



Public Safety Committee Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2017 | 8:30 AM
Uptown Office | 3600 McKinney Avenue, Suite 210

Members in attendance: Tony Page, Steve Huff, Aly Sergey, Robert Wright, Kelem Butts, Albert Sanchez, Kevin Curley, Feargal McKinney

Other in attendance: Nolan Marshall staff, Michael Reader staff, Bailey Sanders staff

Members absent: Paula Lambert, David Kunkle

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Curley motioned to move the December minutes, Tony Page seconds. Motion unanimously passed.

Welcome and Introductions – Tony Page

Crime Report – Albert Sanchez

- I. Albert reviewed the statistics from 2016. Crime is up. Uptown has been a center for crime. This can be explained by the nicer properties, belongings, cars, etc. Property crime is the majority crime. 140 offences in 2016. BMVs up 16%. Stolen vehicle up 16%. 29% increase of property crime. 79% of crime has been burglary. Of the property burglary, 52 businesses and 82 residences increase of 72 crimes from 2015. These burglary crimes happen mostly around State Thomas.
- II. In 2017 thus far, there has been one sexual assault, five aggravated assaults both family and random, BMV 20, stolen vehicles eight. That puts us at an overall 8% increase from 2016.
- III. DPD has thrown a lot of staff into the Uptown area. Overtime has been cut, so Albert wants to advocate for as much help in Uptown as we can get.
- IV. Panhandling has been a large growing issue. Albert has reached out to the head of Uptown to address this issue. Albert reminded the committee that this issue is extremely annoying for officers because making an arrest for this issue takes an officer off the streets for up to three hours with not much implication for the panhandler. Most officers prefer to issue citations during these occurrences.
- V. Albert's goal this year is to work closely with homeowners' groups to develop new resources to help catch suspects. For example, using business cameras. Nolan stated the need to develop a private camera database. Albert said this was a previous initiative to develop some sort of registry like the alarm registry. He will try to see where this initiative is and advocate for it to resurface. Feargal questioned the use of the Next-Door app within Uptown residences. Albert explained the benefit of the app.

New Business – Tony

- I. Tony wants to really tackle pedestrian safety through easy initiatives such as signage, keeping up with crosswalk painting, proper timing on crosswalks, etc.
 - Tony stated that there is a lot more restaurant foot traffic during the day on McKinney, and it should be a priority to keep them safe.
- II. Nolan and Tony touched on the status of the crosswalk art.
- III. Kelem displayed his concern for the Oak Grove and McKinney cross streets. Tony stated that there has been some back and forth between the approvals of lights. HEB put up a fence around the property to help with cutting through, homeless individuals lingering, etc. which has helped with that area more. Michael remembered that the light wasn't approved because of the offset in the streets right there.
- IV. Kelem also voiced concern about lighting of the area around Oak Grove between McKinney and Bowen.
- V. Nolan recommended having the Public Safety committee focus on property crime and traffic crime and leave pedestrian crime to the Public Realm committee. Nolan has discussed addressing this with the Public Realm committee and making these concerns a priority.
- VI. Nolan reviewed the initiative to develop a strategic plan with the Executive Committee with advice and guidance from the individual committees for the entire organization.
 - Nolan stated that majority of the tracking plans on the Strategic Action Plan Tracking Document from previous years need annual review. He did advise that majority of them should be constant goals and not necessarily boxes that can be eventually checked off as done.
 - Priority 2- Steve asked if there was a heat map style document which marked the major areas for crime, trash, etc. Kevin stated this is a program we have through the crime reports from Albert and maintenance initiatives that Michael updates.
 - Priority 1- Steve recommended the major use of off-duty and regular police officers with just general patrol. Albert stated his goal to really engage the police staff to develop a plan for action to address these issues. Steve said he had a conversation with a chief and that the main issue was the man-power; they just do not have enough people. Albert stated the biggest challenge is the recent patrol bids. The longer you've been on the staff, the more you get to choose where you are and when. There used to be a lot more assignments to the Uptown area especially at night but without the overtime initiatives, nobody wants this area at the swell times. Albert really wants to engage the command staff to get Uptown the resources we need from DPD. Albert stated that within this area of patrol, there are sectors which have more extreme violent crimes which require multiple officers being pulled from smaller crime areas such as Uptown. Overall, it is a man-power issue.
 - Priority 1- Albert reviewed the Rover Program. There has been a lot of success with the program developing relationships with the McKinney businesses working to help with crime within the businesses and along the street.
- VII. Nolan stated he believes the strategy for this committee should be a system of reporting and reviewing then developing new initiatives to aid in the crime and overall safety of Uptown. This is one of the main issues questioned by the community of Uptown.
- VIII. Kevin stated that we should remove any priority to work with Downtown on security. We should let the police take care of coordinating that relationship when it comes to crime.

- IX. Albert stated that this summer is going to be a difficult time for security. There are a lot of officers leaving and the new recruits will not be ready by then. He recommended we really develop a plan to prepare for this.
 - Nolan asked if there was a way to access more officers for the rover program. Albert stated that there are officers available; however, it's more about the quality of the officer and whether they're going to do what we need them to do versus parking in one spot the entire night.
- X. Feargal addressed the need to help the community become aware of the rate of property crime and how to help avoid it. Nolan stated that Anita could help us put out information on this topic whether it's through videos, social media, press releases, or getting the resident buildings involved.
 - Steve stated that Michael Meadows developed a software program to help with crime in these areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.