

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

OCTOBER 13, 2009

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order by Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmember Oler, Councilmember Rhodus, Councilmember Snyder, Councilmember Abbott, Councilmember Senger and Councilmember Meyers. Staff members present: Angie Johns, Dennis Stuckey, Dave Butsch, Carol Mayhall, John Clemmons, Art Pizzano and Mike Dickey

Crime Prevention Operations Update

Police Chief Michael Dickey reported that based on year-to-date statistics if the trend continues Part 1 crimes will be down slightly less than last year. He discussed the notable changes including no homicides, rapes are down 44%, robberies are down 36%, aggravated assaults are down 32%, burglaries are up 1%, thefts are down 6%, and auto theft is down 31%. Chief Dickey briefly discussed each of these part 1 crimes and possible reasons why these crimes have dropped. He commented police officers are out and being proactive. He discussed four areas of specific problems including what they were and how they were addressed. Chief Dickey discussed their response to robberies including targeted patrols during pattern periods, coordination with surrounding departments for information, and a robbery prevention seminar was held. City Manager Art Pizzano briefly discussed the reorganization implemented at the first of the year and the positive effect that has had on this target enforcement manner. Chief Dickey further explained this was crime analysis; targeting high crime areas and doing something about it. He explained how this was used in thefts of ATVs and with open house thefts. Chief Dickey commented SWOPINTEL which is a tool developed in Clermont County for timely dissemination of information among various police agencies was used by the department. Councilmember Oler commented other things not included under those categories may be up, so we need to stay on top of it in supporting the Police Department. Chief Dickey commented the statistics discussed were reported crimes. He explained that information is constantly filtered between officers on the street and detectives. Chief Dickey briefly discussed that detectives are not a different rank and they are considered police officers. He stated it is hard to benchmark where we are at compared to other departments. He commented the Journal News did a comparison a while back for violent crimes and we had 3.9 violent crimes per capita in 2008, we were fourth in Butler County. He stated in terms of property crimes we are about the same as other areas. City Manager Pizzano noted Fairfield is kind of an anomaly because our daytime working population equals approximately our residential population. Chief Dickey explained between one to one and a half years ago officers were tasked with increasing number of traffic stops, which quadrupled our stops. He further explained there is a theory in law enforcement, where you have high traffic enforcement in areas that has an effect on the crime rate. Councilmember Rhodus questioned the need for an additional K-9 with one of our officers being in Iraq at this time. Chief Dickey commented given the economy and the budget he does not have plans to add a third K-9, it is a significant investment of at least \$10,000. He explained the partnership with the Development Services Department for the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT) program. He explained these target areas are identified by Development Services and they are surveyed and the results are distributed. He further explained police issues are sent to Ken Gerold at the Police Department who passes this information on to the patrol officers to watch. He commented traffic in the neighborhood is the leading complaint in the city. He further discussed traffic violations and how they are being addressed. Chief Dickey discussed the problems with skateboarding and the need for continued reinforcement. He explained if a business contacts the department asking for enforcement action, the department will take action. Chief Dickey discussed various crime prevention and community relations programs including the Citizen Police Academy, four active neighborhood watch groups, Rape Awareness Defense (RAD), workplace, home and business security audits, and a third grade seatbelt program. He further discussed other initiatives including pharmaceutical diversion work and local health providers, and a crime tip line. He stated right now we have a decline in crime rate and we maintain a good coordination with other police agencies on matters that impact Fairfield. Keith Davis, 1853 Vernon Place, asked questions about getting into a neighborhood watch program and how political sign thefts and damage were handled.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns
Clerk of Council