

**SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES**  
**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**

City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**September 12, 2016**

Mayor Joyce Jay called the Study Session to order at 8:20 p.m.

Council members present: Janeece Hoppe, Monica Duran, Tim Fitzgerald, George Pond, Zachary Urban, Genevieve Wooden, and Larry Mathews

Absent: Kristi Davis

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Community Development Director, Ken Johnstone; Public Works Director, Scott Brink; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**      none

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**1.** Active Transportation Advisory Team (ATAT)

Rachel Hultin, ATAT officer, reported on their third community survey.

- There were 216 respondents (14 more than last year) to the online survey from July 12-31.
- Respondents include Wheat Ridge residents (72%) and people from surrounding communities.
- She went through the data from the survey.
- She noted that while Ward Station is in Wheat Ridge, the Arvada light rail stations are closer to 60% of the respondents.
- Respondents preferences are the same as last year. The City should: 1) Build more bike paths, 2) Invest in a culture that promotes all modes of travel, 3) Support "Share the Road" and outreach campaigns, 4) Increase enforcement
- Respondents priorities for City investment are:
  1. Improve safety for walking/biking to school
  2. Dedicated funding for sidewalks in priority corridors
  3. Improve bike/ped travel on 38<sup>th</sup> th between Kipling and Youngfield
  4. Create additional connections to the Clear Creek Trail
  5. Improve bike/ped access to commuter rail stations
- ATAT's recommendations for "quick wins" are:
  - 1) Connect to Arvada. Arvada riders want access to Wheat Ridge too.
  - 2) Improve crosswalk striping and signage for schools.
  - 3) Adjust signal timing (not long enough at busy intersections).
- ATAT's policy recommendations for the City are:

- The Bike/Ped Masterplan should identify priorities that serve schools, transit, recreation and shopping
- Include ATAT advisory members in the planning design review
- Identify funding and revenue for sidewalks along the priority corridors that come out of the bike/ped master plan
- Address the poor infrastructure on 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of Kipling (She noted the City is applying for a planning grant for that.)
- Partnerships: more partnering and leveraging with Localworks, ATAT, Rotary and the business community
- Use social media to communicate current and proposed initiatives

## 2. Crime in Wheat Ridge/Annual Marijuana Report ~ Chief Dan Brennan

Chief Brennan went through the Annual Crime Statistics. He noted that crime is up in Wheat Ridge, the Denver metro area, and the State. The Wheat Ridge Actual Statistics include all crimes and attempts. He cautioned that crime data does not reveal the overlying causes of crime.

- Average calls for service (CFS) in 2015 were highest yet at 35,000. 2016 will meet or exceed that.
- Case Report totals are also moderately high (14,000); no change in several years.
- Actual Part I Crimes: 1,991 in 2015 is extremely high; violent crimes are extremely high; property crimes are very high.
  - Motor Vehicle Thefts are up 81% (extreme); Robberies up 57% (very high); Simple assaults up 13% (moderately high); Thefts up 11% (moderately high); all other Part 1 Crimes are within normal range.
- Part II Crimes were moderately lower (DUI, Crim Tress, Dom Dist, Dom Viol, Vandalism, drug crimes) and remain static.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Deg Crim Trespass in extremely high; weapons violations are very high.
  - Traffic Accidents were up considerably, but injury and fatal accidents were in the normal range.
  - Traffic citations were down in 2015, but we've already passed those numbers this year.
- The hot spots remain the I-70/Kipling area, Wads Corridor, 38<sup>th</sup> Ave and 44<sup>th</sup> Ave.

### Heroin (2015)

42 heroin-related arrests, 8 known overdoses and 1 death. There was a sharp increase in calls for service related to heroin. Use is increasing because heroin is cheap.

### Methamphetamine (2015)

100 meth-related arrests (up); 442 calls for service related to meth (up); 0 known overdoses.

#### Transients/Homeless - recent activity

In August 2016 we had 16 calls for service re: panhandlers, 21 re: transients; 23 re: homeless; 38% regarding camps, 13% for welfare checks; no arrests made; 3 notices of violations for camping in parks. Department staff is working with the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative.

#### Mental Health holds

282 in 2015 – a 10% decrease from 2014. We have CIT trained officers. Most common are suicidal party and welfare check. \$17,187 spent in 2015 for two-officer mental health hold CFS. To date in 2016, we've already had 210 mental health holds.

Prevention and education Continuing promotion of crime prevention programs.

#### Council questions

- The reasons for increase in crime are many, most anecdotal. They include marijuana, shortage of affordable housing, and the need of services for mentally ill.
- We do have a gang presence – reporting most interaction with 211 Crew, and Latino gangs.
- The organized crime we have is drug related -- Mexican cartels and others. We've been successful in auto theft investigations apprehending lower level offenders related to Mexican car theft rings.
- If anyone wants to help with homeless and mental health talk to the Chief.
- Several motels generate a lot of activity.
- First responders have Narcan, and some of our officers will be receiving training soon.
- There is already internal discussion about how to deal with motel owners related to heroin overdoses. We do have some residential locations considered "drop houses".
- Citizens can access crime information on the City Website.

#### Marijuana (2015-16 school year)

- Drugs and Alcohol in schools didn't increase much.
- Offenses include possession of drugs/alcohol/synthetic marijuana and paraphernalia.
- WRHS hired a counselor that does drug education; our officers taught 17 classes.
- Adult charges related to controlled substances increased.
- Home grows: 4 arrests in 2015; 3 arrests so far in 2016
- DUID arrests were down in 2015; up so far in 2016.

#### Council questions

Staff to check with Excel rep about identifying houses with large power usage.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Study Session adjourned at 9:53 p.m.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON October 10, 2016



George Pond, Mayor Pro Tem