

Meeting Summary

West Linn Public Safety Advisory Board

February 25, 2019

Call to Order & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman, Tom Freedland. Board members attending were Kris Duncan and Judy Wiechmann. The Chair noted Mark Gabriel previously gave notice he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Chair also acknowledged the written resignation of Mike Schofield. In view of the current Board composition, the Chair was able to declare a quorum. Staff attending were Stefan Myers (TVFR), Capt. Peter Mahuna, and Officer Garrett Hoffman (WLPD).

Approval of Agenda: The Board approved the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The written summary for the 1/28/19 PSAB meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

2019 PSAB Officer Elections: Elections were again postponed due to inaction on the part of city officials to appoint or reappoint members to the PSAB.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Disaster Preparedness: Judy W. gave an update on the literature she has on hand to distribute at Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) meetings. She is still working to firm up dates with several interested hosts.

The emergency command position in West Linn remains vacant and it remains uncertain whether that position will stay at the Police Department or move to Public Works.

Teen Driver Safety: Tom F. reported that three applications received online were received and forwarded to the Street Survival team. To date, none of the applicants have followed through to confirm their seats in the spring training and the deadline is drawing near. Tom said after working with both the Youth Advisory Committee and West Linn High School staff, he is running out of ideas on ways to get students enrolled.

OLD BUSINESS

Kris Duncan announced that the documentary film, *Celling Your Soul*, (about screen addiction) was postponed to March 10 due to inclement weather in February. [EDITOR'S NOTE: *The film was actually deferred to Noon, April 14 at the Lake Theatre.*]

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on DUI Drug Screening: Officer Garrett Hoffman, a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), first explained the process of obtaining a DRE designation.

After first receiving classroom training, officers must practice making evaluations to determine actual impairment. After completing a specified number of accurate determinations on practice cases, officers receive their DRE certification.

Officer Hoffman then shared a power-point presentation that outlined the 12-step protocol for making a drug impairment evaluation. In addition to the traditional breathalyzer and field sobriety tests, physical characteristics such as constricted pupils and tremors are noted. When available, tools such as UV lights are helpful to detect substance residues. For example, cannabis residue shows up bright pink. He also noted that drug impaired drivers tend to have more problems following directions during the field sobriety test.

Officer Hoffman noted that cannabis tends to show up in nearly all DUI cases. Users may feel the “high” effects for only 2 hours, but impairment can actually last 24 hours without the person knowing. He explained that cannabis in the blood only lasts for short duration. Fat cells hold the substance much longer and act like a time-release capsule.

In terms of legal limitations and prosecutions, states are still struggling to “catch up” to recent legalizations of cannabis. Officer Hoffman explained it is not as easy to predict impairment by a specific nanogram measurement as it is for alcohol. Colorado is the only state he is aware of that has passed legislation stating that 5 nanograms of THC in the blood qualifies as a DUI. Most local police departments, including West Linn are not yet in a position to secure blood draws on every suspected DUI traffic stop.

STAFF UPDATES

WLPD Update: Capt. Mahuna reported the Department has extended offers to two individuals to address the three remaining vacancies. The Code Enforcement Officer is now back on duty and has now extended her retirement date.

TVFR Update: Stefan Myers announced that a retirement party for Lt. Mike Thorne, of the Willamette Station will be from Noon to 5:00pm on April 10. Another upcoming event in April is TVFR’s Career Day scheduled for the 20th. Mr. Myers also reported that the recent natural gas leak at Rosemont Ridge Middle School afforded many agencies the opportunity to put their plans for a coordinated response into real practice. As part of his public information duties, Mr. Myers will be making a series of presentations at numerous neighborhood associations to explain the upcoming bond renewal that must be voted on.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Duncan (PSAB member)