

Minutes of Committee
Monday, October 11, 2011
7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Stop Sign Requests:
 - a. Adelia Street and Lawndale Avenue – Staff Update
 - b. Mitchell and McKinley - Discussion
- 2) Solicitor’s Hours - Discussion
- 3) Other Business

Members Present: Pezza, Bram

Elected Official Present: Spencer, DiCianni, Healy, Dunn

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Kopp, Wallace, Panico

Guests: None

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

- Item #1-a Kopp advised the committee Staff verified that a stop sign at the intersection of Lawndale & Adelia had previously been codified by ordinance. Somehow the sign had been removed and not put back up either by theft or due to construction. A new stop sign will be posted according to ordinance by public works and no further action by Committee is necessary.
- Item #1-b Kopp updated the Committee regarding both a traffic survey being conducted and a subsequent review by the City's traffic consultant for the stop sign request at Mitchell Ave. and McKinley. Upon completion of these, Staff will report back to Committee with the findings and recommendation.
- Item #2 Neubauer addressed the Committee providing an overview of the research Staff conducted regarding solicitor ordinances from several communities to compare with the current Elmhurst solicitor ordinance. This review was conducted due to concerns with the hours our current ordinance allows for solicitors to work. During subsequent discussion, the following points were covered: Spencer provided the committee with examples of solicitor ID cards provided to solicitors who register and no solicitor signs available to residents to post on their doors. Neubauer reported on the number of solicitor complaints received and action taken this past year, and that certain non-profit organizations are not required to register for solicitation. The discussion then focused on our current ordinance allowing solicitors up to 9:00 PM, which concerns most residents. Staff was directed to work with the City Attorney to move the time back to 7:00 PM and report back to the committee.
- Item #3-a Neubauer advised the Committee of Staff's research of ordinances prohibiting synthetic drugs which current State law does not adequately cover. He further detailed two recent incidents the police department responded to involving subjects who were under the influence of synthetic drugs in which the users displayed violent and unusual behavior. Subsequent to further discussion, the Committee agreed with Neubauer to work with the City Attorney on the development and drafting of an ordinance to address synthetic drugs and report back to the Committee.
- Item #3-b Neubauer advised the Committee that a coin shop opened on Addison St. which intends to buy gold as part of the business plan. Currently, Elmhurst does not have an ordinance governing this type of business which could easily receive stolen property with no record of the item or sale. Currently, we have an ordinance regulating "Pawn Shops" which has a number of controls mandating the recording of items and requiring identification of customers. These regulations assist in preventing the sale of stolen property. Subsequent to discussion, the Committee agreed with Neubauer to work with the City Attorney on the development and drafting of an ordinance similar to our current pawn shop ordinance to address businesses which may have a high probability of easily receiving stolen property for cash or resale, and report back to the Committee.