MINUTES
City Council Public Safety Committee

Monday, January 6, 2025 – 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Mac Morrow, Vice-Chair, Council Member Kevin Gallo, Citizen Member Mayor Mauren Copelof, Ex-Officio Member
Staff Present	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tom Jordan, Police Chief Bobby Cooper, Fire Chief Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Eden Hinds, Evidence Specialist David Todd, Assistant City Manager Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager
Guests:	Linda Gallo, Kellyn Haight, Kaitlyn Walters, Morris Jenkins, Nick Haseloff (Transylvania Times)

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Assistant to the City Manager Selena Coffey certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Gallo to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Overview of Quarterly Pedestrian Incidents

Fire Chief Bobby Cooper provided an overview of pedestrian incidents for the year, with a focus on the last quarter of 2024. He highlighted 4 bicycle incidents in the fourth quarter, one in Silversteen Community Park and others on North Country Club Road, the intersection of Broad Street and Fisher Road, and Asheville Highway. Chief Cooper noted that the bike path on Asheville Highway is a common location for incidents. The Committee discussed the report briefly.

F. Update on Traffic Calming Measures

Mr. Hooper reported that staff will be meeting again this week to continue progress on the items on the traffic calming list. He noted that staff has posted the sign on Fisher Road and collected data and the sign will be moved to McLean soon in order to collect additional data.

Mr. Todd provided an update on the speed bumps on Probart noting that the initial plan was to install 10, but staff had found funding to install 11 in total. He noted that the goal is to get all installed in January and that staff continues to analyze the intersection of the railroad at Probart for safety improvements. This was discussed extensively by the Committee.

G. Evidence Audit Report

Mr. Hooper introduced this agenda item noting that an evidence audit is required anytime the City hires a new evidence specialist and/or moves evidence to a new location. Chief Jordan commended Evidence Specialist Eden Hinds, noting that she had audited the Department's evidence thoroughly and meticulously for 7 months. He then provided an overview of the evidence audit report highlighting some of the following key findings:

- The industry standard is a 95% accuracy rate and the City's audit revealed that the department has a 99.5% accuracy rate.
- A total of 3,543 items are in evidence collection and only 19 of which un-accounted for items, none of which are attached to active cases and some items as old as the year 2010.
- Only four potential high-risk items that were unaccounted for, of which three were suspected of being marijuana and the fourth being pills. He reiterated that none of these were attached to active cases.
- Additional 16 items listed as being destroyed but lacking clear paperwork verifying that they were destroyed.
- The department has implemented a barcoding system and designated storage areas for all items collected.
- A new property and evidence policy was published in November 2024.

Chief Jordan noted that the evidence audit was difficult but was necessary to increase the accuracy of the Department's evidence collections. He noted that the next step is to implement additional evidence security measures, to include a new camera system to complement the existing locking system for restricting access to evidence.

Mr. Gallo asked how long evidence was required to be maintained. Chief Jordan explained that it varies based on the category of the evidence item. He also noted that moving the evidence will require an additional audit and an independent person, not associated with the Brevard Police Department, will oversee the move. He noted that this will likely be someone from the Internal Association of Property Evidence (IAPE).

Mr. Baker asked about accreditation standards, leading to a discussion about policies and requirements for the destruction of evidence. Chief Jordan noted that the Evidence Audit Report is a public document, and it has been shared with the District Attorney's office as per routine practice.

Mr. Baker suggested that the report be presented to City Council at least as a part of the consent agenda after having received input from the District Attorney's office. Mr. Hooper again noted that the audit is a public document and is available for anyone to review.

H. Public Comment

Kaitlyn Walters, owner of Earth Mountain Bicycle, spoke about safety concerns near the middle school. She noted that there is a significant problem with speeding vehicles along McLean and Fisher Road, especially near the school. She also asked if there was any interest in illuminating the bike path from the lab connecting to the middle school due to it being very dark in that area. She noted that she and friends had felt unsafe due to the darkness in that section and suggested the installation of biking. Finally, she noted that speeding and illegal u-turns are very common downtown and suggested that the Committee consider addressing these issues.

Kellyn Haight spoke about the potential for creating a three-way stop at the intersection of Carolina Avenue and Shipman. She noted that NCDOT had told her that this was City of Brevard issue. She noted that she had also spoken with Public Works Director Wesley Shook about this issue, along with Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director, about the issue. Ms. Haight also noted that the City also needs to ensure that the sight line in this area is clear as well, noting the large maple tree obstructing the view.

Mr. Hooper noted that staff will contact NCDOT to verify which portions of Carolina Avenue are actually City-owned versus State-owned because the City's map isn't clear about this.

Ms. Gallo noted that the stop sign at Probart has been helpful and residents have been pleased with this safety improvement.

Mr. Gallo referenced an email exchange about dogs on Hill Street and asked if there had been a resolution. Chief Jordan noted that the City's animal control staff was addressing the issue. Ms. Copelof then noted that City staff may need to update the form for reporting barking dogs based on the respective ordinance.

Ms. Haight asked the Committee what would be necessary to get a three-way sign installed at Carolina Avenue and Shipman Road. Mr. Hooper shared with her that the state asks for reporting of near misses in the absence of crash reports and encouraged Ms. Haight to report these near misses to the City.

I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025 at 3:30pm.

J. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Baker asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Morrow made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Gallo. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.

Minutes Approved: January 27, 2025

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member or
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member

X _____
Selena D. Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager