between less mileage and technology upgrades. Weathers said with more miles comes longer repair times and he would rather have officers in a vehicle using current technology. Evans asked about the 4th sector and Weathers said an increase in officers will eventually require a 4th sector to house additional officers.

Moloney expressed appreciation in waiting for the census tract numbers to be calculated before moving forward because depending on those numbers, there may be grants available to help with costs included in the five year plan. He expressed concern about the budget and the requests included in the plan as there are significant costs associated.

Kay said we have a good force in place that relates to the community and understands the appropriate role of policing. He asked what the pros and cons are for implementing a 4th sector. Weathers said the con is the cost for equipment and buildings. He said regardless of the money we receive, we still have to protect our city so regardless whether we have a 4th sector, our goal will be to provide the best service we can. Kay asked Weathers to expand on why it would cost more to have a 4th sector than to add the personnel and Weathers said it would also include the cost for a facility and equipment which is why we would want to have a gradual approach. Kay referred to census and asked if there are rules regarding population and the appropriate size of the police force. Weathers said in the past, we plugged in numbers to determine where to place officers. Now we have to take other factors into consideration and these factors dictate where to place officers. Kay asked if it makes a difference if we add population but do not expand the geographic area. Weathers said it does make a difference and as the population increases, more officers will be needed.

Mossotti spoke about lateral transfers from another town and having to start over from scratch here and potential recruits not wanting to go through the academy again. Weathers said that other agencies have tried lateral transfers and sometimes it works, but sometimes we end up with a "problem" transferring in. He said it is difficult, but when we recruit we try to sell the city.

III. Special Event Planning

Heather Lyons, Director of Arts & Cultural Affairs, presented the *Special Event Planning* item. She addressed the special events in the city and said the information for community was outdated. She explained that the guidelines were minimal and there was a lack of consistency throughout the process which created difficulties among groups. She said it was critical to have input from stakeholders who reviewed planning guides from comparable cities to determine alternatives for addressing planning events. She said the result of their work is a special events planning guide and a map of the courthouse plaza. She said there is a private property notification form as well as a new application. She also said the web site has been updated with helpful links that will serve as a guide for planning a special event. She reviewed the application form and how it helps other divisions to know more about the event and what is needed. She reviewed the event planning guide and a new \$50 special event fee. She reviewed the types of events as well as the event venues and a step-by-step application process. She said we reviewed the city support services and various divisions that provide support during events. She noted that other things were considered including accessibility, amenities, animals, fees, etc. Lyons also said they looked at other types of events such as block parties, carnivals, fireworks and events held on private property.

Reynolds expressed appreciation for streamlining the process. She asked where we are with festival space at courthouse plaza and Lyons said the courthouse plaza was not designed to have festivals with 10,000 people, food trucks, and vendors. She said they have been meeting to discuss options for additional space for these events.

Lamb asked if the guide would be approved with Ordinance or CAO Policy that would provide more enforcement. She asked if there are specific prohibited activities that will be added and how they would be determined. Lyons said the committee agreed on the prohibited activities and these had been identified by Division of Parks and Recreation. Lamb asked if there is a rate calculator based on the size and the numbers of hours for an event because people don't always understand all of the various costs involved. Lyons said this was a really big issue because an event can add up to be thousands of dollars. She explained that in the guide, there are rates for police officers, street closures, and personnel required for events that are of a certain size and it will provide a better understanding of the actual cost to event organizers. Lamb asked if there is a timeline and Lyons said they are asked to submit the application 12 weeks in advance.

Evans spoke about requirements such as accessibility and asked if there is a plan to make those official through an ordinance. Lyons said she started off by communicating this issue with event organizers and said, as a city, we need to identify how this will work depending on each venue. Evans asked if there is a calendar of events. Lyons said the city calendar of events includes those that are city sponsored, but we want to include other events so when an event organizer looks at the calendar they can see if something else is taking place on a certain date.

J. Brown said the \$50 fee is not much and he asked if we considered requiring a deposit of a larger

amount. Lyons said in the past there was a deposit required but it led to confusion and she did not want this to be prohibitive for smaller events.

IV. Commercial Quadricycles

Clayton Roberts, Lieutenant with Lexington Police Department, began the presentation with a brief background on quadricycles, pointing out that the legislation was enacted in 2016. He explained the Authorized Public Consumption (APC) license in conjunction with the quadricycle license which allows persons to consume alcoholic beverages outside the establishment and as a result, the quadricycle becomes the establishment. He described the definition and requirements for a quadricycle and the requirement of “human muscular power exclusively”. He explained that there is a senate bill currently being reviewed that is trying to change this language which would allow operators to have a motor in addition to pedal power. He noted that the ordinance outlines requirements such as hours of operation, licensing, insurance requirements, safety standards, routes, etc. He added that if the operator allows consumption, there are guidelines that must be followed.

Kay asked for Sally Lambert-Warfield to provide a history of this item which had previously been placed in committee. She explained that CM Gibbs chose not to move forward with this item because all of the quadricycles in Fayette County had a motor attached and did not meet the state’s definition of a quadricycle.

Mike Sanner, with Law Department, spoke on the ordinance regarding the APC license and the quadricycle license. He said in order to have the APC license, a fee must be charged so we had to amend our ordinance to allow that fee to be charged which is \$250 per year per quadricycle. He spoke about item (i) under section 7 that stipulates a quadricycle cannot be motorized and he said Senate Bill 259 is seeking to amend that language and remove the requirement that it be powered by human muscular power only. He suggested that if this moves forward, item (i) be removed so if state law passes, the ordinance will not have to be amended.

A motion was made by McCurn to approve the *Commercial Quadricycles* item and report it to the full council, seconded by Jennifer Reynolds. The motion passed without dissent (as amended).

Lamb asked if this is the same route that is being used without alcohol consumption. Sanner explained that each quadricycle company has to submit their routes, but the travel routes cannot go outside the area that is laid out in section 2. Lamb asked if these are routes currently being used and Sanner said he was not sure. McCurn said the quadricycles have been in operation since 2015 and he said the proposed routes have been expanded to include other venues so it would not prohibit customers from being able to go to there.

A motion was made by Bledsoe to amend *Commercial Quadricycles* item, removing item (i) under Section 7, seconded by Jennifer Reynolds. The motion passed without dissent.

Lamb asked if there is a map that shows the specific routes and Sanner said the routes are outlined in Section 3 on page 80 in the packet. Lamb said she is concerned that this does not outline the specific route and she asked that before this gets reported out, a map is provided that will show the specific routes. Sanner added that specific routes have to be submitted by the quadricycle company and approved by the administrator so we do not decide the specific routes, just the area they need to be in. Lamb said when these vehicles are on the road, they take up one of the lanes and she asked if there

have been any problems with traffic or other concerns. Roberts said they have not had any so far and he added that these operate similar to bicycles or other slow moving vehicles and there are loading and unloading guidelines.

Kay asked about the ability to alter the route when the ordinance indicates that the route must be specified and approved. Sanner explained that you can specify a large route, but not take the entire route. Kay said this would mean that the route would include all of the streets within a given boundary and from that, there could be no deviation. Sanner said you would not necessarily have to use all of the streets, but you could not go outside the set boundary.

V. Items Referred to Committee

A motion by Plomin to remove the *Digital Billboards* item from committee, the motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion by Plomin to adjourn, seconded by Bledsoe, the motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

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