



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Chairwoman Jorja Clemson
Council Member Junior Ezeonu
Council Member Jacquin Headen

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Presentation on status of Short-Term Rental Program, and other Police Department community policing initiatives**

Police Assistant Director Ryan Simpson briefed the committee on the status of the Short Term Rental (STR) Program. We currently have 170 short term rentals permitted, four in the process and two that are non-compliant. We have a Senior Code Compliance Officer dedicated to this program, Patrol Officers are trained on after hour response, all STR's are listed in our computer aided dispatch system at the Police Department so we know where each STR is, we get a report if there are calls for service at any STR, and we have software that help us identify STR's just in case we do not already know where they are. The most common violations are failure to register, parking (street parking is prohibited) and putting trash out too early. We are looking at requirements and verbiage for Long Term Rentals, notifying that secondary dwellings, such as a shed, as an STR is prohibited, and looking for other enforcement remedies. Once a warning is giving to an STR, if they have another violation, we can technically revoke their permit. We are looking for recommendations from this board on enforcement action and verbiage for Long Term Rentals. Legal is looking at enforcement action options to put on STR's that are continuously in violation. Chairwoman Clemson mentioned to have all STR's in one or just a couple locations in the city next to amenities but understands that there may be circumstances that wouldn't allow that. We will bring any new ideas to this board when available.

Police Chief Daniel Scesney briefed the committee on Project Safe Child, which is Assistant Chief Ronnie Morris' idea. This is an evidence-based approach project, while looking at historical data that has an inordinate amount of child assault crimes in a certain area. In this area we have had a 30% reduction in crime, not including child assaults. The issue is that we have a hard time reaching the children, due to parents shielding them especially if they are the suspect. Over the five-year time frame that we are studying we have had 2,000 victims of crime that are children between the ages of 5-14 years of age. Those reports include runaways, assaults, property crimes, information reports, emergency psychiatric care or cybercrimes. Most victims are female and there is a spike around 13-14 years of age. This area has 84 assaults reported and that is 20% of all offenses across our city, with higher runaways and apprehension due to emergency psychiatric care. In response we created a Grant Program for the people that

live in this area in which they can get up to \$1,500 reimbursement for property improvements. This doesn't cost the taxpayers anything, this is funded by drug dealer money. Code Compliance does elevated enforcement in this area to notify of high grass or dilapidated fences, etc. We are notifying the schools of issues we have with the kids, and they get the kids in counseling which could also include their siblings. Blue Shoes took place at a school in this area, we relocated two school resources officers to this area to build relationships and be present, GPISD has implemented a new curriculum geared toward victimization so kids know what resources are available and how to access them. We won't know the results until the end of the study timeframe and will then send this out to several different organizations to let them know what worked for us. The \$1,500 grant is available via a form filled out at Code Compliance which will require before and after pictures when applying for the grant money. We haven't had a lot of people take advantage of this because they may think it is too good to be true but we are working on getting the word out to that specific area.

2. **Minutes of the December 5, 2022 Public Safety, Health, Environment Committee Meeting**

Minutes approved and passed with no discussion.

Motion made by Council Member Headen, Seconded by Council Member Ezeonu.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

3. **The re-appointment of Aubry Insko to the Tarrant County 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance District Board of Managers**

Police Communications Manager Aubry Insko briefed this committee on this item. She is asking for the blessing of this board to be recommended to be on the Tarrant County 911 Emergency Assistance District Board of Managers. She has been on this board since 2019 and loves to be able to represent our city on this board. The board thinks she should continue in this role.

Motion made by Council Member Ezeonu, Seconded by Council Member Headen.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

4. **Change Order #4 for additional License Plate Recognition Cameras at Epic Central and Play Grand from Flock Safety, Inc., in the amount of \$22,800 for the first year and \$20,000 annually thereafter for two additional years, totaling \$62,800**

Police Assistant Director Ryan Simpson briefed the committee on this item. He explained that we have 43 cameras currently in which we share information with surrounding agencies and vice versa. We are proposing eight more cameras to cover the parking entrances at Playgrand and EpicCentral. These cameras are not used as enforcement and do not take video. These cameras are monitored by software that our Patrol Officers have and get notification in which they react accordingly.

Motion made by Council Member Headen, Seconded by Council Member Ezeonu.

Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

5. **Discussion on potential ordinance revisions, regarding retail pet store operations**

Animal Services Manager Lily Yap briefed the committee on this informational only item. Current state law does not have restrictions on pet stores selling commercially brand puppies and there are concerns of the health of these dogs. There is push for state legislation to only adopt out animals from humane organizations like non-profits or municipal agencies like our animal services department. The breeders that some pet stores receive their puppies from are puppy mills with many adult breeding dogs. We are looking at an ordinance that would include accountability, health of the animals, and population management. In the last fiscal year, we received approximately 2,900 dogs and 2,800 cats and had to euthanize on average five per week. The animals that are sold in pet stores are usually intact and can reproduce to add to the population problem. We do understand that we do not have a wide variety of dogs that people may be looking for, so having options is understandable. We have two pet stores in Grand Prairie that sell dogs. We want to quickly get an ordinance passed because we have a lot of prime real estate that the pet stores can obtain. Prairie Paws has 38 employees if fully staffed. People are no longer allowed to sell animals on the side of the street, if it is seen call the police and they can receive a citation. We will research and get an ordinance drafted and bring back to this committee to get recommendations and suggestions so that more of these stores do not come to Grand Prairie. Discussion only.

6. **Ratify the application for a First Responder Mental Health Program grant, from the State of Texas and Dallas County, in the amount of \$90,846; and Authorize the City Manager to accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant, if awarded, and execute an Interlocal Agreement with Dallas County relative to the grant**

Police Crisis Support Unit Supervisor Courtney Runnels briefed the committee on this item. This grant will cover all of our first responders including our Fire Department and Emergency Communications Specialists. Our previous grant funding that we received along with nine other cities did not renew. Dallas County allocated \$1Million dollars from the American Recue Plans (ARP) funds to wellness for first responders and Grand Prairie was allocated \$90,000. We have a budget ready to submit to Dallas County which will cover any counseling programs and some next level training for current first responders and recruits in the academy. These resources are heavily utilized but due to confidentiality we don't have the exact numbers. This is a no match grant. The Fire Department doesn't have a clinician, but it will allow us to continue our services and we will work with the Police Department and their team to continue to offer additional services. We have a deadline to submit our budget and we may have access to additional funds, but we definitely won't lose access to any money that is being offered to us.

Motion made by Council Member Ezeonu, Seconded by Council Member Headen.
Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

- 7. Resolution ratifying the application and acceptance of a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in the amount of \$4,330 for equipment, supplies, and training; authorize the City Manager to accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant**

Animal Services Manager Lily Yap briefed the committee on this item. Prairie Paws was selected by the ASPCA to receive grant funds directed to our animal cruelty investigations. This will allow us to have additional supplies, training, and equipment to use for that purpose.

Motion made by Council Member Headen, Seconded by Council Member Ezeonu.
Voting Yea: Chairwoman Clemson, Council Member Ezeonu, Council Member Headen

CITIZEN COMMENTS

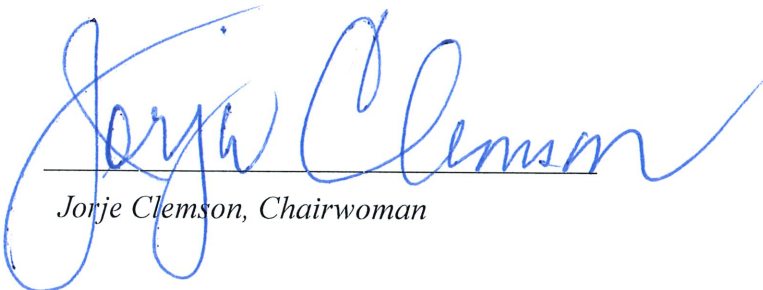
No citizen comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

4:17 PM



Jorje Clemson, Chairwoman