



# **BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

## **7/15/2015**

Public Safety Committee

July 15, 2015

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Sara Giannoni (SG) (chair); David Hartnett (DH); Selene Coburn (SC);

Staff: Richard Haesler (RH), CA's Office; Bill Ward (BW), Director of Code Enforcement

7:09 p.m.- Call to Order

### **I. Approve Agenda**

Agenda approved on SC's Motion

### **II. Approve Minutes**

Minutes: 11/18/14 minutes approved on DH's Motion

### **II. Public Forum**

1. Ken Peterson – concerns: North Avenue corridor/2 year program for safety and still the accidents continue. Speeding \* and Signage \* (Stop signs on Side Streets – See Laredo and Cayers Grove) Need enforcement.



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1. Martha Molpus – concerns: Heineberg Senior Housing update re NPA; Major concern w local breakins; difficulties in crossing North Ave – particularly at St. Marks – in the time allotted; Soils at Leddy Park

Note – Jim Holway comments that effective ways to get information from Police are thru the website updates and via the NIXLE app.

Note – (DH) comments that the new Chief indicates strong commitment to community policing – priority

1. Jason L'Ecuyer – concerns: Leddy Park soils and the summer time trend of car break ins and how to prep around that.

Note – Jim Holway briefs generally on the history of how and why the contaminated soil piles in Leddy Park came to be – mis-statements and mi-information around same

Note – (RH) as Assistant City Attorney – supplements this overview. Indicates DEC and the City have been working cooperatively and will be issuing a joint statement to correct errors in perception. Jesse Bridges, Parks Director, to make himself available to address public concerns.

1. Sandra Gazo – concerns: There needs to be a longer time allotted for pedestrian crossing along North Ave. – Seniors are having trouble with time allotted; Sidewalk conditions – check Wildwood

Note- (DH) indicates priority given to reports effecting Senior and Disabled

Note (BW) references that See-Click-Fix is highly effective for redress of problems – a photographic posting showing a true problem will get addressed.

1. Jim Holway – concerns: Farrington Park and the number of complaints coming out of there – crime reports are made nothing is done to address – prostitution, drugs, beatings, etc.
1. Julie Hathaway – concerns: did not come to complain but wanted to thank committee for all its efforts and in particular is here for the needle disposal program update as she work w the committee last year on the needle issues as a Board of Health member.



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1. Mary Hart – concern: Billings Court vacant building concerns; the robberies in the New North End

Note- (BW) explains process re City policy on vacant buildings

Discussion re drug treatment policy/issues/funding re the underlying issue behind the robberies

Note – Julie Hathaway raises concern raised last year re whether Safe Recovery will continue to receive the grant funding needed to provide its services.

Note – (SC) provides update that small grant continue (including from the City) – but they are still waiting to hear on the large grant funds

#### **IV. (a) Update on Needle Disposal**

(BW) provides update – Getting the City Departments on Message – everyone needs to be on board – cannot be inconsistent messaging to the public – both in terms of communication and response – nearly there – training almost complete – anecdotally – reports of fewer needles this year.

(SC) that needs to be corroborated by data from Safe Recovery though.

(BW) We have 24 See-Click-Fix incidents w 2/10 of a day to a day average time to reply to notice and average 4/10 of a day as the documented average recovery time – highlights the value of partnership w Safe Recovery

(BW) demonstrate needle recovery drop boxes to be deployed. Anticipates support from Vermont Department of Health and Safe Recovery for disposal of contents.

(SC) How many and where will they be located?





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(BW) 3 to 6 boxes, and we are examining the data to ascertain optimal location – patterns have changed over the last year.

(SC) Timeframe for the selection process?

(BW) Believe end of the month there can be a draft proposal.

Note: City Departments will still need to coordinate w HR; but there are new ideas re Behind the Main Street Courthouse – which has become a kind of illicit use area; as well as Parking Garages.

#### **IV. (b) MULTI-Modal Update**

(SG) Scheduled to meet with Emily Bodeker from Local Motion on Thursday – so we will set that over for further update next month.

(SC) Please remind all interested parties involved in decision points/ focus plans that equal attention be paid to pedestrian concerns.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

(DH) Note: Last neighborhood concern – Drag racing occurring around the Flynn School area has resumed again and there needs to be an increased police presence.

Note: Discussion among Committee members re some quick fix solutions to some of the concerns raised at the meeting – members to reach out and report back next meeting.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. on (DH) motion - (SC) second.





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