

To: **Mayor and City Council**
From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
Date: **July 13, 2020**

Assigning Public Safety Committee Study of Smith Dodd Area Concerns

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recently, the Police Department has been receiving complaints from residents of the area north of the Doddway Center regarding traffic and crime concerns. A neighborhood meeting was held on July 8, 2020 to receive neighborhood input on these concerns with suggestions for improvements to be considered. Following is a compendium of comments received from the approximate 25 neighborhood residents representing perhaps 15 households.

- 1. Traffic Issues-Accidents and Speeding (Resident would like the city to look into the following)**
 - a. Dead End
 - b. A One Way
 - c. Bump Outs
 - d. Trees on the boulevards
 - e. Additional signage-Speed Radar Signs
 - f. Narrowing the right away
 - g. Move the Speed Trailer up more into the neighborhood.
 - h. State Patrol, are they able to help out with traffic issues

- 2. Crime in the Area**
 - a. Residents are concerned crime is increasing in WSP, robberies and burglaries, traffic related incidents
 - i. Police Department-Reviewed Statistics, Type 1 and Type 2 Crimes.
 - ii. Police Department explained that robberies and burglaries occur elsewhere, as well and gas stations and small businesses are sometimes targeted. The Dodd Shopping Area is close to St. Paul, and easily accessible via State and County roads. There also is not a great deal of pedestrian traffic, which tends to reduce certain types of criminal activity.

- 3. Police Presence in the Area/Additional Officers**
 - a. Resident would like more officers in West St. Paul
 - i. Police Department talked about our area officers program, reserves/CSV, schedules of Officers, minimums, and how we need our residents to be our eyes and ears of the community.

- ii. Police Department is working on being more visible out on the streets, by having the area officers patrol their areas, leaving a reserve car in the parking lot of Doddway, possibly using a pole camera when needed.

4. Rental Properties

- a. 966 Smith was noted as an ongoing concern as well as single family rentals
 - i. Police Department briefly talked about rental ordinance, to call 911, and call code enforcement to help track issues at the properties.

Councilmembers Eng-Sarne and Berry were in attendance and requested the City Manager to ask Council if review of the above should be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, direct review of North end neighborhood concerns to the Public Safety Committee.

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