

Public Safety Committee Meeting of November 2, 2009

Minutes

Members present: Larry Jeffus, Council Member – District 4, Committee Chairman

Preston Edwards, Council Member – District 3

John Willis, Council Member – District 5 Douglas Athas, Council Member – District 1

Staff present: Mitch Bates, Chief of Police, Staff Liaison to PSC

Robert Wunderlich, Senior Managing Director of Transportation

Brian England, Assistant City Attorney Julius Warren, Assistant Building Official

Cindy Hale, Sr. Administrative Assistant, Police

Chairman Larry Jeffus called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held on September 14, 2009, were approved unanimously.

Item #1: Ongoing Security Issues at Vacant Commercial Properties

Councilman Larry Jeffus started the discussion concerning South Garland where vacant buildings for Mervyn's, Target and Boot Town are located. Issues of homeless people breaking in for shelter, suspected drug incidents, and graffiti are among the problems associated with the vacant properties. Points were made to start holding the owners of the property more accountable by putting a lien on the property or start issuing citations to the owners. Julius Warren, Building Inspections, stated that Mesquite has a policy that the Fire Code Board is responsible for keeping the vacant properties in compliance. After a certain time period they tear the buildings down. After much discussion the committee suggested that they look at other cities policies and actions on vacant property and discuss the findings at a future meeting.

Item #2: Controlling Traffic in Neighborhoods During Public Events

Chief Bates stated one of the problems the city had in the past was Richardson would route their traffic through City of Garland's north side neighborhoods. He stated Garland and surrounding cities need to start coordinating together for special events to help eliminate some of the traffic issues. Informational signs in the locations guiding people where to and not to park would be beneficial. Putting information on traffic routes for events in customer's utility bills was another suggestion. The committee discussed several minimal steps that would be productive to help decrease the traffic in surrounding neighborhoods of the special events.

Future Agenda Items

- 1. Approval of minutes
- 3. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2009.

The meeting was	s adjourned at 4:40 p.m.		
Submitted By:		on	
	Mitch Bates, Staff Liaison to PSC Chief of Police		
Approved By:	Larry Jeffus, Chairman Council Member – District 4	on	