

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **October 30, 2003**

TO: **Michael G. Herring, City Administrator**

FROM: **Chief Ray Johnson**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Public Health & Safety Committee met on Wednesday, October 29, 2003. Those in attendance included Chairperson Michael Casey, Ward III, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, Councilmember Barry Streeter, Ward II, Councilmember Mary Brown, Ward IV. Also in attendance were City Administrator Michael Herring, Chief Ray Johnson and several residents of the Eagle Crest subdivision.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Councilmember Casey.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2003

Councilmember Brown motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2003 meeting. The motion carried 3-0 with Councilmember Flachsbart abstaining.

2. Election of Vice-Chairperson and Liaison to the Police Personnel Board.

Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to elect Councilmember Brown as Vice Chairman of the Public Health & Safety Committee. The motion carried 4-0.

Councilmember Brown motioned and Councilmember Flachsbart seconded to elect Councilmember Casey to serve as liaison to the Police Personnel Board. The motion carried 4-0.

3. Stop Sign Requests

A. Eagle Crest Estates Subdivision – Eagle Bluff and Eagle Winds Court at Riverdale Drive (3-way stop signs requested at both locations).

Mr. Herring noted to the Committee members that these streets are not yet “public” streets and therefore the City cannot place any signage on those streets. Mr. Flachsbart also questioned the fact that the subdivision is not yet completed and that the 90% criterion is only of those people currently living in the subdivision.

Councilmember Brown motioned that the Public Health & Safety Committee forward recommendation to approve the request for the above stated stop signs when the streets become public streets along with the appropriate 90% of the residents confirming the request at that time. The motion carried 4-0.

Residents present at this meeting inquired about speed limit signage and enforcement of speed limits on private streets. Chief Johnson replied that the trustees (or in this case, the developer) can place signage and then send a letter requesting enforcement by the police. Councilmember Brown volunteered to contact the developer regarding this issue.

- B. Wilson Farm Estates – Wilson Farm Drive and Wilson Ridge Lane (3 way stop).

After review of the request and supporting petition, Councilmember Brown motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to recommend that the Council approve this request. The motion carried 3-1 with Councilmember Flachsbart voting “no”.

4. New Ordinance Requests.

Chief Johnson asked the Committee to consider two new ordinance requests that have been suggested by the prosecuting attorney. These two suggested ordinances would assist the Police Department in carrying out their duties.

- A. Making a false declaration

This ordinance would make it unlawful for any person, while being taken into custody, arrested or while being issued a citation or summons charging a violation to give his/her name verbally or in writing any false or fictitious name. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to have the City Attorney draw up an appropriate ordinance and then forward it to City Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried 4-0.

- B. Driving while license suspended/revoked.

Chief Johnson outlined the need for an ordinance to revise the Model Traffic Code to allow for the sentencing of those violators who drive with a suspended or revoked license. Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to request that the City Attorney develop an ordinance adopting to RSMo. 302 as part of our City's Traffic Safety Code to allow for the prosecution of violators driving with a suspended or revoked license and to recommend the ordinance to the City Council for approval. The motion carried 4-0.

5. School Speed Limits – County Roadways

Chief Johnson informed the Committee that St. Louis County has established a new policy of standardizing school speed limits on County roadways. The new policy is that speed limits in school zones will be 10 miles per hour less than the regular posted speed with a minimum of 25 miles per hour. City Engineer Mike Geisel has indicated that the City will also follow these guidelines. St. Louis County will also be installing yellow flashing electrical signals alerting motorists to school zones on all County roadways. Members of the Committee asked that a listing of the addresses of all school within the City be prepared and forwarded to the members of the Public Health & Safety Committee.

6. Special Enforcement Zones

Councilmember Streeter expressed interest in increasing fines for speeding violations in specific zones and/or specific streets. Councilmember Flachsbart expressed his support for increasing fines for violations in school zone areas only. It was noted that the City of O'Fallon, Missouri had recently enacted an ordinance where traffic violation fines could be doubled on any street with a 25 mph speed limit.

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Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Streeter seconded to recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance which establishes school zones as special enforcement areas where it would be posted that fines for speeding violations within these zones would be doubled. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Streeter then addressed speeding on specific streets within the City, in particular Highcroft. Chief Johnson noted the policy of the Police Department is to prevent accidents and the Department responds accordingly and also to any citizen complaints of speeding. There are twenty-two streets within the City of Chesterfield that are targeted special enforcement. These streets are targeted by traffic officers at least every other day for 45 minutes at each time for radar enforcement. This is in addition to regular sector officers patrolling these streets. Chief Johnson forwarded copies of a recent traffic statistics for Highcroft. Additional reports on for Appalachian Trail and Schoettler Valley will be prepared and forwarded to Mr. Streeter to share with trustees of the affected subdivisions.

7. Municipal Court

Councilmember Flachsbart reported that he had received a complaint regarding perceived inefficiency at the Municipal Court. The complaint revolved around a driving safety class offered to first time offenders. Only one vendor was made available to the violator and the class was cancelled without notification. Chief Johnson noted that he had spoken to the Court staff and they had replied that this was the first complaint against the vendor. They are taking measures to investigate the complaint and improve the process and to review the services provided.

Councilmember Flachsbart also asked if efficiency could be improved during Court sessions by the use of additional computerization. It was decided to invite the Judge and Prosecuting Attorney to the next Public Health and Safety Committee meeting to discuss these issues.

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

/dj

ATTENDANCE AT THE OCTOBER 29TH PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Jan Campbell	16950 Riverdale	532-2392
Bill Campbell	16950 Riverdale	532-2392
Jim Morton	16962 Riverdale	532-1719
Mark Braman	1372 Eagle Winds Court	532-0040
Kevin Chase	1312 Eagle Winds Court	675-3587