

## **Missoula City Council Public Safety and Health Committee Minutes**

**June 30, 2021  
11:00 AM  
ZOOM Webinar**

**Members present:** Stacie Anderson (chair), John P. Contos, Mirtha Becerra, Heather Harp, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

**Members absent:** Jordan Hess, Jesse Ramos, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

#### **1.2 Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

### **3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Police Department Update**

Police Chief Jaeson White presented information to the council regarding the Police Department's 2020 annual report.

Heather Harp asked about adverse childhood experiences and those hurdles making people make poor choices. Is there anything in particular that can get to the root cause of what those experiences are so they do not go to the extreme of violent offenders? Chief White said they relied on their provider network to hopefully address some of those issues at the younger age to help prevent violence.

Heidi West inquired about the slide regarding traffic accidents and asked if the data broke down specific types of traffic accidents/collisions. Chief White said it did not and it is a focus for them to figure out going forward.

Stacie Anderson asked about the calls for service and the drop in calls under the suicidal person category. Does the chief have any insight about why the numbers dropped down from 2019? Chief White is not sure why it dropped, but the creation of the the mobile support team is deployed on these. They are not a single deployment unit yet.

Stacie asked about the "firearms pointed" statistics and how that is captured. Chief White said it is self reported and as a part of the review for reports, there is a use of force report done.

Gwen Jones asked Chief White to cover how many officers are budgeted for and how many are currently on board. Chief White said they are allocated 116 officers and last

year was an exceptionally high retirement year. They hired 18 new officers in 2020 and all of those were a function of retirements or the fulfillment of the positions the department was given by council. Based on the retirements and the way law enforcement officers are trained through the state academy and only being able to run three academies a year, they do not always get allocated the number of positions to fill the vacancies. They are usually running 2 to 5 personnel short in order to keep up.

Gwen Jones asked about the staffing study and the recommendation about staffing times and when to put the personnel on shift. Chief White said they did not think they needed to change staffing time.

Heidi West made a request about adding missing persons into the annual report. She thinks it could be a good idea to highlight information in the annual report. Chief White said he has a list of items to add to the annual report and will continue to add with it.

Bryon Lossberg asked about the numbers and if the numbers are benchmarked to other communities. Chief White said if they look out across the community at a similar per capita rate, when it comes to that, yes. Those are things we can capture moving forward.

Mirtha Becerra asked about the issue of missing children and women, but she would like to see collaboration with tribal entities and how missing and murdered indigenous people are part of the crime statistics and where does the felony domestic violence statistics fall. Chief White said the felony violent domestic violence falls within the aggravated assault category. What isn't in there is the misdemeanor domestic violence assaults. They don't have the ability to parse out whether it was domestic violence or a different act of violence.

Stacie Anderson asked about data collection. She asked about the update in their data collection system and if that is something that may happen going forward. Chief White said they first have to figure out what they need. It is primarily software and the ability to capture the data.

Stacie Anderson asked about the CIT training and the ability to get more officers into the training. Chief White said it is definitely something they will focus on, but the main factor is the availability of seats. There are a minimum amount of trainings per year and they share seats with other entities, so going forward they would like to get more officers into the classes as the spaces become available.

Stacie Anderson asked about the number of K-9 officers and if that was on par with the size of our community. Chief White said if would asked for a couple more dogs, but there are more pressing needs.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned