



Portland Police Department

**City of Portland, Maine
Public Safety / Health & Human Services Committee
February 10, 2015**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance:

Chair Councilor Suslovic, Councilor Costa, Councilor Brenerman, Councilor Dusen

City Staff Attendance:

Sheila Hill-Christian, Interim City Manager; Dawn Stiles, Director of Health and Human Services; Jessica Grondin, Communications Director; Michael Sauschuck, Police Chief; Adam Lee, Corporation Counsel; Julie Sullivan, Acting Chief of Staff; Jerome LaMoria, Fire Chief; Keith Gautreau, Acting Deputy Chief; Scott Thomes, Assistant Fire Chief; David Jackson, Assistant Fire Chief; Tammy Munson, Director of Inspections; Jon Rioux, Deputy Director of Inspections; Richard Bianculli, Neighborhood Prosecutor; Tuck O'Brien,

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Meeting Called to Order

Chair Suslovic moved to accept minutes from the January 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – 7 Point Plan Update (written communication)

The Committee received a communication regarding the 7 Point Plan update and had no questions.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Trauma Intervention Program Introduction

Leslie Skillin, Crisis Team Manager for the TIPS program, provided an overview of the valuable services that citizen volunteers provide the City's public safety departments on scene. The volunteers are trained in emotional first aid. There are 21 volunteers and 2015 is TIP's 10th year in service. Chair Suslovic recognized Police Chief Michael Sauschuck and Fire Chief Jerome LaMoria who both thanked TIP immensely for their service and commitment.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Fire/Code Task Force Recommendations (action item)

Julie Sullivan, Acting Chief of Staff, introduced members of the task force and described that the group reached a full consensus on their recommendations. Julie read through the back-up material to describe the purpose of the task force and its overall recommendation.

Tammy Munson reviewed options and background information included in back-up material for a risk based approach.

Deputy Chief Keith Gautreau provided a recap to the fire report that is not yet available to the public and discussed the Department's intent to increase public education regarding life safety and building occupancy beginning fall 2015. The National Fire Protection Association has offered free training for fire department members that begins in March/April of 2015.

Crandall Toothacker of the Southern Maine Landlord Association, Katie McGovern, Esq. of Pine Tree Legal Association and Jon Rioux, Deputy Director of Inspections for the City all provided an overview of the back-up material as it related to their position held on the Task Force. Julie Sullivan summarized the recommendation.

Chair Suslovic thanked the task force for their work and recommendations and opened the floor for public comment.

The following individuals spoke regarding the recommendations:

- Tom Macmillan of Munjoy Hill expressed discontent with the lack of tenant involvement.
- Carol Schiller of Longfellow Street fully supports the task force and recommendations. Ms. Schiller also provided an emailed letter to the committee that is attached to these minutes.
- Anne Pringle of Neal Street did not attend, but provided her comments via email to the committee. A copy of that email is attached.
- Laura Larkin from Bayside appreciated the efforts of the task force.
- Chris Vail supports the task force and hopes this work is not just a "reactionary condition"
- Ashley Summers provided a longer comment pushing the City to be proactive and not reactive.
- Alison Fisher from Congress Street supports tenant rights and public information sessions to allow tenants to inform themselves.

The Chair closed public comment at 7:00pm and opened the meeting to questions from councilors.

Councilor Brenerman asked how we can assure the public that only 5 additional staff are adequate. Julie Sullivan responded that 5 was the number the task force recommended at this time taking budget considerations into the recommendation. Tammy Munson provided additional background information using information based on Portland's population and properties relative to that of Boston, MA and noting that 5 was the minimum recommendation.

Chair Suslovic asked if there is a recommendation for an ordinance change to allow the fire department to inspect single family homes or 2 unit properties. Julie said that no, the proposed housing office would be charged with inspecting single family homes and 2 unit apartments. The conversation continued shortly surrounding limits on fees where corporation counsel and the neighborhood prosecutor clarified there is a limit on excessive fines. Councilors asked questions about life safety codes and requirements. Acting Deputy Chief Gautreau responded to those questions. Councilor Dusen supports a checklist idea for landlords and tenants and suggested the City fund displaced tenants where landlords have not made buildings habitable.

Chair Suslovic thanked the task force for their solid work and said the resource allocation discussion is timely given the finance committee's current status. The Chair did ask if the Task Force discussed licensure vs. registration; how expansive do we plan to be with regard to safety and legality; has a full merger of departments been considered by the task force? Are we reviewing who has the authority to

inspect? Chair supports education and outreach making use of social media to accomplish that. The Chair supports enforcement and disclosure at the time landlords and tenants sign a lease.

The Chair said the next steps are for Julie Sullivan and Sheila Hill-Christian to have one list of proposed ordinance changes regarding the task force's recommendations. Sheila planned to work staffing through the budget process before showing a larger more concrete picture of all of this. The Chair was supportive of moving forward as information was available from staff and the committee agreed. Councilor Cost asked for a financial outline to illustrate this recommendation.

The Committee did not discuss the 2015 work plan and adjourned at 8:03pm.