

Public Safety Committee Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20th, 2022
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Virtual

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:01PM by Amy Booth

2. Roll Call

Public Safety Commission Members Present

Amy Booth
Kim Nordby
Ruthann Reim
Jim Kenoyer
Diane Bendixen
Galina Perekopsky

Staff Present

Jennifer Hales

Guests

Tom Yabe, Chief of Police, Steilacoom

Public Safety Commission Members Excused

Non Voting Member Present

Scott Adams, WPFR
Chief Greg Premo, UPPD

Members (voting or not) not present

Torey Heidelberg, UPSD

3. Approval of Minutes

Ruthann made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Galina. Unanimously approved

4. Public Comments

No public present

5. Introduction of new Commissioner: Jim Kenoyer

Jim is a retired State Trooper (30 years in LE) – was also a police chief in Fircrest. Is a current Driver's Education teacher. Commission welcomed Jim! Happy to have him onboard.

6. WPFR update/ Report Out – Assistant Chief Scott Adams

New variant has slowed things down, again. Looking forward to more in person things. If people need bike helmets or smoke alarms – you can call the business line, and someone will call back and set that up.

Had some holiday events in December in conjunction with the tree lighting. Closed out 2021 with highest call volume – around 17,000.

Two new positions/ services added ...

1. BC in the North – help with management and events
2. Adding a squad in the North – utilized during peak times during the day to take off some of the low acuity calls, something very minor.

7. UPSD Update/ Report out – Torey Heidelberg

N/A

8. UPPD update/ Report out – Chief Greg Premo

Chief Premo shared some data with the Commission.

Significant staffing challenges at larger PCSD. Had 36 departures through 2021 and only hired 13. Currently PCSD is down 41 positions – this does not include those that are unavailable for family leave/ military leave, etc. These challenges are now facing UPPD with one out on military leave. UPPD is currently operating with 11. If anyone leaves UPPD – PCSD will likely not be able to backfill that position. UPPD is being asked to manage on their own. This is creating some OT issues. If we have any more departures, how will we address those issues? Possibilities include...

- Pull investigator to add to patrol
- Mandatory overtime
- Calling people in
- Pull Community Resource Officer to add to patrol

PCSD is losing people to other agencies to get better benefits and a hiring bonus. The Guild is currently in negotiations with the County. We are hoping this will resolve some of the pay discrepancies so that PCSD can attempt to retain their people.

Morale takes a hit when mandatory overtime becomes routine. This has been an issue over the last six months. The diminished morale is primarily around the unresolved contract.

Stats – Violent crimes went down in 2021 back to close the norm. This is contrary to what you might be hearing on the news and in the more urban environments. The smaller communities are not as impacted. Property crimes are more consistent – staying high. Vandalisms increased significantly this year and are related to the vehicle prowling. The big increase (across the state and in Pierce County) is with vehicle thefts. There were nearly 6500 in 2021 in Pierce County. UP went up 35% in 2021. Staffing and new legislation may be impacting these increases. Calls for service are still higher than the previous 5-year average.

9. Open Public Meetings Act presentation – City Attorney Matt Kaser

WA legislature put in a requirement for members of certain commissions have open government training. Matt Kaser provided an overview of OPMA rules and guidelines/ public records & social media rules and best practices.

There is some confusion about the Commission's role. Matt explained how information can flow up to Council and how Commissions can present information or tasks they'd like to work on. Council can also send information to the Commissions to work on.

10. PSAC co-chair discussion/ nomination

Chair Amy Booth has nominated Kim Nordby to be the co-chair of the PSAC.

Ruthann made a motion to have Kim Nordby be the chair. Diane seconded the motion. No discussion. Unanimously voted Kim Nordby as the new co-chair!

AB would like to have the commission consider adding United for UP and Tacoma Safe come and educate the PSAC on where they might plug in. KN likes the idea. AB mentioned she's been getting a lot of questions about the school levy and how police are funded and the educational presentations the Commission has had over the last year have been really helpful in informing conversations.

RR – wanted to give a high five to Chief Premo. Some of her neighbors were concerned about a rash of incidents police incidents and the police response. Chief Premo responded and educated the neighbors about UPPD operations and response. Chief Premo was appreciative of the opportunity to respond, and RR was appreciative of that response.

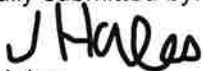
AB – lastly is there anything we can do to support UPPD? – Chief Premo was very appreciative of all the wonderful support from the UP community. His message - Stay positive and let's get to work!!

Public Comment/ arrived later in the meeting/ (James 253.241.0186)– walks around the City Center area and concerned about vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic -35th Street and Drexler is a problem and concerned about traffic in this area. Interested in marking or illuminating the crosswalks or setting up a better safety system. Staff (JH) offered to follow up on the concern with patrol staff and engineering to ensure follow-up. James is going to forward an e-mail.

11. Adjournment

KN motioned to adjourn and RR seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:13PM

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Hales
Public Safety Administrator
UPPD

Approved as submitted/amended . . .

2.17.22