

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 22, 2020**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 22, 2020, at 5:00 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: Melissa Sieben, Gordon Criswell and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department; Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning; Asst. Chief Steve Haulmark, Police Department; Acting Deputy Chief Rance Quinn, Police Department; Nathan Cho, Intern in Legal Department; and Angel Obert, Recreation Division Manager.

Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that some committee members, staff and public are attending remotely via ZOOM as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when they're not speaking to avoid background noise and during the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so that the public knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it is also current guidance from our Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 the public has been allowed to submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those will be included in the record of this meeting.

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

There were no minutes to consider due to cancellation of the April 27, 2020 meeting.

Chairman Bynum said there are no revisions on tonight's agenda. **Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk**, said Madam Chair, we do have a blue sheet. It was sent out to you earlier today. **Chairman Bynum** said I did not receive it. Can you tell me what it is? **Commissioner Markley** said I think that's on mine Bridgette. **Ms. Cobbins** said we have blue sheets for both

agenda's tonight. On the Public Works & Safety Standing Committee, we will be deleting Item No. 3 which is the presentation for the KC Levees Project Update. **Chairman Bynum** said so that is our blue sheet update, there is no Item No. 3.

Melissa Sieben said due to our furlough situation, we were not able to have Sarah White available to present tonight. **Chairman Bynum** said that is not a problem. Thank you very much. I'm sorry, I didn't see that. So, that is one revision to tonight's agenda, eliminating Item 3. With that, we have two remaining agenda items. The first of which is a grant, Community Based Crime Reduction and we have Deputy Chief Steve Haulmark as well as Assistant County Administrator Alan Howze here, if I'm not mistaken.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 20196...GRANT: COMMUNITY BASED CRIME REDUCTION

Synopsis: The Police Department, in conjunction with the Health Department, has submitted a federal grant that is focused on Community Based Crime Reduction, submitted by Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator. The deadline for the grant submission was June 11. The grant is for three years and up to \$1M. No match required.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said I'll start it off and then hand it over to Deputy Chief Haulmark. We're also joined by the Director of the Health Department Juliann VanLiew who was part of this grant submission. As the information on the agenda noted the Police Department in conjunction with the Health Department has submitted for this federal grant that is really focused on Community Based Crime Reduction and specifically around reducing gun violence in the community.

Also, we'll note that the grant submission deadline for this, we came upon it, the Police Department and others worked on it, the due date was June 11th and we didn't realize the opportunity until prior to—or after the previous meeting of the Standing Committee. So, we bring it to you having already submitted for it and request your approval for acceptance should we be so fortunate as to get the grant. This grant is for three years and up to \$1M. It's also 100% federal. There is no local match on this grant. It does; however, acknowledge I'll note this right up front, it does come as other federal grants with conditions related to cooperation with federal officials. The Commission recently heard more about the Self & Welcoming ordinance and had that

ordinance been in effect, it would have come in conflict with the federal conditions requested of the grant. However, under current guidance within the UG, that conflict did not exist and so that cooperation was included as part of the grant application.

Like I said, the focus of the grant was reducing violent crime in the community and it has really has four main components; enforcement, technology, community partnerships and taking a public health approach. With that, I will turn it over to Asst. Chief Steve Haulmark to talk about enforcement and technology as part of this grant application.

Deputy Chief Steve Haulmark said as Alan stated, we are seeking approval to accept a federal award through the FY20 BJA, Innovations In Community Based Crime Reduction Grant Program. This program is designed to assist law enforcement agencies in reducing serious and violent crime by building trust and developing support within specific communities where crime is heavily concentrated. As you are all aware, there are six census tracts in KCK which have been designated as Opportunity Zones. The area that we will designate for this endeavor includes the Police Department's previously established DDACT Zone as well as two adjoining Opportunity Zones.

We will target these neighborhoods with a four-prong approach which are enhanced enforcement through hotspot policing, technology which includes the additional worn traffic cameras, epidemiology in which we will work with the Health Department to help identify characteristics of individuals in community's perpetrating and fallen victim to violence and community engagement by expanding upon the relationships we have with several of our current community partner organizations.

Our federal request will be just under \$1M and that includes funding for personnel, equipment, and software to support the endeavors. The project period will last for three years and, again, as Alan had stated, there is no match requirement to the UG.

Mr. Howze said I will turn it over to Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department, to talk a little bit about what the public health approach is in this context.

Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Health Department, said just a couple words on that. The field of public health in just the last decade has really started to have kind of a subset within epidemiology that's devoted to epidemiology of violence prevention. We're really excited, from

a Health Department standpoint, to get to participate in this by hiring an epidemiologist specific to violence prevention to conduct work like social network analysis to understand who is perpetrating this in our community, what the risk and protective factors are like infectious disease, crime. Gun violence specifically is impacted by exposure including frequency and duration. So, using those public health principles to better understands the spread of violence in our community, we think can really add a lot to what the Police Department is already doing into this newer kind of community based approach.

We're excited to partner and kind of bring a new angle to this work.

Chairman Bynum said if I could just get a notion, Deputy Chief Haulmark, you had mentioned briefly what the dollars would purchase. Could you tell us that again and then between you and Ms. VanLiew maybe you could extrapolate what all you see spending the money on over a three year time period. So, in other words, x number of widgets would be in use by the Police Department, but then the Health Department would use a different set of items or software or as you stated, Juliann, a person. Could you just give me that one more time? **Deputy Chief Haulmark** said I could, but I think Alan might be better suited to do that. He did the markup on the budget narrative.

Mr. Howze said I think roughly a third of it goes to technology and that's camera's predominately to expand the camera network. Under the previous Tips Federal Grant, the KCKPD has started to implement a camera network and recently also working closely with other regional partners as part of a strategy to address crime in the community and this would add several hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of additional cameras. Those are also connected into largely, in most cases, to the fiber network that has been put into place that supports the PD operations as well. That's a piece of it.

There's another portion of it which is personnel and that includes everything from police overtime costs to, as mentioned, hiring an epidemiologist, hiring a program coordinator, and a crime analyst as part of the grant.

There's funds also allocated for community partnership and specifically for the Police Athletic League to serve as a convening agent in support of the grant and bringing different community partners together. I think those are the main components of the budget as it was

developed.

Chairman Bynum asked, does any other member of our committee have a question on this item and, Ms. Cobbins, were there any comments received from the public. **Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk**, said no comments from the public.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Mr. Howze said, Commissioner Bynum, if I may, I should have mentioned this at the onset as well. In addition, we wanted to bring back to you real quick, there was a request for a timeline on body cameras specifically since we last met. So, while we’re discussing the police grants we asked Deputy Chief Quinn to kind of just flash up on the screen here a timeline for body cameras at the request of the committee. We didn’t add it as a separate item, but I’m funneling it together with this item if that’s okay. **Chairman Bynum** said that would be great.



Deputy Chief Rance Quinn said I’ll go ahead, and I will be as brief as I can here.

GOALS:

- ⇒ Outfit marked patrol units, Police Officers and Animal Services Officers of the KCKPD.
- ⇒ The newly acquired cameras would replace an aging fleet of in car cameras and provide an additional tool to the officers.
- ⇒ The cameras would record any enforcement contact with the citizens of our community.



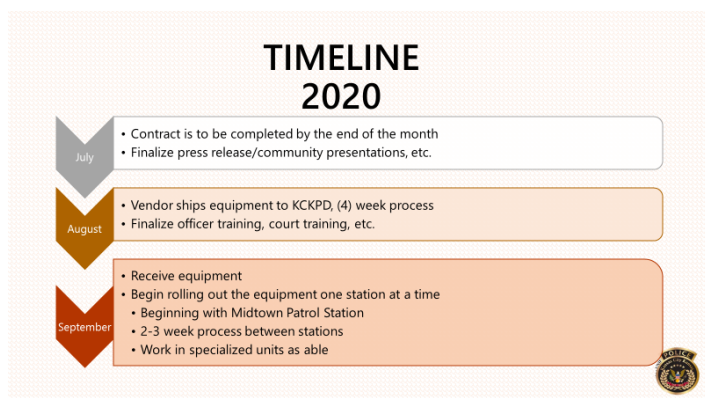
The goal of this project is to outfit marked patrol units, Police Officers, and Animal Services Officers of the KCKPD with body-worn cameras and in-car cameras to update our aging fleet of in-car cameras that we have now that are approaching anywhere from 15 to 20 years old depending on the cameras that we are talking about. Being able to record any enforcement contact that our citizens have or that our police officers have with the citizens of our community.

WHY?

- ⇒ Improve officer safety
- ⇒ Enhance public trust
- ⇒ Strengthen evidence of crime scenes and investigations
- ⇒ Increase officer and citizen accountability
- ⇒ Improve officer training
- ⇒ Reduce liability



Why are we doing this, to improve officer safety, to enhance public trust, strengthen evidence of crime scenes and investigations, to increase officer and citizen accountability, improve officer training and reduce liability.



Here's the timeline to kind of update where we are in this process. Our contract is to be completed by the end of the month, meaning July. They're working it now sending Statement of Work back and forth between our vendor and our legal team and during that same timeframe we're going to finalize our press release. It will be like a pushout to the community to tell them where we're going with body-worn cameras. In the month of August, or once our vendor has been told the contract is signed, they're telling us it will take four weeks in order for the equipment to arrive to us. During that same timeframe we're going to finalize our officer training, figure out which direction we're going to go with that and we're going to spin up our courts, Municipal Court and District Court, on how we're going to send them the evidence they would need in order to utilize the system to its capabilities.

In September when we receive the equipment we're going to begin rolling that out one station at a time. The reason we've chosen that approach is this is a pretty big venture that we're moving onto here and to spin up our Midtown Patrol Station would be the ones that utilize these same cameras for our pilot program, so they would be the easiest ones to get up and running.

We're anticipating a 2-3 week process while we're doing that and if it goes well, then we can incorporate our specialized units during that 2-3 week timeframe before we roll out to the next station. In all we have four stations that we would push these out to. It would be Midtown Patrol, East Patrol, South Patrol, and West Patrol; not necessarily in that order. So, we would hope to have that process starting in September. I'm looking at 2-3 weeks per station. You're looking at 12-15 weeks give or take to get them out to all of the officers.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- ⇒ IT Staff to facilitate the system
 - ⇒ Received approval to hire two people beginning July 2021 or one beginning Jan 2021. The one person in January was selected.
 - ⇒ This will be a IT person to help keep equipment up and running, infrastructure etc.
- ⇒ Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) Requests/Subpoena Requests
 - ⇒ It is expected that numerous open records requests and subpoenas for information will overwhelm our existing person.
 - ⇒ Additional personnel will be needed for this function.
- ⇒ Auditing Process
 - ⇒ Best practice is to have auditing personnel.
 - ⇒ Currently the KCKPD does not have personnel to do this function.
 - ⇒ The auditing personnel only audit if the cameras were turned on when required and stay on during the citizen contact.
 - ⇒ Jurors have been found to hold the video footage from a BWC/In Car camera more credible then the testimony of an officer.
 - ⇒ When an officer forgets to turn on a camera, no camera was available, a camera malfunction occurred during a critical incident it is viewed as a negative.
- ⇒ To clarify, IT Support, KORA/Subpoena requests and Auditing are all separate functions and require personnel.



Some program challenges here; IT staff can facilitate the system. We received approval to hire two people beginning in July of '21 or one beginning in January of '21. We chose that latter option. We would like to have the person up and running in January so that way they are familiar with the program. This is an IT related person to help infrastructure, keep the equipment up and running to make sure we don't have any problems; those sort of things.

Some other challenges that we are going to have to deal with at some point is Kansas Open Records Act for subpoena's and open record requests. Right now, we've got a handful of cameras that keeps our one person that we have busy on a regular basis; however, once we go live with 300 cameras and over 100 in-car cameras, the number of videos are going to be approaching 300,000 to 500,000 per year. So, you expect numerous open records requests and subpoena requests for those videos and we're going to have to figure out how we're going to do that because currently we don't have the personnel to that.

The auditing function; best practice across the country, we've noticed lately is that you have to have somebody who audits the program and the audit person here that I'm referring to is not to review the video. This persons task all day long, eight hours a day, every single day, is to simply to pair up a call for service to the actual car video to the body-worn camera video. All they do is make sure that the camera was turned on, make sure it wasn't turned off, you know, prematurely. What they have found is that if there is a significant incident that occurs and the camera was not turned on the way it should have been, the officer just forgot, got sidetrack, something like that, that the officer loses credibility by not having the camera on. Jurors are now finding that the body-worn camera footage is more credible than the actual police officer testimony and so there is a huge negative impact when it is found that there are officers out there who are not turning the cameras on. They are now instituting auditing people across the country who simply sit there,

match up calls for service to the camera footage to make sure the officers are doing that, turning them on and off all day every day.

To clarify, these positions are all different positions. IT support is for the equipment part of it, KORA subpoena request is another piece of that and then the auditing function is also a third piece that currently we don't have the personnel for it. At some point as we move forward into this project we're going to have to figure out how we're going to approach this. With that, I'll stop sharing this and if there are any questions, I can help out.

Chairman Bynum asked are there any questions from the committee. So, Deputy Chief, it sounds like you're confident then in full rollout by the end of 2020. **Deputy Chief Quinn** said yes. The only thing that's kind of holding up right now is that the vendor and the UG Legal team has to work out some final details. Once that happens, it's just a matter of shipping the equipment to us.

Chairman Bynum asked anyone else have a comment or question on our body-worn camera program for the KCK Police Department. If not, thank you very much and I believe that completes that item and we can move to the second and last item on our agenda for Public Works & Safety tonight. We have Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel, here to give us presentation and background information on this request.

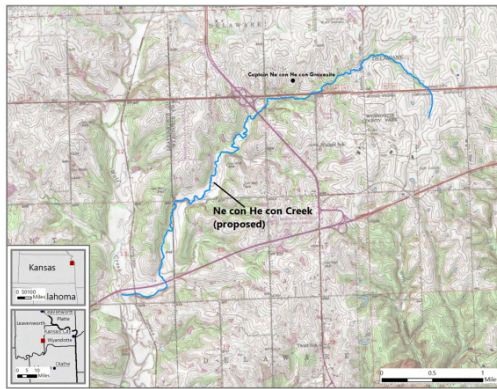
Item No. 2 – 20198...RESOLUTION: NAMING TRIBUTARY AFTER CHIEF NE CON HE CON

Synopsis: A resolution recommending the naming of a 6-mile long tributary in Wyandotte County after Chief Ne Con He Con, submitted by Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel.

Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel, said I would like to go ahead and recognize Nathan Cho. He is our Legal Department Intern who worked on this item. We also have Brad Harrington who is the Vice President of the Bonner Springs Historical Preservation Society that, I believe, started this request. So, we have this resolution of support, and I will turn it over to Nathan and Brad to give their presentation.

Nathan Cho, Intern in the Legal Department, said I will let Brad speak because he is the one

who prepared the original application to the Board of Geographic Names, but basically, the Board of Geographic Names is in charge of making sure we have a uniform naming system throughout the country, and they received their application from Brad. They have solicited our feedback alongside Leavenworth County to make sure there is local support for the name change. Brad, if you would like to discuss the application. I have the PowerPoint opened up and I'll be happy to do the slides as you need.



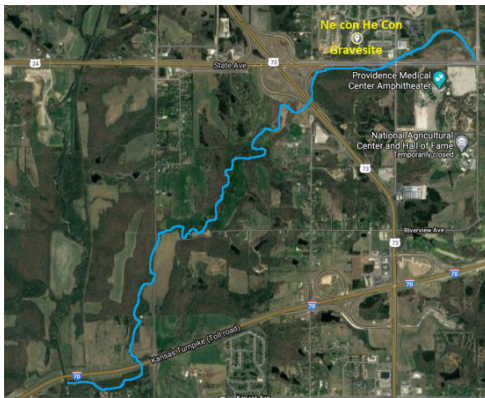
Brad Harrington, Vice President of the Bonner Springs Historical Preservation Society, said it's been proposed that this name be recognized as the actual given name of this creek. Captain Ne-Con He-Con is buried near the headwaters of this creek. I actually found the actual name on an 1870's map.



It's also here in our PowerPoint. It's an 1870's map of Wyandotte County and if you zoom in there, you can see it said Ne Con He Con Creek and he is buried in that area where the old Indian Cemetery and Broom Factory is there on the map and that is now in the Delaware Ridge Housing Development.



We would like this creek to be recognized as its actual given name of Ne Con He Con Creek. Then also, Bonner Springs, the city of Bonner is going to be speaking about this this evening at their City Council to give their recommendation and consent. We've also reached out to the Delaware Tribe of Indians and to Leavenworth County as well to get everyone's support. So far it seems as though everyone is in much support of this.



Also, one other thing that Captain Ne Con He Con was one of the Chief's of the Wolf Ban of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and this creek, as you can see there highlighted in blue, flows then into the Wolf Creek that here's just outside of Bonner Springs and then, of course, that then flows into the Kaw River. Any questions?

Commissioner Markley said I was going to say, as Commissioner Bynum knows from our pre-agenda meeting, I'm actually the commissioner who saw a female come through and just say well I don't see why not, so it sounds like a good idea to me. I asked staff to look into what it would take to assist Brad in his request and it's still here in his presentation and I guess my response is

still I don't see why not. It seems like a nice idea to me, so hopefully, there are others who have similar thoughts.

Chairman Bynum said I agree. I also like the idea and I appreciate Commissioner Markley for recognizing it and asking that we look into it and make sure it's something that we can do. I would ask, what is the step once you have Leavenworth County, Bonner Springs and Unified Government, what seals the deal after the local municipalities and counties say yes? **Mr. Harrington** asked, Nathan, do you want to speak on that, or I can. It's in front of the Board of Geographical Names and then at their meeting then they would have to either approve or disapprove the actual naming of the creek. There's different guidelines that they have. You can't name it after a living person, and we went through this whole process. I'm not naming it. I'm just getting them to recognize it as its actual given name. They're just basically wanting to make sure that no town that the—no cities or anyone that is in the proximity of this has anything against the recognizing of this name.

Chairman Bynum asked any other questions or comments and, Ms. Cobbins, have we received anything from the public. **Commissioner Markley** said it looks like Bridgette is shaking her head no, so I will make a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve. (Ms. Cobbins was having audio problems.)** Roll call was taken by Rocki Mayes and there were six "Ayes," Markley, Ramirez, Kane, Philbrook, Bynum, Groneman. **Ms. Cobbins** said I'm back on. It kicked me off for a second. I heard the motion. Thank you.

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

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