

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance:

April Fournier, Chair (At-large), Anna Trevorow (District 1), Roberto Rodriguez (At-Large), Victoria Pelletier (District 2), Mark Dion; Mayor.

City Staff:

Jessie Lemieux, Executive Assistant for Fire Department; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Mark Dubois, Police Chief; Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager/Interim Director of HHS; Greg Jordan, Assistant City Manager. Alfredo Vergara; Director of Public Health, Bridget Rauscher; Public Health, Nicole Albert; Legal Police.

1. Announcements

2. Review and Approval of Minutes June 11, 2024

Motion to approve by Councilor Rodriguez and Councilor Trevorow
Unanimous Yes

3. Proposed Police Department Acquisition of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (Chief Mark Dubois, Police Department)

Helpful tool (broke down applications)

Primary uses: Search and Rescue (used thermal imaging in woods) and (boater in water on July 4th), swat searches with a barricaded subject, and drone ties into the same system that are in place for recordings and are useful during accident reconstruction.

In January we had funds to use towards the drone, already allocated.

Have used drones in city through other agencies, but with a delayed response time

Operators are licensed pilots (FAA Approved)

Law enforcement may not deploy drones for surveillance per legislation

Requirement that legislature receive a summary for use in criminal aspects

Adds a layer to policing, robot is compromised, this allows for additional approaches, but limited

Councilor Pelletier is concerned for community response and impact community privacy and police imposing

Nicole Albert - 4th amendment law in criminal prosecutions - anything that constitutes a search needs a search warrant or exigent circumstances.

Use of facial recognition is not allowed.

Councilor Fournier - Permissible use and outlining the boundaries

Are training costs allocated?

What about licenses? Are they one time, or annual renewal?

Warranties? Repairs and maintenance?

Chief Dubois - Couple officers are licensed pilots already for personal use

Would budget for this, certifying a couple officers - it's a minimal cost

Believe that once licensed its for career

Benefit with Axxon company is that it is compatible with other tools we use like body cameras. Ability to review materials easily.

Mayor Dion - could be an asset to secure this, but expressed concern about civil liberties being violated. Create a FAQ for this to inform the citizens and ease concerns.

4. Bayside Update (Chief Mark Dubois, Police Department)

Chief Dubois- reassigned officers to cover more space and time

June arrests 342 vs 247 in June of 2023

Violating conditions of release, 30% drugs, 20% disturbance

Calls for service - June 783 - down from May at 911

Will focus on quality of life issues Created a guide for officers to assist with keeping area safe

5. Opioid Settlement Fund Allocations: Review of Initial Recommendations (Councilor Fournier, Chair)

Public hearing in September

Dena Libner - developed a memo that walks the committee through the criteria used for the funding available and expect to have available.

Criteria list was eligible alignment with one or more of the eligible uses established in the settlement materials.

Estimated cost of delivery relative to one another, and funding that is currently available.

Fiscal sustainability of each recommendation

Scope/ how complex they get off the ground, and impact.

Chose not to put estimates in memo as they are vague currently

Two strongest recommendations –

On peninsula treatment centers

Potential to establish day space on peninsula

Concerns addressed in memo

Fiscal impact-

Settlement funds was 750k and ½ million more

1.2 million yet to be accepted or appropriate by council

Eligibility to meet criteria is broad -

Would need to evaluate costs and use this to most valuable response

Welcome the committee to provide options and priorities

Councilor Fournier - do we have enough money to pay past the upfront costs?
Providers relayed need for peer support and funding to support that.

Councilor Trevarrow- Theme of funds being used for emergency shelters?
Councilor Rodriguez- Will firmer numbers for costs be available in September?
Mayor Dion - Supports day space, but considers it a nexus for food distribution.
Efficient to provide meals at one spot and reduce litter at food stops.

Dena Libner - will create something more formal with all the feedback to have in September for discussion.

6. Staff Update: City of Portland Syringe Service Program (Dr. Alfredo Vergara, Director of Public Health)

Appendix A of memo - syringe program is a way to wrap around a number of services to help drug addicts.

Table at bottom of page 1 summarizes 2023 accomplishments

- Referrals list identified

- 2,309 people that were clients enrolled in program, providing an average of 337 per year.

- Less than 1 syringe per day for each client

- Objectives - decrease improper disposed syringes

 - Focus on stretching education on disposal

 - Develop approach to improve infrastructure for pickup

 - Increase number of personal sharps containers

 - Increase/expand community sharp container (identify hotspots)

 - Addressing problem by user community - input

- Second objective -

 - Standardizing data collection protocols

 - Staff being more active in community - proactive

 - Identify high exchange use data

 - Exploring different colored syringes - concerns with costs

- Community is fluid and locations are moving

Councilor Pelletier - Expansion of sharps containers, locations?

Councilor Travarro - Concerns on jurisdiction on state owned property/ private property and placement of containers.

Nicole Albert - Public funds can only be used for public purposes. However, given widespread disposal on all properties, the use of public funding, that passes legal, can be used on private property with permission from the property owner.

Mayor Dion - concerned about the report of 785,960 needles distributed, but only 537,297 returned. Where did the remainder go?

Need to track needles and distribution and circulation in the community.
When did we initiate needle exchange programs?

Dr Vergara - In place for 20 years

Body of data that relates needle exchange and bloodborne pathogens

Is there an equitable trade off in the current strategy and the public expectation for safe environments?

Is staff considering opening the conversation with the public as to their quality of life with discarding waste?

Councilor Fournier - Costs associated with tracking needles. Will advocate for quarterly check ins.

Would opioid settlement funds be available to use here, example colored syringes?

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

7. Next Meeting: September 10, 2024