

City of West St. Paul  
Public Safety Committee  
August 12, 2020

Members Present:

Chair Anthony Fernandez  
Member Wendy Berry  
Member Dick Vitelli

Others Present:

Police Chief Brian Sturgeon  
Public Works Director Ross Beckwith  
City Manager Ryan Schroeder

Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:47 AM. By consensus, the committee accepted the minutes of the June 16 meeting.

The Chair requested discussion on response to a June neighborhood meeting at the Doddway shopping center regarding crime and traffic concerns on Manomin Avenue. Both the Public Works Director and Police Chief had included analysis of these concerns within the agenda materials. Additionally, the Police Chief provided a crime report, accident data and results from a traffic study at the table.

The report from the Public Works Director noted that traffic counts of 829 vehicles per day were within the standard for a residential street of less than 1000. Further, that a recent speed study showed traffic at the 85 percentile was travelling at 26 mph and that crash data has not revealed accidents from 2018 to present. The Police Chief report noted additionally that statistics show that the area is not a high crime area compared to the other five areas of the community. He did note that additional police reserve presence, speed monitoring had occurred, and that another speed study was currently in process in order to confirm or amend findings of the earlier study.

Committee members opined that from the data presented, the issue perhaps was one of perception more than reality and that addressing those perceptions would be of value.

The Committee briefly discussed the neighborhood meeting that had been held at Marthaler Park earlier in the week due to neighbor crime and litter concerns.

The Police Chief provided an update on July 21, 2020 Minnesota police reform legislative changes and the impacts of those changes upon the City operation. This legislation includes new regulations regarding an independent use of force investigations unit, the opportunity for residency requirements for police officers, use of force reporting and restrictions on types of use of force, prohibition against warrior style training, new complaints against officer data provision, Post Board licensing sanctions, crisis and autism training, duty to intercede mandates, and a change in grievance arbitration process. For the most part these new regulations do not affect West St. Paul operations but for data reporting and training. In the other areas West St. Paul policy has already aligned with legislative intent.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Schroeder