

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2006

1:00 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Jack Donovan, Chair
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Member
Commissioner Rick Bryant, Member/Alternate*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Donovan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Jack Donovan and Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Absent: Rick Bryant

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Donovan and Commissioner Mastrodicasa adopted the agenda as presented.

060498. Approval of the Minutes (B)

Commissioner Donovan and Commissioner Mastrodicasa approved the minutes, with no changes.

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the August 17, 2006 meeting as presented.*

Approved as Recommended

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

060483. Single Family Neighborhood Issues - Yard Parking Enforcement (B)

This item is related to file #050635 and #060255, Over-Occupancy in Single Family Neighborhoods.

Chief Botsford spoke to the yard parking enforcement memo provided as back up. Since the August PSC meeting, his staff met with Code Enforcement, and while GPD is enthusiastic about assisting Codes with enforcement, he advised that there are some issues to address. Captain Van Winkle explained that there are some technicalities in the software (Permits Plus) that Code Enforcement uses to access the parking maps. The cost to obtain ten additional licenses for GPD officers is approximately \$34,000. Another consideration is that Computer Services has advised staff that there is a possibility the city will be dumping this program in the next six months for something else.

Cpt. Van Winkle indicated that the current noise warning forms that GPD uses can be reprinted to include a check off box for parking violations. Because the nuances of yard parking enforcement are very detailed (officers must know if the area is in the context or designated parking area , as well as specifics of restrictions based on the

maps the tenant presented), it would require patrol officers, some detectives and administrative personnel to attend at least a one hour block of training.

GPD and Codes is recommending a delay to see where the software program goes, but in the meantime GPD can work with Codes, can have the forms changed and training can begin as soon as the schedules allow.

Cpt. Van Winkle advised that if GPD observes a violation they can still pass that information onto Code Enforcement, after the fact, based on that observation.

Jim Garret, Code Enforcement Manager entered the meeting, and added that a new software program has already been put out in an RFP. He advised that if GPD officers respond to a loud party call and are unsure if that particular neighborhood falls within the context or yard parking area, they can still note the yard parking perceived violation in the report and Codes can later advise them as to whether it falls within that restricted area. The specific process will still need some refining, but both departments feel comfortable they could work that out.

Citizen Jimmy Harnsberger expressed his pleasure with this effort and added that this enforcement by GPD may even lead to instances where houses are discovered not having the required landlord permits for Codes to follow up on.

Commissioner Donovan asked if the officer training could be conducted any earlier than the 4-6 months as indicated in the report. Chief Botsford advised they would work on it and perhaps incorporate that training in shift briefings.

The committee agreed that this item should be reported out as a PSC consent item, noting staff's recommendation that they can move forward on the training of officers, creation of the forms, and a process to communicate violations to Code Enforcement by police officers.

Mr. David Chalmers expressed his appreciation to the District 3 Community Resource Officer (Ofc. Wallace-Giles) and Code Enforcement Officer (Mike Wohl) who provided quick response to a student rental home that was causing the Golfview neighborhood some problems. The two were able to communicate with the students while educating them on the city's regulations.

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee receive staff's report and take any necessary action.*

Discussed

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060276. Funding Sources for Police Services Downtown (NB)

Neither one of the Commissioners had a good recollection of the exact nature of this referral to the Public Safety Committee, however, did believe it came up at the end of the July 18, 2006 general budget discussions. It may have been related to the discussion about the CRA discontinuing funding of the downtown unit after this year.

The staff liaison will obtain a copy of the July 18th budget meeting for clarification. This item will be continued to the October PSC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee begin discussions on this pending referral and determine appropriate action for reporting this item out to the City Commission.*

Continued

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Mastrodicasa mentioned that the City of Tampa has requested an Attorney General opinion on drink special legislation.

Commissioner Donovan spoke about a recent editorial article he read in the National League of Cities newspaper, written by Neil Pearce regarding the war on drugs.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

060353.

Legal Office Expenses from State Law Enforcement Contraband Forfeiture Trust Fund for FY 2006- 2007 (NB)

This items requests City Commission approval for funding Gainesville Police Department's Legal Office operating expenses for FY 2006-2007.

The Public Safety Committee approved this item being forwarded to the full City Commission.

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission authorize the Gainesville Police Department to appropriate \$15,000 from the State Forfeiture Fund balance account (108-2710) into line item 108-810-H105-5210-3910.*

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRAL LIST

The agenda for the October PSC meeting will include a continuation of discussion on #060275, Civil Citations for Municipal Code Violations and beginning discussion on #060276, Funding Sources for Police Services Downtown.

The Committee also agreed to request the Commission remove #030125, Public

Safety Involvement in Site Plan and Land Review Process. Chief Botsford noted that former PSC member Commissioner Braddy had asked that the item just stay on the pending referral list in case there were any updates needed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 19th, 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 1:40 p.m.