

Pending Committee Approval

POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 Zoom Meeting

ATTENDING

Chair Karen Testerman, City Manager Judie Milner, Chief David Goldstein, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor Jo Brown, Chief David Goldstein, Lieutenant Dan Poirier and Prosecutor Margot Newman.

I. HOMELESS ISSUE IN THE CITY

Councilor Zinc asked the question if there was any inventory of the homeless or the amount with school age children or veterans. Chief Goldstein replied that the homeless population is ever changing. He said that the police department doesn't have information regarding homeless school age children. That would be something the school would have confidential records on. Councilor Zink inquired if there were services to homeless veterans. Councilor Brown said she is aware that there are services for veterans. City Manager Milner said that she would like to speak based on the time she has filled in for the Welfare Director. There are many services available to the homeless but most times they don't want assistance for any number of reasons and they can't be forced to take assistance. City Manager Milner said there were issues with some break-ins in the downtown area but they couldn't necessarily be traced to the homeless population. She also wanted to make it clear that the police department is doing as much as they can do about this issue. Chief Goldstein referenced city ordinance 207-1 saying that police could move people along and they have. Patrol has a good standing with this population and do move people along but that doesn't stop them from coming back. Councilor Testerman wanted to know what suggestions there were to put the resident's minds at ease.

Councilor Zinc suggested that we do something similar to the Concord Coalition and pull together a stake holders meeting. Chief Goldstein agreed this would be a great idea but wanted to make it clear it had to be productive and not a meeting to complain. Councilor Testerman agreed. City Manager Milner advised there is a wrap around group in Franklin and that may be a place to start. Councilor Testerman said that her and the City Manager could work together to reach out to these different organizations to schedule a meeting together.

Chair Testerman asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Zink seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Stephens
Chief's Secretary