

## PSAB Meeting Minutes

10/24/2022

In attendance: Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Candace Bouchard, Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins, Councilor Erle Pierce, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Donald Carter, Lisa Brown, Steven Edwards, Chief Bradley Osgood, Deputy Chief John Thomas, Deputy Chief Steve Smagula, Deputy Chief Barrett Moulton, Acting Fire Chief John Chisholm, Linda Graham (Guest) and Nicole Foote (meeting minutes)

Opening remarks were made by Councilor Grady Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton who made a motion to approve edits. Acting Chief, John Chisholm would like “contact” changed to “contract” in two locations. Councilor Grady Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton motioned to except edits, Councilor Bouchard and Mayor Bouley accepted edits, none opposed. Attendance by committee members and Public refer to Council.

City Council Referral to PSAB from Stephen Duprey regarding lighting on Constitution Ave.

Included in this discussion was Chief Bradley C. Osgood, Deputy Chief John Thomas, Deputy Chief Steven Smagula and Deputy Chief Barrett Moulton. Chief Osgood walked us through enhanced lighting. These particular locations, behind Kimball Jenkins, railroad Beds and City Property have had lots of problems over the years. Increased lighting could probably reduce criminal activity and we support it.

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton would like a better understanding of encampments and how Friendly Kitchen relates to the issues? Deputy Chief Smagula explained there are approximately 150 chronically homeless, they rely on 29-30 encampments. In the past 1 -1.5 years they are getting too big and dispersing is needed. The trash left behind to include buckets of human waste which are also on trails could be the owner of the property or the City’s responsibility. These are elaborate camps with chop shops, open drug use, and stolen property. We work with businesses to find out where property is coming from. More often no charges are brought by owners’ choice. Complexity with cliental. Grappone Ctr to Friendly Kitchen tents on railroad and under 393. continuously moving people leaves behind lots of trash and needles.

Councilor Grady Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton states Duprey outlines sex assault in that area what other crimes are in that area? Deputy Chief Smagula stating it’s not just that area. Encampments are being run by 1 person who is having others work in these chop shops to “pay rent” to live there.

Deputy Chief Moulton states on Ferry St there are a slew of aggressive pan handling, thieves and a computer stolen right off the desk of an employee working. There are 3-10 camps much more spread out there is a large increase at locations.

Chief Osgood mentions that in the past year or so there have been wooden structures built, they’ve created roadways to shelters, they’ve been very creative. There are Narcan stations, look out towers and booby traps. These encampments also have fire issues with empty propane tanks. Acting Chief Chisholm agrees the propane tanks are an issue. There are also obstacles for the fire dept to be carrying people down these embankments with needles etc.

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton brought up Nick Hayes and asked if Chief Osgood has met up with him.

Chief Osgood explains it's been hard to meet up. The encampment Mr. Hayes speaks of has over (50) bikes with chop shops, meth labs, and not to mention a brand-new wood chipper.

Councilor Bouchard says she spoke with Agway and the land behind them they believe is State. The thievery has gotten much more brazen.

Deputy Chief Moulton states that catalytic converters and tools are being stolen and discarded once the batteries die. They have created drop off points for stripping wire to be turned in.

Councilor Bouchard asked if the Police Department was working with the State? Chief Osgood answers yes, they are working with the State but they are a much slower pace than preferred. We are also working with General Services.

Mr. Edwards asked what the Safety of the Officers was? How are Issues managed when going out there? Deputy Chief Smagula responded there is a 15-20 minute back up response time in the woods. Location points are hard to clarify, using an example of 'near Oak tree'? Struggles and slip and fall issues, out there. There are tents, debris, needles, weapons and lots of stuff. We don't just send one officer we send a group, POP unit, to large encampments.

Deputy Chief Moulton says we end up being more reactive rather than Pro-active. Officers are being spit on in their mouths, which is a biohazard, causing hospital treatments and follow-ups. Officer's worry about their families.

Mayor Bouley interjects, in terms of more lighting, we'd recommend. Issue of homelessness, the shelter started 15yrs ago it was a different crowd. The Erap dollars are drying up and the people in hotels will be out on the street. That number could be up to 200 in Concord. Concord will get the bulk when the money runs out. The Home Depots and Lowes can write it off where the Small Mom and Pops are losing money. When 3 catalytic converters are stolen this causes trucks down and money lost. They are diligent in locking doors from the homeless. But these homeless people have become very aggressive toward residents. In Ward 10, the Broken Ground area residents are scared. It costs the City \$10k a day and 3-4 days to clean up and the Conservation Committee has no more money. City council agreed to the conservation land. City Council will have to deal with this. Public has paid for this along with GSD to clean. This takes a toll on public safety and the Conservation committee. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton would like to poll for this committee to do more work.

Mayor Bouley would like Fire and PD to come in with Human Services and bring in advocates. When the money runs out and people in hotels go out on street It will be an explosion.

Donald Carter thinks the parking lot across from Courtyard there are working lights. Question is 150' pole that is out by 393 does this belong to the State? There are existing light poles with lights out. Could the solution be use existing lights that are currently out? Sites all over the state. More lighting, more cameras. They are becoming much more organized, trickle up process not just Concord. He says "Thank you, Concord Police Department". We are all for lighting but explore options before we spend money.

Mr. Edwards questioned if NH Harm Reduction was still doing needle exchanges near RTE 106 Next Level? Deputy Chief Thomas replies the company left and the homeless are not allowed to be there anymore. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton asked if these folks are from Concord? Did they navigate here? Where are they from? Chief Osgood replies that our POP Unit questions them on this and there is

a power point we are hopeful to be included soon. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton asked if they were looking for housing? Chief Osgood explains they are survivalists with mental health, meth, and addiction. There is a “Mayor” running the camp, giving assignments if they want to stay there in these sophisticated camps, you’ll get a tent, food and beverage.

Mr. Edwards asked if there was any Human Trafficking? Deputy Chief Thomas responded with yes, there is Human trafficking.

Linda Graham (Guest) spoke and said she’s an artist, likes to work outside. She watches the camps while painting outside. She was just curious what was going on with them.

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton recommends a motion? Councilor Candace Bouchard recommends lighting, or enhancing what’s currently there, once we find out who the existing light poles belong to. Mr. Edwards seconds the motion. Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins would like to put in motion to explore light poles that exist. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton says the committee would approve expenditure. Councilor Candace Bouchard reiterates the motion to get with owners of existing light poles. Deputy Chief Moulton says he will look into existing lights. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton clarifies the motion.

Councilor Candace Bouchard says we are in favor of lighting solution specifically support referral requests. Chief Osgood says we will continue efforts with property owners and their lights. Councilor Erle Pierce states for this committee, the City should do something supporting motion. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton calls Unanimous support for referral.

Councilor Erle Pierce thanks the Concord Police Department in homicide case and job well done so far. Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton also shows her Appreciation of the Police Dept.

Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilor Candace Bouchard seconded, adjourning at 1550.