



HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lewis-Chang
Councilwoman Greenberg
Councilwoman Jones
Police Chief Morillo
Captian Acevedo- Absent
SORS Chief Rothstein
Ms. Davenport, Health Officer
Mr. Egelberg, OEM Coordinator
Mr. Battaglia, Village Engineer
Mr. Moore, WBRSO
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

All members present approved the meeting minutes for May and April.

April 9, 2024

May 14, 2024

General Discussion

Health Department Report

Ms. Davenport updated the committee on the following items:

- NJ Association for City/County Health Officials - Enhancing Local Public Health Capacity Grant announced federal funding with a new grant NJ ACHOO. Ms. Davenport will be applying for this grant that will help manage health department services from July 2024-March 2026.
- Pool Licensing- Ms. Davenport is currently working on a draft Ordinance with Mr. Otis, Village Counsel. Ms. Davenport anticipates this will be on the June 24th Village Council agenda. In response to Councilwoman Greenberg, Ms. Davenport detailed the license for public pools such as apartment buildings, Orange Lawn, or Seton Hall. This will help administratively keep track. In response to Councilwoman Lewis-Chang,



the committee discussed safety for private pool owners. Ms. Davenport suggested speaking to the Construction Official, that when there is new construction, educational materials can be given to the owner for pool safety.

- Substance abuse prevention and enforcement- Vaping Ordinance. Ms. Davenport is working with Mr. Otis on the license aspect of the ordinance and creating an application through GovPilot.
- Dog Bite Incidents- Ms. Davenport detailed the incidents and assured the committee that the Health Department is encouraging all residents to leash their dogs.
- Rabies vaccine clinic

OEM Report

Mr. Egelberg updated the committee on the following items:

- There were no natural disasters/emergencies in the last month.
- Mr. Egelberg will be attending the County meeting and will report any updates.
- With the help of Deputy Coordinator Rothstein, Mr. Egelberg is planning to set up training classes at the reopened Baird Community Center. Dates will be announced.

Rescue Squad Report

Chief Rothstein updated the committee on the following items:

- 216 calls for service in the month of May.
- 5k and Open House Event
- SORS sold an ambulance to the Dominican Republic Fire Department in need.

Police Department Report

Chief Morillo updated the committee on the following items:

- Jr. Police Academy
- Global Entry Program - Customs & Border Interviews at South Orange Police Headquarters in July. This is for South Orange residents only.
- National Night Out - August 6, 2024
- General Traffic Update - Chief Morillo stated that the department has upped their enforcement for traffic issues and detailed the number of summons/warnings.
- Part 1 crimes/ Tier 1 crime statistics



- Noise Enforcement
- Traffic study/ Traffic-calming recommendations- Seton Village Area. Chief Morillo ordered a 14-day traffic-calming session (twice a day) in the Seton Village Area and reviewed the data. Then another 14 Day in July. This will primarily be done on Riggs Place, but enforcement will take place around Seton Village.

The committee discussed the suicide incident at NJ Transit train tracks and Chief Morillo stated that he is attending a meeting with the Essex Chief's Association and the NJ Transit Chief will be in attendance to discuss additional services for people who witness these types of events.

Traffic/Engineering Report

Mr. Battaglia discussed the following items:

- Handrails for the stairs at Sloan Plaza. Mr. Battaglia and DPW Director, Mr. Foligno are coordinating the installation.
- Creating a list for the 2024 striping project
- Currently working on a Sidewalk contract for locations that have been damaged by trees.
- Upcoming street paving: Meade Street. The bicycle lanes will be reinstalled.

In response to Councilwoman Jones, Mr Battaglia detailed the progress of the Montrose Street Project. Mr. Battaglia will not share the draft of the project until he receives comments back from the state. Councilwoman Greemberg asked the committee about the noise ordinance and enforcement. Ms. White stated that concerns can be brought to the code enforcement department during municipal office hours.

Walk, Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

Due to the absence of Ms.Flath, there was no report.

Mr. Moore asked Chief Morillo about electric scooters/bikes as it pertains to enforcement. In response to Mr. Moore, Chief Morillo stated that the law isn't quite clear because they have to find out how many "cc" the bike or scooter is. Currently, there isn't any registration or legislation at the state level. The committee discussed possible local legislation. Councilwoman Lewis-Chang also suggested for the public write to the state about their concerns on this issue to help bring awareness.

Public Comments



**The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.
(comments are limited to 3 minutes)**

Ed Moore, South Orange Resident, asked if the Social Worker that has joined the police department , will help residents who witness dramatic events. Mr. Moore detailed an interaction at the Police Department and commented on how it was handled. Lastly, Mr. Moore asked Mr. Battaglia about the Handrails in Sloan Plaza and West Montrose draft plan.

Chief Morillo clarified that the social worker is contracted by The Mental Health Associates and is not a part of the police department or a municipal employee. The Social Worker will have space to work in the police department but will also work with the Health Department.

Mr. Battaglia clarified that he received complaints from residents regarding there are no handrails in Sloan Plaza and will be installing them soon. Mr. Battaglia detailed the plans for the West Montrose Street project based on recommendations from the Walk, Bike, Ride Committee.

Executive Session

No Executive Session.

Next Meeting Date

July 9, 2024; 6pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary