

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

January 24, 2011

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order by Vice Mayor Terrence Senger at 6:05 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Mike Snyder, Marty Judd, Mitch Rhodus, Terry Senger, Tim Abbott, Tim Meyers, Mike Oler. Staff present: Arthur Pizzano, Dennis Stuckey, Carol Mayhall, Angie Johns, Dave Butsch, John Clemmons, and Mike Dickey.

Goal Update – Crime Trends/Deployment

City Manager Pizzano gave a brief introduction explaining that we are paying increased attention to analyzing crime statistics to better utilize our personnel to be proactive rather than reactive. Police Chief Mike Dickey stated crime is down. He explained one of the difficulties in talking about crime analysis is we can't tell you what was prevented versus what actually occurred. He explained calls for service were up slightly for 2010, these encompass all those activities that we were called for or as a result from a call, but does not include traffic stops. He stated adult arrests are up a little. Chief Dickey discussed the warrant arrests are down a little, and the majority of warrants are from the court for example for failure to pay fine costs, someone didn't show up for probation, or was on probation and quit coming. He explained many times the people come in to take care of their business after a letter is sent and a warrant is withdrawn. Chief Dickey explained unfortunately a lot of those arrests are catch and release because of the situation with the county jail. He stated juvenile arrests are down a little, traffic citations are down from the 3,400 last year and traffic crashes are about the same. He explained they receive almost 28,000 9-1-1 calls through the system on an annual basis and a lot of those calls are not life threatening calls, but he cannot separate out those types of calls. Councilmember Oler discussed most of those warrant arrests end up being eventual ones for failure to appear in court or failure to pay costs and it is a loop that we get in because we dedicate an officer to go out and get them then give them another court date. He stated basically we are using man hours to go get these people, spend time to book them and turn them out again hoping they will show up in court this time or pay their fines. Chief Dickey explained as long as the court issues warrants to us, we have to do what we have to do. Law Director John Clemmons commented there is a policy for multiple offenders for warrant, no bail. Chief Dickey explained a lot are put in but as soon as the jail is full they are out. He discussed response times are under 3 minutes, time to arrive on scene is 8.7 minutes and time from received to clear is 29.7 minutes. He explained the trend is that crime is down with the comparisons from 2009 and 2010 down in almost every category except for aggravated assaults and simple assaults. He explained aggravated assault is any assault where a person is injured, receives a serious injury or a weapon is used. He further explained about 40% are domestic violence or family related, not continual mayhem in the city. Chief Dickey explained unfounded cases would not be included in this report, but they still have to be investigated. He discussed a lot of the violent crime police can't have an impact on because they are interpersonal, sporadic. He stated property crime we can have an impact on. Chief Dickey discussed the number of cases cleared for each category of crimes. He stated the overall total is about 34%. Chief Dickey discussed our percentage of crimes cleared with the 2009 national average. He stated 100% of the homicides have been cleared and the last unsolved homicide was in winter of 1997 or 1998 and the national average on homicides is 67%. He further stated we are clearing a total of 34% of our cases compared to the 2009 national average of 24%. Chief Dickey compared the number of 2010 burglary versus 2009, which are down. He briefly displayed and compared various categories of thefts from 2010 versus 2009. He stated calls for service are fluid, with a banner year in 2007 and it is creeping up a little at a time. Chief Dickey discussed since 2004 we are averaging between 3,000 and 4,000 per year. He discussed there does seem to be a correlation between calls for service and tickets as calls for service goes up the tickets go down. He discussed two cases in which crime analysis was used to stop a trend. He explained two years ago cops were put on a performance measure for traffic stops with the intent to let thieves and other criminals coming to Fairfield to know that they have a pretty good chance of getting stopped by the cops. He stated studies have shown that cops active in traffic enforcement have an effect on crime. He briefly discussed the Senior Citizen Referral Program started in 2010 in which Volunteer Coordinator Karen Wittmer and Officer Dennis Valentini work together when there is a senior having a difficulty to follow up and make referrals to agencies if necessary. He discussed the drug take-back program occurred in which over 400 pounds of pills and drugs were picked up and agencies around us took notice and did the same thing. He stated next year there will probably be a county-wide program. He discussed the proactive attack on synthetic intoxicants, which since that occurred the feds have made these substances illegal. He stated the Law Enforcement Explorers post is active with 20 members and they have a grant for a couple years to fund it. Chief Dickey briefly explained the proactive investigations by officers. He explained Kevin Haddix has been reworking our website, the crime statistics page has been updated and the format has been changed. City Manager Pizzano explained a lot of time has been devoted to upgrade the capabilities on the website through an employee committee. He discussed the various training this year including patrol rifles; pepperballs; new handgun qualifications; emergency ops plan review and exercise; firearms, taser and OC requalifications; temporary holding facilities, use of force, and legal issues; and four hours of continuing professional training. He explained the big implementation is going to be patrol rifles training and deployment. Chief Dickey explained they will continue to emphasize use of crime analysis. He discussed 42% of burglaries are occurring between 6 AM and 6 PM when people are gone, which means they will be taking a multi-faceted approach including analyzing more in depth, to get literature out. He stated the thefts from motor vehicles and vehicle parts and accessories are 40%. He discussed further discussed the building security for police officers. City Manager Pizzano announced there will be two executive session during the Regular Meeting and there will be some Council action after the first.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council