

**PUBLIC SAFETY, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE MEETING
APRIL 16, 2020**

Members Present: Council Member Curtis Gardner, Vice Chair
Council Member Angela Lawson, Member
Council Member Alison Coombs
Council Member Dave Gruber
Council Member Marsha Berzins

Others Present: J. Batchelor, A. Robnett, C. Andersen, D. Wilson, D. Parker, E. Watson, V. Wilson, F. Gray, H. Glidden, I. Evans, J. Heckman, J. Lanigan, J. Schneebeck, J. Wilton, L. Center, N. Rodgers, S. Day, T. Brown, T. Pulliam, Z. DeBoyes

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March minutes approved and signed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSENT ITEMS

None.

STREAMLINED INDIGENCY APPLICATION PROCESS, COVID-19 REDUCTION IN INCARCERATION, AND COMPETENCY PROCEDURE ADDRESSING BACKLOG AND MENTAL HEALTH

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Chief Public Defender Doug Wilson presented this item to the committee. He noted that this item was a collaborative effort with Judge Day, Julie Heckman and Dr. Zelda DeBoyes' staff. Unlike the state system, which is already overburdened, municipalities don't have a restoration process set up. When he came on in January there was a backlog of approximately 35 people pending competency evaluations and they were only able to get two evaluations done a month. D. Wilson made a proposal to Judge Day and Julie Heckman to address the backlog of people that were primarily out of custody, incompetent to proceed or incompetency had been raised. If they were found to be incompetent the Public Defender's Office would then contact Aurora Mental Health for a soft handoff and the case would be dismissed. Of the four that were evaluated, two accepted the offer of mental health evaluation and treatment. The process had just gotten underway when COVID-19 restrictions were issued, so the program has been impacted until court hearings start back up. This program is unique and similarly done in Denver but not many other places around the country. D. Wilson built the program around the model used by Steve Leifman in Miami, Florida. He hopes to expand the program in the future. Judge Day added that he appreciates all effort from everyone to address these issues in a streamlined way. He's looking forward to getting the program up and running again. J. Heckman added that one prosecution concern with the competency process is that those people found to be incompetent to proceed, whether they voluntarily agree to participate or not, are released back out into the community and do create some continued public safety risk.

CM Lawson asked what the caseload is weekly and monthly. D. Wilson explained he doesn't currently have a case management system and can't provide that information at this time. CM Lawson asked what resources would be needed for the case load when cases start being placed on the docket again. All cases that could not be resolved were moved out 90 days in anticipation of normal business functions by then. Had about 48 or 50 people out on reconsideration of bonds, also filed about 50 motions to reconsider sentences. Many were stipulated and closed and another 40 people were released. Staff is still working and since March 16, they have argued 130 bond reductions or PR bond motions. While PD has cut down on arrests people are still being arrested on Domestic Violence charges. There are about 200 or 225 people that have been able to get out of custody. However, most of the cases have been moved to June or July. He is concerned there will be issues with the July, August, and September caseloads. Suspects they will be getting more clients due to the economic downturn. CM Lawson hopes there will be some strategic planning. He hopes to evaluate cases with the prosecutors and possibly move some of them off the dockets before July. J. Heckman added that the prosecutors are reviewing cases to identify those that can be resolved sooner rather than later.

D. Wilson explained that he noted the number of meetings and court appearances to get counsel appointed could be upwards of six appearances. Staff has streamlined the process and cut down at least two of the appearances. Making the process much more client-friendly and efficient in moving cases through the courts. CM Gardner asked if there would be metrics collected to define success of reductions of failure to appear charges. D. Wilson confirmed this would be the goal in the future.

Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

None.

FIRE FACILITIES UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Public Works Business Services Manager, Elly Watson, provided the facility condition assessment update presentation to the committee. In 2015 they completed a fire station prototype document. They had three new fire station construction plans in process so the prototype document was created to capture best practices in terms of fire station design. They also had remodel funding available for the existing stations. The facility condition assessment report focused on existing stations and how they met the standards identified in the prototype document. The assessment was done with safety of personnel first and foremost. The assessment looked at seven existing stations and noted health and safety improvements such as enclosing and ventilating bunker gear storage. Assessment report had other non-health related recommendations which are not currently funded. Top priorities were at stations 8, 9, and 12. These stations had similar issues and were built before gender diversity and are inadequately sized. Estimate of \$7.6 million needed to renovate the three stations. Recommendation and cost estimates account for allowing a double company at each station. Also, some lower priority recommendation identified such as at Station 2, which needs a kitchen remodel. Station 4 has a very small office that isn't sufficient for staff to do report writing. Station 6 is inadequately sized and would be a larger remodel project. They have implemented the top priority recommendations centered around health and safety leaving the smaller projects. While they aren't currently funded, they are included in the capital improvement master plan.

CM Lawson asked if there have been any considerations made regarding the projects and how they will look in the future operationally given the effects COVID-19 has had. E. Watson explained there hasn't been any discussions regarding the pandemic response related to COVID-19 guidelines, but she thinks the guidelines they've been using such as individual bathrooms and sleeping quarters will meet the standards. Chief Gray

agrees with CM Lawson and E. Watson in that the newer stations provide more safety for members as it relates to communicable diseases. Confirmed they will take this current situation into account as remodels and new stations are built.

Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

None.

CRIME STATISTICS

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Deputy Police Chief Harry Glidden presented this item to the committee as a follow-up to the presentation from February 2020 to address questions for the committee regarding the demographics of victims. The Public Safety Communications Center dispatched 275,099 calls for service and police on-sighted activity resulted in 85,824. There were 8,047 calls to the language line with 6,660 of those for Spanish speaking citizens. There were 29 homicides in 2019; 16 by gun, 10 by knife, 1 by hand, and 1 by vehicle. Five of the 29 were domestic violence related, two drug related, two gang related, two officer involved, seven unknown to the victim, 16 known to the victim. The demographics of the victims are ten African American adult males, five Caucasian adult males, one African American female, five Caucasian adult females, one Asian adult male, three African American juvenile males, one Caucasian juvenile male, one African American female juvenile, and two Hispanic adult males. The demographics of the suspects are ten African American adult males, six Caucasian males, four Hispanic adult males, two Hispanic juvenile females, two African American Juvenile males, two African American adult females, one Hispanic juvenile male, one Asian juvenile male, and five are unknown. The case status of the 29 homicides include two deemed justified, two suspects are deceased, 18 arrests, one prosecution declined, six remain open/unsolved. There were 14,149 Major Index Crimes reported which was an increase year over year by 1.1%. Of those, major violent crime report was 2,772 and major property crime reported was 11,377. There were five officer involved shooting in 2019; 2 were fatal and 3 were non-fatal. Total arrests for 2019 were 15,038 and tickets issued were 32,767. Total misdemeanor and felony domestic violence cases reported for 2019 are 3,329. Narcotics and drug seizures include 2230.49 pounds of marijuana, 11.51 pounds of heroin, 20.31 pounds of Amphetamine/Meth, 24.69 pounds of Cocaine/Crack, and 16.77 pounds of miscellaneous for a total of 2303.78 pounds. Property and Evidence took in 45,929 items, disposed of 39,886 items, and logged 360 recovered stolen guns. There were seven racial profiling complaints received; five African American males, one Caucasian male, and one African American female. The officers involved in the complaints were fifteen Caucasian males, one Hispanic female, one Hispanic male, and one African American female. Four of the complaints were received online and three were reported by phone. The reported complaints resulted from four traffic stops, one trespass call, one assault investigation, and one welfare check.

CM Lawson asked about the unknown/other references with the homicides and why they are unknown. H. Glidden confirmed the methods were known but the relationships in some were unknown. CM Lawson noted she was concerned with the statistics for the domestic violence. She asked if the offenders were released and going back to the home to cause further violence and how do restraining orders apply. J. Heckman confirmed the municipal cases that come in have full bond hearings, the victims are contacted and offered assistance if they want it and notifications of release. The full bond hearings included considerations for release on their own recognizance. Interim Chief Wilson added that APD is also concerned with the trends and thanks to city management and council, APD has been given five additional FTE's to build the Domestic Violence Unit. The DV Sergeant is currently writing SOP's and contacting other departments for best practices. COVID-19 has impacted his ability to travel and meet with other departments. The complicated dynamics

of domestic violence cases do sometime cause escalation and hope to avoid that going forward. The goal is to build relationships with the victims and provide them the services needed to get them out of the bad situations and bring positive stories back to the committee. J. Heckman commended APD, the DRAT officer that contacts victims, and Sungate for all their assistance. CM Gardner asked how relationships are determined when it's possible they could fall into more than one category. H. Glidden explained that it was his understanding that if there were multiple categories, they would be placed into only one category for reporting purposes. CM Gardner asked for context related to the drug seizure numbers. H. Glidden explained the average dose of heroin is half a gram or less and the average dealer would carry 3 grams. When looking at the number seized it is quite significant. CM Gardner asked why the arrest and summonses numbers were down. V. Wilson explained that many officers were taken off the street to provide emergency response training in response to the protests held in 2019 and any similar events in the future. H. Glidden added that calls for service have an impact on on-sighted activity such as traffic enforcement. CM Lawson asked if the narcotics seized were from Aurora or coming into Aurora. H. Glidden confirmed they were adding that Marijuana was from the city and most others were coming from other cities or states. CM Lawson asked how the racial profiling cases were resolved with the individuals that claimed they were racially profiled and were they investigated by Internal Affairs. H. Glidden confirmed they are reviewed by Internal Affairs. The Racial Profiling complaint line is managed by Internal Affairs. IAB staff reviews the complaint and all available documents and will contact the complainant with their findings. CM Lawson would be interested in seeing the report, resolutions, and if there are options for appealing the decisions on racial profiling complaints. Staff will provide a presentation to the committee from Internal Affairs to discuss the Racial Profiling report and statistics. CM Berzins asked if the drug seizures included fentanyl. H. Glidden explained it wasn't identified for this report and was likely categorized under other. He will provide the information to her.

Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

Staff will provide follow-up information requested.

CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Issue and Discussion

Sergeant John Wilton provided the Crisis Response Team update to the committee. CRT was created to address the growing number of mental health related calls for service within the city. In October of 2017 APD was awarded a Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) grant to implement a co-responder team. The team began working on a full-time basis in March of 2018. Currently there are one sergeant and five officers working with one case manager and four clinicians provided by Aurora Mental Health Center (AuMHC). The co-responder model is designed to divert 911 calls involving a mental health crisis away from a law enforcement response to a more treatment-based response. Embedding a mental health professional allows the most appropriate response. The officer is there to make sure everyone is safe, and the clinician is there to determine the best method of treatment for the subject. Case management is the foundation of success for this model. The purpose of the case manager is to follow-up with the consumer to try to do what is necessary to prevent the subject from re-entering the crisis state. Since inception, there are a minimum of 341 Emergency Department saves. This means the subjects could have been transported to an ED, however, due to the intervention of CRT, an alternative was used. Medical cost savings for these saves adds to approximately \$1.3 million. Alternatives include treatment in place, safety planning, and connection to other services. CRT has also documented 356 jail saves. A jail save is defined as a diversion by CRT from incarceration by a variety of methods, such as working with victims encouraging them not to

press charges, when it is in the best interest of justice to do so. According to the Aurora Jail, the diversion from the jail has had a cost savings of approximately \$32,424 for a minimum of 1-night stay in the jail for each person. Studies show a significant increase in serious mental health issues in young people. According to the American Psychological Association, the rate of individuals reporting symptoms consistent with major depression in the last 12 months increased 52% in adolescents from 2005-2017 and 63% in young adults from 18-25 from 2009-2017. There is also a 71% increase in young adults experiencing serious psychological distress in the previous 30 days from 2008-2017. The rate of young adults with suicidal thoughts or other suicide-related outcomes increased 47% from 2008-2017.

CRT clinicians focus on least restrictive intervention, which are interventions that fall on a continuum spanning safety planning, outpatient services, crisis services (Walk-In Center/Mobile Crisis), CRT, and possibly ED/inpatient/CSU admissions. CRT is considered a higher level of intervention due to PD presence. CRT and crisis services work together to reinforce hospital diversion ideals to reduce cost, increase bed availability, and provide quicker access to needed services. Goals moving forward would be to increase the size of the team to cover all three shifts, seven days a week. To achieve three officers per shift (one per district), would require 15 total officers and at least one sergeant. In order to maintain the co-responder model, an equal number of clinicians would need to be added. With that increase in CRT manpower on the road, the case load for the Case Manager would also increase. Having a Case Manager assigned to each district might be necessary. AuMHC currently runs the WIC/CSU in APD's jurisdiction. These services are ultimately funded by the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and managed by Signal Behavioral Health (SBH) in the Denver Metro area. As of the end of the year, mobile crisis will be contracted out to another private agency called Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY), which is a national agency with multiple offices in Colorado. This agency will provide mobile crisis to Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties. APD is expecting to continue the relationship with AuMHC but has reached out to other organizations such as UHealth, HealthOne, as partners, either to supplement AuMHC or to replace them. The clinical team provides advanced training to the officers on the team. This training has also been offered to other officers as well as civilian staff. The clinical team receives training from PD on self-defense, tourniquet, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), shoot/don't shoot simulator, radio operation, and personal safety. These trainings are incorporated into the orientation process for new employees.

CM Gardner asked what the plans are for funding going forward to maintain the program. J. Wilton explained the first grant for the co-responder model has been exhausted and ended in December of 2019. The clinical program director is a full-time employee of the City of Aurora. All of the other civilian positions are provided and funded by AuMHC. UHealth has offered to also provide clinicians. Additional grants will be pursued. CM Gardner asked for an update on the telehealth component. J. Wilton explained there wasn't funding available before, but the new grant does provide the funding needed. Discussions are ongoing to determine the best way to deploy the 10 tablets. CM Lawson asked if there has been an increase in call volume during the COVID-19 pandemic. J. Wilton will look into that and get the numbers to the committee. CM Lawson asked if personnel have been affected during the pandemic. J. Wilton advised deployment is still one officer and one clinician and there haven't been any changes to response due to COVID.

Outcome

Information Only.

Follow-up Action

Staff will provide call volume stats to committee.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

CM Lawson would like a presentation from APD on the racial profiling reporting and whistleblower/internal complaint process. CM Gardner would like a presentation from the Domestic Violence Unit in the future and AFR community engagement initiatives for the May agenda. CM Gardner wanted to remind staff he requested case law and background of the Civil Service Commission involvement back in January. Nancy Rodgers will get that information to him directly.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

APPROVED:



Curtis Gardner, Vice Chair