

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

3:00 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, Chair
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member
Commissioner Todd Chase, Member*

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

CALL TO ORDER**ROLL CALL****ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Adopted as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**130942. Approval of February 26, 2014 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (B)****RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted.

Approved as Recommended

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**130769. Synthetic Drug Ordinance Proposal (B)**

This item requests the Public Safety Committee consider the creation of a City ordinance to prohibit the possession, sale, display for sale, or manufacture of synthetic drugs in Gainesville; to assist in combatting the rise in the sale and use of dangerous synthetic substances commonly known as “spice”.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee 1) hear a presentation from GPD staff; and 2) consider whether an ordinance prohibiting the sale, distribution, production, manufacture, or display for sale or marketing of synthetic drugs within the city limits of Gainesville would benefit law enforcement in combatting the increased use and availability of these drugs.

Attorney Shannon MacGillis from the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Office in Jacksonville explained to the Public Safety Committee types of synthetic drugs (bath salts, spice, and mollies). The contents of the package is uncertain and continually changing so the HIDTA encourages Florida cities to regulate the packaging as a first step to regulate the sale of these drugs through State Statute 499.033. The new regulations would be geared for the sellers, not the users.

HIDTA is making adjustments to a proposed ordinance and will send it to the City when complete. At that time Assistant City Attorney Lee Libby will review the proposed ordinance and present his findings to the Public Safety Committee and at the request of the Committee, include a phrase regarding possession and use of the drugs.

130520. Child and Youth Programs Crime Prevention (B)

This item requests that City staff research funding sources to continue and enhance crime prevention programs for children and youth.

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee hear an update from GPD and Parks and Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff on the continuing efforts to expand youth crime prevention programs.*

This item is part of the Strategic Initiative 3.3 Crime Prevention feature. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs staff updated the Committee on future fundraising efforts to raise money to support youth programs, such as Summer HeatWave and Operation Respect Yourself to keep children occupied during the summer months. If fundraising can raise \$20,000, the HeatWave Program can help 1,000 children. Transportation costs are not included in the cost of the program; participants must provide their own transportation. Many children are left out because they lack transportation. Staff hopes to be able to provide 15 passenger vans to transport the kids with the additional funds being raised.

The Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association made a presentation and would like to partner with the City to add tennis as an option for summer programs. They will contact other tennis clubs in the area to ask for donations of tennis rackets, shoes, tennis balls and other necessary equipment.

110382. Outdoor Concerts (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee: 1) hear a report from City staff and UF Noise Consultant Jared Anderson; and 2) consider the options identified by staff and 3) provide direction as appropriate.*

GPD Lieutenant Brian Helmerson spoke to the matter updating the Public Safety Committee on meetings with Downtown businesses and a Talk & Walk through the Downtown area at night observing noise levels. UF Noise Consultant Jared Anderson went on the Walk with City staff plus on his own to take noise readings. As the City promotes its Live Here, Work Here, Play Here motto, noise levels are expected to increase in the Downtown area. The purpose of the Walk was to get both businesses and residents involved in working on a livable solution to the noise issues.

This referral had been scheduled to move forward to the full City Commission with Mr. Anderson's recommendations. However, when issues arose with Boca Fiesta, staff made the decision to look at the issue again. Most noise complaints to the City come from the Union Street Station. Lieutenant Helmerson also reminded citizens that they have the right to sign a complaint if they have unreasonable noise at their residence.

Tony Weinender, Daniel Hughes, Dwayne Manuel, Donald Shepherd, and Larry Hamilton spoke to the issue.

The Public Safety Committee voted 3-0 to move this item forward to the full City Commission supporting the recommendations outlined in Mr. Anderson report of December 2013.

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT