



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

10/30/2014

Public Safety Committee

October 30, 2014

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors David Hartnett (DH) (chair); Jane Knodell (JK); Selene Coburn (SC);

Staff/Others: Richard Haesler (RH), CA's Office; Deputy Chief Jan Wright (JW), Police Department; Susan Leonard (SLe), Human Resources; Chief Seth Lasker (SLa) Fire Department; William Ward (WW), Code; Rob Greene (RG), Public Works; Derek Roche (DR) Parks; Julie Hathaway (JH), Burlington Board of Health

6:09 p.m.- Call to Order

I. Approve Agenda and Minutes

Agenda approved on SC's Motion

Minutes: 9/23/14 minutes approved on JK's Motion

II. Public Forum

There were no speakers at public forum.

III. Discussion re City Department's policy and protocol re needle disposal/workplace





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(JK) provides summary of the Committees overall focus

3 prongs –

1..Educating the Public – partnering with the Board of Health

2..Where to Dispose of Needles – see Subcommittee – report is being prepared

3. City Employees – policies

So this is the third prong.

(SLE) Human Resources Department has reached out re Blood-born pathogen training

BED, Police and Fire all have the requisite training built into their protocols

Parks and DWP have been evolving re issues of having encountered sharps – developing protocols and confirming w HR that there is an OSHA template to work from as they adopt written standards.

This in turn has brought about review to assure OSHA compliance city wide

Example – DPW maintains the parking garages. There have been findings at parking garages. Need written protocol. But understand that there is a security company employed by the City – private – with its own protocols – which makes most of the findings.

(DR) Parks Update

Kids – Afterschool and camp classes

All the programs have a safety plan.





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Seasonal employees do not handle the sharps – instructed to contact full time employee

Fulltime employees are all trained

Kids are moved immediately from any safety problem presented – see Beaches

Instructed in how to secure a site for safe play.

(SLe) Note – Green Mountain Safety contracts with a variety of City departments to help ensure OSHA compliance

(DH) And what about when needle is discovered after hours?

(WW) We are advancing the process – See-Click-Fix will now reference that if you are calling after hours or on the weekend and are concerned that the needle is in a place that poses a risk to public safety then you should call the 658-2700 number at the police department and dispatch there is being trained to field those calls appropriately.

(JW) And we are still advancing plans for educating the public around risk

(Sla) Fire Department – probably the most heavily regulated and trained around how to handle needles – but probably one of the least likely to encounter improperly disposed needles in the course of ordinary business.

(RG) DPW now has sharps containers in all vehicles

(SC) So we are looking at disposal options. First, we are trying to advance a dialogue with the State Lab where they might be willing to accept those we collect.

(WW) Also continuing the partnership with Safe Recovery (See-Click-Fix) – by this partnership the public safety issues re community have been far fewer – they now appear to be capturing all the them – and with the new police protocol we believe that an effective safety net is in place.

(SC) Important side comment – Safe Recovery is largely grant funded. They have been extraordinary and we cannot take their help for granted. The City needs to do what it can to help ensure continued viability of Safe Recovery programs.





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(WW) Finally we want to encourage positive messaging re public education generally – safe ways to protect ourselves and others.

(DH) So I'm hearing (a) Parking Garages; (b) Beaches, and (c) Parks – all need support as areas for assuring public safety around improperly disposed needles. Would welcome thoughts on how to address?

(SC) Well, recommendations coming out of the needle disposal subcommittee – report adopted earlier today. This might allow us to transition to next agenda item

IV. Report from Needle Disposal Subcommittee

(SC) One of the big issues was whether the City should be setting up drop boxes for needle disposal and if so, how many, where and what kind?

-used See-Click-Fix data covering a twelve month period – then Bill Ward generated a heat map to illustrate areas of high incident report and identified hot spots

-also looked at studies and outcomes from other municipalities and other states; and in the end made recommendation which can be summarized as follows:

1..Continue the City's relationship with Safe Recovery;

2..Establish Pilot Project for drop boxes at 3 to 6 location – with both inside and outside locations (potential sites to include; Parks, Library, Parking Garages; City Hall and potential Community partnering sites.

Note - studies show that drop boxes reduce the number of found needles in the surrounding community; see also antidotes from Tom Dalton re realities and myths that are in place around needles

Note – not looking for any regulation of outside employers but rather education and buy in





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Note – We saw no other municipalities going it alone on this – rather there are typically state-wide or regional efforts; e.g. counties. However, there does not seem to be significant motivation to act coming from State Department of Health – we can however also look to partner with others; e.g. pharmacies; charities, etcetera. And there is the potential partnering with the State Lab.

See also our own Board of Health; and we found local United Way looking to possibly offer some funding assistance.

(DH) Much thanks. We will review the report and look to incorporate findings into our recommendations back to council.

V..Other Business

(DH) Next meeting 11/18 from 6 to 7:30 – agenda will consist of:

1. Subcommittee Report Review
2. Resolution for Council Recommendation
3. Local Motion intro of issue – Next Stage re Multi –Modal

VI .. Adjournment

(JK) Moves to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:23