

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

Monday, July 28, 2014

3:00 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Helen Warren, Chair
Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

140148. Approval of May 7, 2014 Public Safety Committee Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted.

Approved as submitted, by consensus.

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 combating the rise in the sale and use of dangerous synthetic substances commonly known as "spice".

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee 1) review the draft ordinance regulating Synthetic Drugs; and 2) and direct the Clerk of the Commission to advertise an ordinance regulating the sale of these drugs.

Assistant City Attorney Lee Libby presented the Public Safety Committee with two options for the proposed Synthetic Drug Ordinance. The first draft is with civil penalties (up to \$1,000 fine per package and possible lien on the property at locations where the products are being sold) and the second with criminal penalties (60 days in jail and \$500 fine per penalty). The ordinance will be an additional tool for law enforcement to use against the sale of chemically processed drugs. These drugs are not consistently manufactured and change ingredients as laws change to prohibit a specific chemical.

GPD Narcotics Lieutenant Matt Nechodom spoke to how the ordinance will help law enforcement. State Attorney Pam Bondi is encouraging cities to pass this type of ordinance and she will work on regulating the manufacturing of synthetic drugs.

The City Attorney's Office recommends proceeding with the Civil Penalties draft. Per State Statutes, a municipality cannot have an ordinance with a lesser penalty than the State Statutes require.

The Committee members agreed by consensus to move this item to the full City Commission for consideration.

130932. Bicycle Registration Program (B)

This item gives a history of the bicycle registration in the City and offers options to be considered if the City moves toward reinstating this program.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff and provide guidance as appropriate.

GPD Sergeant Jaime Kurnick gave a presentation on Florida cities that have bike license fees and penalties for not having a license . Most do not track bicycle statistics. GPD has set up a bike registration link on its web site where bike owners can register there own bikes in case of a future theft were to occur.

Bike registration was first brought to the City Commissioners by Commissioner Hinson-Rawls as a possible revenue source, but she is also concerned with the increase in bicyclists deaths, and the cost of paving bike lanes (\$20,000 per mile). She would also like to see more enforcement and education for bikers to follow road rules.

Commissioner Warren questioned the practicality for the City to implement bike registration regulations; who would give the tests and how would we enforce the regulations.

Citizens Brack Barker, Diann Dimitri, Bob Karp, Ron Cunningham, Evelyn Foxx, and James Thompson spoke against the bike license fees.

This item will be referred back to the full City Commission for discussion with no consensus from the Public Safety Committee.

140151. Review of Public Safety Committee Pending Referral Items (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee review the Committee's referral list and determine an action plan to discuss the pending referrals.

Pending Public Safety Committee referrals were reviewed with a brief summary from Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers. A list of pending referrals has been sent to the Clerk of the Commission for action at an upcoming City Commission meeting.

MEMBER COMMENT

None.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Police Chief Tony Jones and Acting Captain Will Halvosa gave a short presentation on GPD's efforts on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and the School To Prison Pipeline Committee GPD has established. The committee

consists of many community entities such as the School Board, a City Commissioner, churches, and judicial officials. GPD is one of the only police departments in the country to drive this initiative. In other cities the initiative is driven by schools or are judicially driven.

Chief Jones plans to implement three new juvenile policies prior to the start of the school year. He would like to present those at the August Public Safety Committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting is August 25, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.