

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
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HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 12, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call Meeting to Order

Trustee Coalier, Chair
Trustee Brown- **Absent**
Trustee Haskins
Fire Chief Sullivan
Interim Chief, Capt. Dolinac
Lt. Acevedo
SORS Interim Chief Rothstien
Health Officer, Mr. Festa
OEM Coordinator, Mr. Egelberg
Village Engineer, Mr. Battaglia
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

June 10, 2021

All members present approved the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes.

Public Comments

Police/ Traffic Safety

Pearl Feder, South Orange Resident and Senior Advisory Committee Representative, requested to have a stop sign installed on Longview Road and Laurel Avenue. Ms. Feder detailed the line of sight issues on surrounding streets. For reference, Ms. Feder will share a video of the traffic. Also, there are signs on Longview Road going toward Laurel that says "School Up Ahead"; the school is in the opposite direction.

In response to Ms. Feder, Trustee Coalier reviewed Ms. Feder's previous email on this matter and was in agreement that the area needs to be investigated. Trustee Coalier detailed discussion between Mr. Battaglia and Lt. Acevedo, regarding safety improvement measures.



Though in the planning stages, Trustee Coalier assured Ms. Feder that improvements will be made in that area.

Report Summary & Questions, Follow Up and New Items

General (Impacts all)

Community Care & Justice Update

Trustee Coalier updated the committee on the progress on the CC&J program, which is a social work pilot. Trustee Coalier introduced a new hire, Kristen Miller, LCSW. Ms. Miller's role within CC&J will be Outreach Director. Essentially designing and rolling out program services. Ms. Miller detailed her social worker background for the committee. Next, CC&J is planning to have suicide training (youth & adults) for the community in September. This is geared for non-mental health professionals. CC&J participants had a great initial meeting and are focusing on creating policy and procedures with the help of SOPD.

Trustee Collier shared a survey for community input regarding social work priority. [\(CC&J Survey\)](#)

Health

Report Summary & Questions

Mr. Festa detailed the Board of Health report for July 2021. For more information please see the report attached. In regards to the Covid-19 cases, 1,030 total cases, and 15,107 negative cases. This breaks down to 553 males and 477 females. The average age for males is 36 and the average age for females is 38. Mr. Festa stated that many of the positive cases are classified as "breakthrough" cases, meaning the individual is fully vaccinated. Or travel cases; where an individual was in the airport during the infectious period. The Health Officer must collect data and report it to the State Department of Health, who then reports it to the CDC. Lastly, the CDC reports it to the Division Global Migration & Quarantine (DGMQ). The State Dept. of Health is currently having discussions regarding boosters for the vaccine. As of now, Health Officer Festa states that it has only been recommended for high risk individuals.

OEM

Report Summary & Questions

The OEM Coordinator continues to meet with Seton Hall University on a bi-weekly basis to discuss reopening in the fall and working with FEMA reimbursement for Tropical Storm Isais. Mr. Egelberg anticipates the Village receiving the funding soon. The estimated reimbursement cost is about \$10,000. Coordinator Egelberg CPR trained all the Recreation department



summer camp counselors.

Lastly, Mr. Egelberg has joined the South Orange Cannabis Task Force as OEM Coordinator. In response to Trustee Coalier, Mr. Egelberg will give an update to the H&PS committee on the tasks force progress.

Rescue

Report Summary & Questions

The Committee congratulated Interim Chief Rothstien on his promotion. Interim Chief Rothstien detailed the SORS statistics. For more on that report, please see attached. SORS is still following Covid-19 protocols put in place by the OEMS, NJ Dept. of Health and CDC recommendation. Along with changes in staff administration, the Rescue Squad have been conducting in-person training drills in their building and community CPR classes. In the monthly report, mutual aid calls were high in Newark. Due to the high numbers, the SORS Board of Directors have been in discussion with University Hospital to create a partnership that will be mutually beneficial. Such as equipment reimbursement, equipment purchases, medical supply reimbursement and training through their programs. The interim Chief further explained that in the event SORS or RWJ aren't able to send an ambulance, University Hospital will respond to the call. SORS have implemented staffing two crews at a time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, which are the squad's high volume nights. Three new auxiliary members have been added to help with administrative tasks, public relations and fundraising. Mr. Rothstein announced that a few members of the SORS and an ambulance were featured in an independent film last month called "Matthew".

Fire

Report Summary & Questions

Chief Sullivan stated that day to day operations are status quo. Chief Sullivan highlighted a few new programs with dispatch and automatic aid, which are proving to be successful. In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Sullivan detailed the radio testing process and that the testing takes place daily. The radio testing report documents the radio failure and lists locations of where it had occurred. For more information on the Fire Department repost, please see attached. In response to Trustee Haskins, Chief Sullivan stated that the automatic aid procedure with Maplewood since July, has been done about 4-5 times so far.

Police

Report Summary & Questions

Interim Chief Dolinac detailed July 2021 crime statistics, report attached. In response to Trustee Coaillier, Chief Dolinac stated the total for the month of July was a \$33,000 of overtime hours.



Trustee Coalier explained to the public that the overtime reports are helpful to get a monetary perspective for each department. From the payroll reports, this amount of overtime is due to staffing absences and normal leave. The Department has restarted officer foot patrols on Friday and Saturday in the Sloan Street area, which will consist of one officer for four hours.

Chief Dolinac announced that BOT has approved the purchase of 47 bodyworn cameras. The purchase order has been shipped to the vendor. The next steps are to coordinate project management between the vendor and the Village I.T. Department.; at that point a timeline will be created to figure out installation, debugging and training for the officers. Chief Dolinac will keep the committee updated on the progress in the coming months. This month, traffic studies were conducted on Finley Place, Academy Street, Luarel Avenue. The SOPD Special Operations assisted DPW and Administration in generating a list of village roads, curbs and striping that need refreshing. Lastly, the State Health Department ran a program that provided the department with nasal narcan for free.

Discussion ensued regarding crime prevention.

Digital Video System

Following up from the Digital Video Systems forum. Chief Dolinac stated that the department appreciated the community feedback and recommendations from the Community Police Collaborative. All recommendations are being evaluated by counsel to see what is feasible within the current legal regulatory framework. The next step will be to present a plan to either the H&PS committee or the BOT. This process is being worked on during day to day activity but remains a high priority for the department.

PD Digital Video System Form:

The survey is still open for comments.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SIUABjhu4YIDXPbWfvkQS_UmYF5hiha7BEH82GDhOQ/edit .

Traffic Safety

Report Summary & Questions

Lt. Acevedo detailed the traffic safety report. In the past 30 days, SOPD responded to 2106 calls. The busiest day of the week is Tuesday and the busiest time during the week is 9am. Out of all the calls received, only 47 calls were classified as Teir 1. Response times on the Teir 1 calls were 1min and if the crime occurred, the response time was 3 minutes. Lt. Acevedo is excited to resume the pedestrian safety detailing next week. Later in the year, the department will resume DWI detailing. The "Good Behavior" situation program is back. The SOPD will be working with different retailers in the village to participate in the rewards of this program. The PBA will also help cover the cost of the pizza and ice cream.



To follow up the Chief's traffic study report, Lt. Acevedo further explained how a stop sign is placed by applying the guidelines set forth by the Manual Uniform Traffic Control. In regards to Ms. Feder's request for a stop sign, though in agreement with Ms. Feder that a stop sign makes sense in the section. The traffic data does not support the fact that a stop sign is needed. Lt. Acevedo quickly ran a report on the areas requested. The data shows that in the last 5 years, there have been 6 total incidents. Five at the Harding Dr. and Redmond Road intersection and one at Larual and Harding intersection. Mr. Battaglia added this is a common request from residents at intersections referenced in public comment. However, if a sign isn't permitted, there are other traffic calming measures that can be taken. Mr. Battaglia stated he would be in contact with Ms. Feder after this meeting. Discussion ensued.

Starting Sunday, August 15, 2021, Meadowbrook Lane (bottom of flood hill) from Meade Street to Meadowbrook Place will be closed from 9am-4pm. At the request of the Recreation Department, this will be used as an open space for the community. Lt. Acevedo discussed an Amtrak Suicide prevention program, where signs would be placed in the train station to bring awareness and help anyone who is struggling. Trustee Haskins suggested signs be placed at other access points in town and have CC&J get involved with this program.

Road Repair/Safety Upgrade Process

Mr. Battaglia discussed the current improvements to Grove Road. The SOPD is currently assisting in traffic control. The road will be paved by next week. As a new hire, Mr. Battaglia is reviewing the many projects currently in motion and will have a detailed report at the next meeting.

New Items

Mobility Action Committee

Trustee Coalier announced that the former South Orange Traffic Advisory Committee will be reformatted and not be formed as the Mobility Action Committee. There is a call for volunteers and if interested, residents can apply on the Village Website.

Executive Session

Next Meeting Date

September 9, 2021
October 14, 2021

Adjournment