

# Meeting Summary

## West Linn Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB)

February 24, 2021

**Call to Order & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman, Tom Freedland. Members and staff attending were Kris Duncan, Austin Rufener, Michael Carlsen, Acting Chief Peter Mahuna (WLPD), Stefan Myers (TVFR), and Toni Swanberg (WLPD). After confirming that there are currently 7 PSAB members appointed, the Chair declared a quorum was present. Members present approved the agenda as presented.

**Approval of Written Record:** The written summary of the 2/26/20 PSAB meeting was approved by unanimous consent. *(Note: This was the last time PSAB met before the Covid 19 State of Emergency was declared.)*

### OLD BUSINESS

**Update from the Chair:** Tom F. presented a summary of the activities PSAB members had been engaged in prior to PSAB's hiatus, including Map Your Neighborhood (disaster preparedness), teen driver safety and early discussion on a FireWise-type effort.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Future Meeting Structure:** Kris D. shared a conversation she had with Mayor Walters the previous day while visiting the storm resource center set up at the Adult Community Center. Both agreed that in view of the establishment of a Police Oversight Task Force, that is likely to continue, and the existing Traffic Safety Committee, the references to "crime" should be removed from PSAB's stated purpose and replaced with "emergency preparedness." Kris volunteered to work on language to that effect with the Chair and PSAB's appointed Council representative.

**Disaster Preparedness:** Tom F. noted the work of the prior Map Your Neighborhood Coordinator, Judy Wiechmann. Acting Chief Mahuna reported that prior to vacating her position on PSAB, she returned all the literature, maps and "host buckets" to the Police Dept. where they are now in storage. Still to be resolved is the westlinnready Email where requests for assistance came in. Judy monitored that account which was separate from the City. Kris D. volunteered to ask Judy about that.

Kris D. proposed to devote the March meeting to a "listening session" and discussion on how residents and neighborhoods responded to the recent ice storm and how the City could be more helpful with its limited resources until power is restored. All agreed that any notices should make clear that PGE's performance would NOT be the focus of this meeting. Given time and technology constraints, Tom F. suggested that the number of people invited to comment in person should

not exceed 50. The membership also agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity to relaunch the neighborhood preparedness program, perhaps under a new name/brand. To avoid conflicts with the WLW School District's spring break, it was agreed to schedule this session on March 16. Alicia Stryer will be notified to help spread the word through the City's social media outlets.

A question was raised about whether this post-disaster period would be a good time to pursue a local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program in West Linn. TVFR spokesman, Stefan Myers, noted that the most effective CERT's are those managed by a city/county official.

#### STAFF UPDATES

**TVFR:** Stefan M. reported that during this past year, Covid and wildfires challenged TVFR like never before, but staff morale and commitment remains high. He described the Tyvek suits EMT's are now wearing to assistance calls, which is saving PPE. He noted that since the initial outbreak, Covid numbers among staff have remained low and a major effort is currently underway to get all responders vaccinated. During the recent ice storm, TVFR responded to more than 800 calls that first weekend, including 2 house fires.

**WLPD:** Capt. Mahuna described the whirlwind year he has experienced since becoming Acting Chief. He said WLPD is continuing its concerted effort to rebuild trust. A nationwide search for a new police chief is expected to be announced later this spring and he intends to apply. Contract negotiations are also approaching.

He stated he agrees with the direction PSAB is taking to establish itself as a resource for disaster preparedness and injury prevention, particularly in light of the recent ice storm. With so few patrol officers on duty at any given time, they did their best to help elderly residents to clear their driveways of debris and conduct limited welfare checks, but it would have been impossible for them to go door to door like they did to assist in Mollalla during the wildfires.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Duncan (PSAB member)