

Minutes of Committee
Monday, March 22, 2010
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Traffic Issues
 - a. Jackson School-Safety Review
 - b. Crescent, between York and Poplar
 - c. Michigan and Gladys-Stop sign request updates
- 2) Pedicabs-Review Draft Ordinance
- 3) Purchase of Four Wireless in-car Video Camera System
- 4) Discussion-Animal Control RFP
- 5) Other Business

Members Present: Wagner, Pezza

Elected Official Present: Spencer, Bram (item 1-c) DiCianni (part)

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Kopp (part), Doherty, Bacidore, Mahoney, B. Coulter, K. McGrew, Borchert (part), Panico

Guest: Beth Valdez, Shannon Schroeder, Karen Beck Hirschfeld, Rex Irby, Laura Amaun

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

Item1-A

Mr. Coulter provided an overview of his report and recommendations to the Committee and guests. He visited the area on approximately seven (7) occasions both in the AM & PM observing traffic and pedestrian conditions. Based upon Mr. Coulter's review and analysis of traffic crash history, which was zero (0), the requested stop signs, crossing guard, and "No Left Turn" signage were not warranted. Mr. Coulter further provided a number of recommendations for both the City and School. Some of these recommendations are for the City to install school crosswalk warning signs and re-stripe crosswalks in the area of Swain & Van Buren, to provide crossing guard training for parent/staff volunteers and to deploy the Speed Sensory sign periodically. Recommendations for the School are to continue adult crossing supervision utilizing appropriate stop paddles and safety vests for volunteers, and encourage voluntary compliance by educating motorists dropping off and picking up students. This can be accomplished by means of a news letter and the schools web site. The principal of Jackson School, Karen Beck Hirschfeld, expressed concern that the use of parent volunteers at the Swain and Van Buren intersection is not a long term solution. She requested the crossing guard be moved from Spring & Van Buren to Swain & Van Buren in the AM and not have the Spring & Van Buren crossing covered at noon time. During further discussion Lincoln school was cited as an example where volunteers at crossings adjacent to the school have worked very well. Chief Neubauer expressed concerns regarding moving an established guard from a crossing which meets the necessary warrants, to a crossing that does not meet those warrants. He also advised the Police Department would provide training and equipment to the school and volunteers. The discussion then focused on the restricted parking signs in front of the school which restricts staging of vehicles at drop off and pick up times. Subsequent to further discussion, the Committee directed Staff to draft an ordinance for the "No Left Turn" restrictions per the original request, also, review the parking restrictions in front of the school to allow for a greater staging area, to begin the recommended striping and other signage per Mr. Coulter's report. The suggestion of moving the crossing guard from Spring Rd. to Swain would be taken under advisement and further review.

Item 1-B

Mr. Coulter addressed the Committee providing an overview of his report, analysis, results and recommendations. He pointed out the traffic crash history was low (only one crash as a result of the left turn), and the Police Department's focused traffic enforcement in the area. Coulter further expressed concerns that a "No Left Turn" would have an adverse impact on the local businesses, and result in an increase in the traffic load on Vallette St. east of York as well as other residential streets in the area. Subsequent to further discussion the Committee directed staff to implement the advanced warning sign recommendations, and to conduct an analysis of the displaced traffic load on adjacent residential streets due to the proposed "No Left Turn" from w/b Crescent onto s/b York and report back to the Committee.

Public Affairs and Safety Committee

Minutes, March 22, 2010

Page 3

- Item 1-C Mr. Coulter addressed the Committee providing an overview of his report, analysis, results, and recommendations. He identified a sight line issue due to parked vehicles on Michigan south of Gladys and recommended parking restrictions to improve the sight line. McGrew advised the Committee that the recommendation has already been implemented and restricted parking signs have been installed. Also, Staff will revisit the area in the Spring to determine if additional parking restrictions are required on the west side of Michigan, north of Gladys, due to existing embankment and vegetation. Bram expressed concern regarding the speed count analysis and several high speeds recorded. McGrew advised that some of those high speeds recorded may be due to two vehicles crossing the counter near the same time thereby recording the speed of both vehicles as one. Chief Neubauer also advised the Committee of the traffic enforcement results which did not necessarily indicate a speeding problem in the area. Subsequent to further discussion the Committee will keep this item on the pending awaiting further staff analysis.
- Item 2 Subsequent to a brief discussion regarding the fee for the Pedi-cab business license it was decided to set it at \$125.00. The Committee directed Staff to revise the ordinance and prepare it for the next council consent agenda.
- Item 3 Subsequent to a brief discussion the Committee signed the report.
- Item 4 Subsequent to a brief discussion the Committee signed the report.

The Committee was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Submitted by Dominic Panico, Deputy Chief