

DRAFT MINUTES
HOMETOWN SECURITY STUDY COMMITTEE
May 14, 2003, 1145 hours

Members Present: Chair General Stanley Heng, Carol Brown, Jim Geist, Larry Hudkins, Annette McRoy, Don Marti, Julie Righter, Tom Casady, Mike Spadt, Doug Ahlberg

Not in Attendance: Bruce Dart, Jeff Fortenberry, Major Guy Moon, Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Ken Svoboda

City Staff & Other Public Present: Jeff Cole (Staff), Corrie Kielty (Staff), Darrell Podany (Council Office)

Approval of Minutes

General Heng called for approval of the minutes of the May 7th meeting. **Jim Geist moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Carol Brown. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Public Comments

No public comments.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Wesely thanked the members of the Hometown Security Committee for their time and work. The recommendations from the Committee sets the stage for the future. Mayor Wesely also complimented and thanked Jeff Cole for his work in staffing the Committee. Larry Hudkins thanked the Mayor for allowing the County to be a part of this Committee.

Work Group Reports

Police/911: The order of business at today's meeting centered around the approval of subcommittee recommendations. Jeff Cole distributed the five 911 Center recommendations that were discussed at last week's meeting, as well as two additional recommendations that were distilled from the conversation at that meeting. The subcommittee has completed its recommendations, and at its next meeting, they will discuss the prioritization of those recommendations. It was decided to vote on the recommendations at today's meeting. The subcommittee can then prioritize them at their next meeting and they will then vote on the subcommittee's prioritization at next week's meeting.

Recommendation #1: The Police/911 workgroup recommends the City raise the line surcharge by \$.50 to the legal limit of \$1. It was estimated that this increase in the user fee would generate an additional \$750,000 per year for the 911 Center.

Motion by Carol Brown, seconded by Larry Hudkins to approve Recommendation #1.

Discussion followed the motion. Larry Hudkins said the County Board was in favor of having a bond for radios rather than the surcharge increase because the surcharge will only affect people with landlines. Julie Righter reiterated that personnel costs cannot be made from a bond and that is the reason for the recommendation to raise the surcharge. Funds collected from the surcharge go specifically to 911. A recommendation of the subcommittee was that monies generated in excess of the personnel costs identified be used for technology replacement or renewal for the

911 Center. (This recommendation is a part of Recommendation #3.) Jim Geist expressed his concern over increasing the surcharge. He felt there were other sources of funding, including the General Fund, and the City needs to prioritize spending, with emergency services as the primary responsibility of the city and having the highest priority.

General Heng called for a vote on the motion. Voting in favor of the motion Brown, Heng, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Spadt, Casady, Righter. Those opposed Geist, Hudkins. Motion carried.

Recommendation #2: The Police/911 workgroup recommends that in year one a portion of these additional funds (approximately \$265,000) be used to provide the 911 Center with the five staff members necessary to operate an additional call station. At an estimated annual cost of \$53,000 per staff member, this new call station would entail an annual cost of \$265,000.

Chief Casady made a motion to reword Recommendation #2 to disengage Recommendation #1 from Recommendation #2. The new wording reads as follows:

The Police/911 workgroup recommends that the City provide funding to allow the 911 Center to hire five additional staff members necessary to operate an additional call station. Motion seconded by Larry Hudkins. Voting in favor of the wording change to subcommittee's recommendation #2 Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

Voting in favor of Recommendation #2 with the new language Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

Recommendation #3: The Police/911 workgroup recommends that in both years two and three, an additional two staff members be brought on to the 911 Center staff. With the estimated \$53,000 cost per staff person, this would add an additional \$106,000 per year. At the end of this three year cycle, the annual cost of the additional 9 staff members recommended would total approximately \$477,000. The workgroup understands that utilizing these funds for staff positions will delay the planned replacement of the emergency services providers' mobile communications technology and suggests that the balance of funds from this additional surcharge (approximately \$429,000 in year four and \$323,000 in year three/beyond) be earmarked for this purpose.

In order to make this recommendation not dependent upon the surcharge, the last sentence of Recommendation #3 was deleted. The subcommittee will need to bring forth a recommendation that covers replacement costs. This recommendation approves a three year plan to increase 911 staffing levels.

General Heng called for a vote on revised Recommendation #3: The Police/911 workgroup recommends that in both years two and three, an additional two staff members be brought

on to the 911 Center staff. With the estimated \$53,000 cost per staff person, this would add an additional \$106,000 per year. At the end of this three year cycle, the annual cost of the additional 9 staff members recommended would total approximately \$477,000. Voting in favor of Recommendation #3 with the new language Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

Recommendation #4: The Police/911 workgroup recommends that the City set up a sinking fund to finance future mobile communications needs.

Motion by Annette McRoy, seconded by Chief Spadt to approve Recommendation #4. The term sinking fund was discussed and it was felt replacement fund was a better term. Suggested was made that the County also be included in paying into this fund because there are County Departments (Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management, Health Department, Rural Fire) that are part of the system that is in place. Chief Casady said that this Committee was established by the Mayor to review the public safety needs of Police/Fire/911. He did not know if the Committee could make recommendations to the County Board on how they should obligate their finances. Chief Casady also indicated that what this recommendation is proposing is that Departments should be paying into a radio replacement fund, X amount per radio per month. These funds need to be in the Department's budget each year. Chief Casady said that each Department that owns portable radios ought to be budgeting a per month charge, accumulating that in a fund, and using that as the funding stream for radio replacements for that Department when needed. That would result in the lowest overall cost to the tax payers. Including the County in these recommendations could have a big financial impact on the County. Don Marti suggested adding the language into the recommendation to encourage the County's participation in a renewal and replacement fund, and additionally that the fund be used for equipment compatible with the 911 system.

Motion by Don Marti, seconded by Jim Geist that Recommendation #4 with the suggestions for separate replacement funds be sent back to the subcommittee for rewording and then bring it back at next week's meeting. Voting in favor Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

Recommendation #5: The Police/911 workgroup recommends that additional 911 Center staff positions are identified and supported at rate reflecting the community's overall population growth and the volume of emergency service calls. At a minimum level, current growth projections would necessitate hiring an additional 911 Center operator every three years. This would necessitate budgeting for 1/3 of a position, or \$17,667 each year for a new hire.

Motion by Jim Geist, seconded by Chief Spadt to approve Recommendation #5. Voting in favor of Recommendation #5 Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

The following recommendations were made during discussions at the last full Committee meeting.

1. The City examine all possible ways to generate additional revenues for the 911 Center, including opportunities to generate additional revenue from existing communications towers and renegotiating agreements to provide revenue generating opportunities through contracts on the Jensen Park communications tower.

2. The City investigate legislative options to secure a portion of cellular phone user fees to meet the needs of Lincoln's Emergency Communications Center.

Motion by Jim Geist, seconded by Chief Casady to approve recommendations #1 and #2. Voting in favor Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, McRoy, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. None opposed. Motion carried.

Police: The subcommittee made the following recommendations regarding the School Resource Officer Program.

The Police Department and Lincoln Public Schools extend the current cost sharing arrangement that currently finances School Resource Officers (SROs) in the middle and high school levels (LPS reimburses LPD \$32,612.44 for each school resource officer in the high and middle schools) to cover the cost of the five police officers assigned as SROs in the elementary schools. This would result in LPS reimbursing LPD \$163,062 for five SROs.

If LPS is unwilling to extend this cost sharing arrangement to include the elementary SROs, then the workgroup suggests that the Committee recommend that the Police Department redeploy these officers to other, higher priority areas.

Chief Casady advised that LPD has a signed agreement with LPS, signed by the City Council and the School Board, and they are obligated to pay for the services of SROs in the middle schools and high schools for the coming school year. They can abrogate that on 90 days notice, but that has not been done yet.

Motion by Don Marti, seconded by Jim Geist to adopt the recommendations regarding the School Resource Officers. Voting in favor Brown, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Ahlberg, Casady, Righter, Spadt. McRoy abstained. Motion carried.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21st, 1145 in Classroom A. On the agenda will be discussion of recommendations regarding replacement funds, the Police Department's use of civilian support staff and Fire/EMS subcommittee recommendations. Meeting adjourned at 1255 hours.

Submitted by: Virginia Fischer