

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, February 24, 2020**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 5:05 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Kane, Ramirez, Philbrook, Johnson, and BPU Board Member Groneman. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Pamela Waldeck, Deputy Police Chief; Kelly Herron, Community Support Division Commander; Sara Janeczko, Detective; and Officer Jay Doleshal, Sergeant-At-Arms.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Bynum said there are no revisions on tonight's agenda.

Approval of standing committee minutes from December 9, 2019. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Markley, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 201112...GRANT: FY2020 OPERATION RELENTLESS PURSUIT

Synopsis: Request approval to apply for and accept funding through the FY2020 Operation Relentless Pursuit OJP grant program in the amount of \$450,100, submitted by Pamela Waldeck, Deputy Police Chief. Funding will be used to purchase the software and storage to support technological improvements as well as a covert camera platform for investigative surveillance and an additional patrol vehicle. No match required.

Pamela Waldeck, Deputy Police Chief, said Relentless Pursuit is a grant opportunity we were presented by the Department of Justice. We were actually selected based on eight different cities

that were selected for the Relentless Pursuit Program. We were given \$1.4 million to spend in conjunction with Kansas City, Missouri. Through that grant, we will be a subrecipient underneath the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department.

The plan that we have is to purchase software, which I just drew a blank—street smart software, which will help us to have real time feeds to the police officers as well as real time feed concerning crime that had just occurred or crime that is in progress with Kansas City, Missouri, as well, which is something we haven't had in the past. Street smart is similar to a news feed that will constantly be able to be updated. It's also able to be updated by the officers in the field. This will help us streamline speaking to all of the departments. It will also help us streamline getting intel out in a very timely manner.

We also asked for software, which will help us mind social media and video on this grant, as well as a LPR. I'm sorry; I lost my train of thought—as well as LPRs on cars so we can put the LPRs actually on the police cars' license plate—yes, I'm sorry, license plate reader. They'll be affixed to the actual police cars and then they can read as they drive on the streets.

Chairman Bynum said the \$450,000, that's basically our amount out of the total. Is it paying for any people or is it all software and equipment? **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said it's all software and equipment. There is also a grant available under Relentless Pursuit that provides salaries; however, it's not a part of this particular money.

Chairman Bynum asked, the law enforcement officers that will utilize this are already on the force, accounted for in our budget, etc. ? **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said yes. There is no match. The only requirement that we'll have following the grant period, which is three years, is if we determine that street smart is something that we want to continue, it will have an annual maintenance fee of \$10,000 past the three years.

Chairman Bynum asked, questions?

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.**

Chairman Bynum asked, does anyone from the audience have any comments on this item? If not, we have a motion and a second. Could we have roll call?

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Item No. 2 – 2020...GRANT: KDOT SPECIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Synopsis: Request approval to accept overtime reimbursement funds through the STEP grant awarded by KDOT in the amount of \$62,000 per year for a period of three years, submitted by Kelly Herron, Community Support Division Commander, Police Department. No match required.

Pamela Waldeck, Deputy Police Chief, said the STEP Grant is a \$62,000 grant for overtime for traffic enforcement, which is conducted by the Traffic Unit. We've participated in this previously. I believe it's a two year grant. I don't believe the second year funds have been determined. The funds for the second year haven't been determined; a number yet. **Chairman Bynum** said I see. **Commissioner Kane** said it says three years. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I just want to make it really clear so the folks out there know it's a three year. **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said it is a three year. I apologize. **Commissioner Philbrook** said, well, it's hard to keep track all this. **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said Fiscal Year 2020, 2021, and 2022. **Commissioner Philbrook** said thank you. It's just a clarification for the public. Thank you.

Chairman Bynum asked, questions?

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.**

Chairman Bynum asked, anyone from the audience have a comment on this item? If not, roll call, please.

Roll call was taken on the item and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Item No. 3 – 2023...GRANT: FY2020 LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

Synopsis: Request approval to apply for and accept funding through the FY2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness grant program offered by the U.S. DOJ, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), submitted by Detective Sara Janeczko. Funding, of up to \$125,000, will be used to significantly enhance the peer support program. No match required.

Pamela Waldeck, Deputy Police Chief, said this is a grant that we have never applied for previously. This grant, there's no match, it will help us—our plan for this grant is to increase our programs for officers' mental health and wellness. Our plan is to increase training for not only the officers, but also their spouses and families, and to increase resilience, as well as build-in some programs for officers that have been involved in traumatic events.

Right now, we have programs where they go for wellness checks that have been—if they've been in certain units, such as homicide, CFI, where they're exposed to trauma frequently. This will enhance officers that are involved in traumatic events such as officer involved shootings and things like that for them to get wellness program, wellness checks, and have increased wellness programs.

Chairman Bynum asked, questions?

Commissioner Philbrook asked, on this, does that mean there will be more conversation previous to these things happening so it opens up the officers' eyes to go ahead and ask for help that it's allowed. **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said yes. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked to reach them? **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said this will expand the efforts that right now we are trying to do through in-service training and our Peer Support Program. It will expand those efforts, which will increase conversations and trainings and increase the officers' exposure to mental health and reactions; their normal reactions to abnormal circumstances such as major trauma. **Commissioner Philbrook** said the police need TLC too. **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said I agree. **Commissioner Philbrook** said you guys see a lot of negative stuff. You need to be blessed with some extra TLC. I'm glad you got this and please put in for some more. **Deputy Police**

Chief Waldeck said thank you.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.

Chairman Bynum said we have a motion and a second. I do have one more quick question. I know that we have law enforcement officers who experience PTSD as a result of the various jobs that they have to do on the force. Within the grant or the programming itself, is there any measurement tool for this many officers who've experience that and after? In other words, is it evidence-based that it can drop those kinds of levels? **Deputy Police Chief Waldeck** said I don't know what the measurement—it's not evidence-base that we have to measure the outcomes that I'm aware of, but I know that what we have discussed is to try to use sick time usage and people that request different services as a way to measure that. Research tells us that people that are suffering from PTSD, their sick time increases. We're hoping to reduce that and use that also as a measurement tool; however, I don't believe it's—**Chairman Bynum** said just curious, and that might be one measurement that we would take to show that, that we've been able to drop sick time usage, but I appreciate it.

Chairman Bynum asked, anyone from the public have a comment on this item? We have a motion and a second so roll call, please.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said we thank you so much for all you do for seeking funding and serving the public.

Public Agenda:

Item No. 1 - APPEARANCE: DAVID GRUMMON

Synopsis: Appearance of David Grummon regarding the selection process for a new police

chief.

Chairman Bynum said, sir, if you would come to the microphone and state your name and city of residency. You have up to five minutes.

David Grummon said first, I want to thank you for the opportunity to briefly speak with you tonight. When I submitted my request to appear back on December 5th, the circumstances were a little bit different than today. As you know from the previous letter I delivered to you, I'm here in two capacities.

First, I've been a criminal defense attorney here in Wyandotte County for about 17 years now; many of those years on the felony appointment list. From that perspective, the selection of a new police chief matters a lot to me and it matters a lot to my clients.

The other reason why I'm here is that towards the latter half of last year, I agreed to become the co-chair of the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force of the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity, also known as More2.

More2 is a multiracial, bistate coalition of diverse faith communities, organizations, and individuals who work together to organize communities in the KC Metro around issues of racial and economic fairness and justice.

To that end, last summer we felt led by the Spirit, you could say, to march in the streets and call for the ouster of the prior police chief. After the chief resigned, we felt, as we do now, that the selection of the next police chief is possibly one of the most important decisions that the Unified Government is going to make in many years—for many years to come. It's important because the tone and the example set by leadership of the Police Department impacts how and whether instances of police misconduct result in meaningful investigations and real accountability. The tone and example set by police leadership impacts how and whether trust is built with black and brown communities, immigrant communities, and women. That's important because these are the folks who have been most impacted by the misconduct that's been revealed and alleged in multiple recent news reports and lawsuits.

Because the selection of the next police chief is so important, More2 called on the Unified Government to not just use the same process that resulted in the selection of the last chief, but to create a process of public input that would advise and inform the UG's decision.

We called for this during a meeting with the Mayor and the County Administrator in October. We repeated our call for public input in the process at our public meeting in November. We repeated this call in December when we delivered over 100 signed postcards addressed the Mayor, asking for a public input process. On January 29th, the Unified Government showed great responsiveness in announcing a public input process for the police chief search.

It doesn't do everything that we would have liked, but it's a public input process, and that's great. You guys deserve credit for that, and we thank you for that. It's a great first step. So, I'm mostly just here today to say thank you and to draw attention to that process.

The process the UG announced gives two main ways for the general public to participate. First, as you may know, every member of the public can fill out an anonymous survey about the KCKPD and what members of the public want to see in a new police chief. I was able to just find it by searching it in my web browser: KCKPD Police Chief Survey. If you don't want to submit it online, of course, you can get copies of it at the recreational centers and give it back there or you can mail it here to the County Administrator at 701 North 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

I know that More2 will do all it can to get folks to fill this out. I know I'll have copies of it available at my office. I'm sure everyone in the community will want to make sure that gets responded to really well.

The other way members of the general public can participate is by signing up for numerous focus groups before February 28th. To sign up, you have to—it appears that you have to send an email, presumably with your name and some contact information to chiefsearch@wycokck.org.

I know my time is limited, but I just have a few questions to read off, which commissioners or staff can answer after I finish, and then one final request.

Regarding the focus groups, I wanted to ask first, how many focus groups will be held and how many people will be selected? (Clerk announced, you have one minute remaining.)

Second, what is the criteria for selecting who will be in the focus group?

Third, who will be the one deciding who gets in the focus groups?

Fourth, will you make sure that there's representation in the focus groups from black and brown communities, immigrant communities, and women?

That leads me to my final request which is, please listen to voices of black and brown communities, immigrant communities, and women. I don't particularly care whether you listen to me. There's lots of people who look like me who are in this room and are in on the process already.

You must listen to the voices of black and brown communities, immigrant communities, and women about the direction of the department and the selection of a new chief.

If you get this right, you can choose the right leader for KCKPD, we will have taken the first step to building trust back in these communities. Without building trust among those communities, we just won't have effective policing in KCK.

Thank you for your responsiveness and announcing the public input process. Thank you for that first step, and let's listen to that input and get to work for a better KCK. Thank you.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, sir. Before you step away, I know that several of us probably were capturing the questions that you asked. I captured them as: How many groups? How many people in each group? **Mr. Grummon** said yes. **Chairman Bynum** said, the criteria being used for selection into a group? **Mr. Grummon** said yes. **Chairman Bynum** said and the third one, who decides? Then I lost it. **Mr. Grummon** said sure. Who decides getting into the focus groups? Then fourth, will you make sure that there's representation in the focus groups from black and brown communities, immigrant communities—**Chairman Bynum** said I'm sorry. I still didn't catch number three. Who decides what? **Mr. Grummon** said will you make sure—**Chairman Bynum** said no, not that one; number three. **Mr. Grummon** said number three was, who will be the one deciding who gets into the focus groups? **Chairman Bynum** said okay, thank you. Who decides the makeup of the focus group? **Mr. Grummon** said correct. **Chairman Bynum** said okay. **Mr. Grummon** said thank you for your time.

Chairman Bynum said thank you very much. We will have staff try to follow up with answers for those.

Action: No formal action taken.

Adjourn:

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

mbb/cg