

SJ Neighborhoods Commission (NC), Nov. 18, 2015

informal notes by L. Ames

Agenda: >[link](#)<

Council liaison not present, but [written report](#) was provided.

Police Body-worn Cameras (BWC)

[presentation](#) by Lt. Elle Washburn. Contact info: BodyCameras@SanJoseCA.gov

2-min. [video](#) online at www.SJPD.org

Every officer will be equipped with BWC; will need 10 hr training in policy & hardware operation.

Evaluation began in Nov 2013: Committee from all bureaus and all ranks

3 Working Groups: Patrol, Policy, & Technical

Cultural change, both officers & community. Advantages & impacts. Need to educate & inform.

Field test to evaluate purpose, procurement.

Also had small tests in 2010 and 2012 to test hardware; now testing deployment.

3-month test: 1 month with each of 3 models/brands.

Officers gave feedback on ease of use, comfort, access to data/evidence.

Next steps: Policy; Contract Award; Outreach.

SJ has developed a comprehensive policy.

Reviewed other cities; a living document that will fold in SJ experiences.

There's to be more outreach once the contract is awarded.

SJPD recognizes need to contact young adults.

An Executive Summary of the policies are drafted and being reviewed for release.

Q: When are the cameras on?

A: Policy is posted on-line.

On during call for service, pursuit; can be on during public interaction.

Q: What if public doesn't want to be recorded? A: PD requires consent if entering residence; will record if dealing with a suspect; with victims and witnesses, it's at their wish. Have option to do audio if they don't want video.

Q: Can officers view video before writing a report?

A: Generally, yes -- it's just another tool, like a notepad or camera. Can not delete or alter.

If "Officer Involved Incident", then no; officer to be interviewed first & give initial deposition, then can view data and give a follow-up report.

Q: How long is the data kept?

A: City Data Retention policy is 1 yr. If for a crime, until Statute of Limitations, gen. 2 yrs.

Q: Who can view the data?

A: Thru "Discovery". SJ is towards the "non-disclosure" end of the spectrum; some other cities are at "open" end of spectrum with redacted data posted on YouTube videos.

Don't want to publicly release for some cases (e.g, newsworthy) because then an issue of why isn't it being released in other cases -- is it because PD is hiding something? Better to be consistent.

PD says SJ policy quite comprehensive; had to write their own as there was little around when SJ started. SJ reviewed policies from across the country.
SJ's is unique in that officers not allowed to view video before being debriefed after Officer Involved Incident, although they can make follow-up after the review.
Policy is living document, subject to tweaking upon evaluation.

Cost is also an issue: depends on extent of use and retention policy.

Neighborhood Safety

presentation by Dept'y Chief David Knopf.

(Many stats comparing SJ to other cities, showing local trends & variations across the city. Chart-set to become available; will be linked at >[webpage](#)<)

TABS -- Truancy Abatement / Burglary Suppression: have several officers, could use several more.

Staffing: authorized 1109 (had been 1456 few years ago); actually have 836 active in the field (had been 891 last year).

Resignations have leveled off, but retirements are way up.

Communications Staffing on mandatory overtime.

Illustration of SJPD showing tracking of "hot-spots" (regions of increased burglaries, etc.)

Q: What about "Community Policing" and keeping officers at area for more than current 6 month?

A: now experimenting with some 1-yr rotations: 1 position per each of the ~20 districts.

SJPD hiring 24 new Community Service Officers (CSOs) to augment the sworn officers, in addition to current 26.

Caucus Process

by April, need to go thru Council's Neighborhood Services & Education Committee (NSE).

for the even-numbered districts (including yours truly here in D6)

Have documents from process 2 yrs ago; have ad hoc committee review and update with lessons learned.

Subcommittee: Gary Cunningham (D1, lead), Terry Martin (D9), Desiree Barragan (D3), and Marie Arnold (D2, not returning).

Illegal Fireworks

[Written report](#) from Fire Department Chief Curtis Jacobson

Will return to Council in March with recommendations.

Rather than have NC set up an ad-hoc committee to monitor status, NC Staff Michelle will alert all of us if fireworks on any Council or Committee agendas.

Public: Tim Matalone, Phatom Fireworks, spoke extensively about "Safe & Sane" fireworks. Wants to be involved, offers to explain policies in other cities.

NC discussion: add online reporting of F/W to SJPD's tracking s/w to identify "hotspots"

Q: could vendors be held legally liable for damage?

A: they have insurance.

Chair's Report

Crime-Free Multi-unit Housing Proposal

- per NC motion, I drafted letter to Council (copy on SJ NC website).
- I attended the Rules Committee meeting 10/21/15, made contact with Martha O'Connell, Chair of Housing & Community Development Commission (HCDC)
- spoke at HCDC meeting 11/12/15; offered help, shared "lessons learned" from NC discussion of UAS ("drones")
- forwarded notes and memos to HCDC and to Dave Bopf, Interim Assist. Dir., Housing Dept.

Developer's Roundtable, Nov. 6, 2015

- City has hired consulting firm, Management Partners, to review building permits, processes, fees, etc.
- They will meet with stakeholders: Developers/Customers, Chamber of Commerce, Trade industry groups, and the Community and Economic Development Committee
- I ask: "what about the public?" Home-owner projects; Community impacts of projects (e.g, riparian, parks, schools, traffic)
- I offer that NC can help: perhaps distribute info and solicit feedback.

Golf Courses

- City Auditor reports that Los Lagos and Rancho Del Pueblo are costing the city money.
- As an individual, I spoke at SJ Parks & Rec Commission Oct 7th and wrote to City Council, and mentioned NC 2012 letter on Rancho Del Pueblo. At Park's request, I forwarded a copy of NC letter to Chair of SJ Parks Commission and City Staff.

Homelessness:

- I saw the video, *Exodus from the Jungle*. Hope other districts can arrange showings.
- Report from NC Homelessness ad-hoc committee had not been agendized, could not be given.

Public Comment

- Had discussion with Michelle re: timing of public comment. Some (e.g., City Council) have it at the end, others (e.g, Parks & Rec. Commission) have it at beginning.
- Discussion: keep at beginning.

Staff Report, by Michelle McGurk

- Council's Neighborhood Services & Education Committee (NSE) wants status report from NC in April.
- Two topics discussed at NC now coming to Council: Medical marijuana and outdoor fruit & veggie vending: to Plan Commission in Dec, Council in Jan.

Work Plan Update

- Commission should have been given better guidance: Commission can't plan on doing work in Subcommittees.
- Ad hoc committees are allowed, but should be rare: can't require Staff time, NC or elsewhere
- Okay for NC internal work, e.g, review of Caucus process.

- Can't delegate work to ad hoc subcommittee: discussion has to be in public view.
- Okay if a few Commissioners get together and propose an idea; not okay if group is tasked with development of ideas.
- Commissioners are supposed to go out to the community and encourage public participation.
- Commission can't farm out policy discussions to ad hoc committees. However, Commission can have groups work together to make suggestions.

No NC meeting in Dec; see you all on Jan 13, 2016

Adjourn at about 9:05 PM.

~Larry Ames, 11/19/15