



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 9/22/2016

Public Safety Committee

9/22/16

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Sara Giannoni (SG) (chair); David Hartnett (DH) [arrived at 5:56 p.m.]

Additional City Staff: Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office; Chief Brandon del Pozo (BdP), BPD

Others: Lynn Martin of LCMHC; Jackie Leman – Howard Ctr, Support Worker; Colleen Lee – Cathedral Square; Kathleen Titus – Cathedral Square; Janet Green – Burlington Housing Authority; Neil Metzler – Howard Ctr; Matt Young – Howard Ctr; Michael Monte – Champlain Housing Trust

At 5:43 p.m. Chair Giannoni commenced the meeting by inviting public comment relative to item on the agenda (Acute Crisis Response – community Impacts) until Councilor Hartnett arrived (at 5:58 p.m.) the meeting which establish a quorum and allowed for the commencement of committee business.

1. **Agenda:** motion to adopt by DH, second by SG – passes.

1. **Approval of minutes of 6/29/16:** Motion to Adopt by DH; Second by SG - passes

1. **Public Forum:** members of the public as listed all spoke as part of the discussion group described below.

1. **Committee Discussion re Public safety and Mental Health:**

Acute Crisis Response – this and other scenarios with community impacts:

SG: Follow up to community concerns raised in the aftermath of the death of Phillip Grenon. Questions whether the



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community can come together to assure proper sensitivity to mental health issues particularly in situation where escalation/crisis can be foreseen. We have invited you all as parts of the community support system via services/housing/response for the mentally ill.

- Lynn Martin spoke as the individual who placed the call to the police that night. She is a licensed mental health clinician and she watched Mr. Grenon escalate over weeks, culminating in the tragedy that night and believes it was not handled well. Does not blame the police. Sees it as a failure on the part of the service providers.
- Chief Del Pozo walks the group through the police response that night. Describes efforts to make change going forward. Sights problems with getting acute cases hospitalized.
- Discussion then went around the room – desire to assure mental health support is present when known mentally health care patient is confronted with eviction in the future. Evictions take a significant period of time to transpire and there should be procedures that can be followed to head off potential crisis.

SG to draft summary and circulate to committee members for comment prior to next meeting.

1. **Other Business**

Next meeting – October. Special meeting on Opiates. SC to identify the date based on speaker availability.

1. **Adjournment**

DH Motion. SC seconds. Passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.