

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, July 21, 2010 11:05 AM – 11:30 AM
Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana

Members Present: Dave Strohmaier, Pam Walzer, Roy Houseman, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, Lyn Hellegaard, Dick Haines, Ed Childers.

Members Not Present: Renee Mitchell

Others Present: Stacy Rye, Rod Austin, Mike Brady, Nicole Pifari

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Approve Minutes from [June 23, 2010](#) . Minutes approved unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Dedicated Downtown Police Officer (DDPO) agreement with Business Improvement District ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Mark Muir) (Referred to committee: 07/19/10) **(REMOVE FROM AGENDA)**

Mike Brady described the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer position and the Memorandum of understanding with BID.

Rod Austin provided background regarding the implementation of a Dedicated Downtown Police Officer. He described the feedback from the community as being overwhelmingly positive. He outlined the perspective that has been gained by having an officer dedicated to a downtown foot patrol.

Jon Wilkins expressed support for the program, but he highlighted the lack of consequences for transients cited with crimes. He feels that transients who are found guilty of violations need to be put to work in order to satisfy the penalties for their transgressions. He sees a need to make use of community service or work release programs.

Dave Strohmaier stated that the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission has been exploring the options that Jon Wilkins described. Dave asked for a description of the positive results that have been reported since the implementation of this program.

Mike Brady feels that having the same officer working the same beat allows for the identification of the individuals who are creating the most problems.

Pam Walzer asked if the Dedicated Downtown Police Officer's shifts vary in order to avoid predictability.

Rod Austin said that the shifts do vary, and he would be interested in late night/ early morning shifts in order to address the vandalism issue. He feels that having a single officer performing the patrols allows for that person to gain a long-term perspective regarding the individuals that are regularly contacted by the officer.

Bob Jaffe asked Officer Nicole Pifari to describe the nature of her contacts with the target transient population and 'bar crowd'.

Nicole Pifari stated that most of her contacts have been with transients. Her position involves spending a significant amount of time communicating with downtown business owners and their employees. She stated that the foot beat gives her the element of surprise as she is less visible than a patrol car or even a bicycle officer. She feels that her presence keeps the transients wary. She has received positive feedback from the community.

Bob Jaffe asked where the transients relocate to when asked to move along by the downtown officer.

Nicole Pifari responded that her goal is to keep the downtown safe, and that she is there to make sure that the transients do not engage in socially unacceptable behavior in the downtown area.

Bob Jaffe thinks that the perception of public safety by having a visible beat officer is very positive.

Nicole Pifari described Missoula as a destination for transients nationwide since the City is considered a friendly place for transients to congregate.

Jon Wilkins provided more details regarding community service insurance liability. He asked Nicole if she needed more tools to do her job.

Nicole replied that she could prepare some ideas.

Dave Strohmaier recommended that an end-of-season debriefing to the Council would be appropriate.

Ed Childers asked if Nicole has noticed a hierarchy in the transient population.

Nicole responded that there is a certain level organization and a set of rules among the transient population.

Ed Childers mused that this issue may need to be addressed in a larger context.

Nicole Pifari described the difficulty in dealing with individuals with serious substance abuse problems.

Renee Mitchell expressed her support for this program.

Dick Haines expressed his support for this program. He feels that this approach is worth the expenditure in the long run.

Roy Houseman expressed his support for this program, and he feels that the presence of an officer downtown is very positive.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Mike Painter)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Chapter 6.09 entitled "Missoula Cat Ordinance" section 6.09.010 through 6.09.090 to amend definitions, to limit the number of cats over the age of four months that a person, family, or household can harbor, keep, or maintain to five and to enact other general amendments. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)
5. An [ordinance](#) amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 6 entitled "Animals" generally amending Chapter 6.04 entitled "Animals Running at Large" and Chapter 6.08 entitled "Dogs and Pet Shops," increasing the fee when an animal is impounded and establishing a fee for a boarding kennel license. ([PS&H](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 01/12/09)

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.