

Police Commission Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023
At Glendale City Hall, Council Chambers and by Zoom

Present:

Paul Kranz, Chair
Tomika Vukovich, Vice Chair
Eric Zentner, Secretary
Maria Rosek

Chief Mark Ferguson, Glendale Police Department
Captain Rhett Fugman, Glendale Police Department

Absent:

Nicole Ford

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Chief Ferguson reported that we got approval from the city council to start the K9 transition program. The current K9, Bricks, is 6 years old. The average work life of a police dog is 7-9 years. We are hoping to get a new dog in 2025 and start training with Officer Beeker. We may have two dogs for a time until Bricks retires. The whole K9 program is funded by donations (The Brick restaurant in Glendale is a big donor). The Chief also reported that we have the 3 flock cameras (which detect stolen vehicles, missing persons and wanted persons), and we are about to sign a 5-year lease to keep the current price. Motel 6 will put one in and Pick-n-Save south will put one in. The chief showed a table comparing 2022 statistics to 2023 statistic (projecting out for the rest of 2023). Based on the actual numbers plus projections, In 2023, calls for service are down 2%, but cases (where we are actually writing a report) are up by 4%. Citations are down, warnings are up. Accidents increased by 12% (likely due to the construction). Felony arrests are up 44%, misdemeanors up 35%. Robberies are down. Motor vehicle thefts are down 31%. Retail theft is up 30%.

We talked about how some businesses (like Victoria's Secret) don't call the police and put their expensive inventory right by the door, which makes shoplifters come back again and again. The Apple store is doing a good job with theft prevention.

Tomika mentioned community efforts where the public pressured retailers to implement loss prevention policies; not shopping somewhere until they do something about the theft. Another thing is adding speed bumps in the parking lot

to slow down getaway cars or traffic control so cars can only go one way without severe tire damage.

Chief Ferguson agreed but also said one thing that really helps is greeting customers (so they know you see them). Captain Fugman said that one reason thefts are up is that more stores are reporting, which is a good thing.

Paul asked if we could get the mall owner involved. The chief said we used to have an involved mall owner, but that has changed since we turned the streets over to them. Tomika said that it's not all under one owner anymore; it's sort of like a condo situation: an inseparable parcel with multiple owners.

The mall is becoming more active with more stores and community events as well.

Paul asked about the recent school events; Chief said that kids have been sharing inappropriate photos and videos. They (including the SRO) are trying to educate kids about this.

Maria said Milwaukee Police Department has a program to help prevent this, and Glendale schools have been receptive to this MPD program.

Paul mentioned that a vice principal at the H.S. got injured by a student.

The chief reported we have 2 officers out with torn ACL's and another out with a torn quad muscle. We are understaffed, but the officers are stepping up and prioritizing well.

We then moved into closed session to interview candidates.

Tomika moved that we go into open session at 20:31, Maria Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tomika moved that we accept both candidates, Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Zentner
Secretary
