



City of New Haven

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Wednesday, February 12, 2020

7:00 PM

Alder Chamber

(Please scroll down)

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

February 12, 2019

Chair Gerald M. Antunes called the workshop to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Alder Chamber.

Present were Alders Roth, Wingate, H. Smith, and Singh.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss committee policies, procedures and goals for the 2020-2021 legislative term.

The chair noted this meeting was rescheduled due to President's Day.

The chair noted that a study by the committee indicated that the police brought in \$920,000 in grants during calendar year 2109. He said that's not enough -- when he was on the force \$2 to \$3 million per year was raised. He thinks the police can do better.

He discussed committee policies, including punctuality. He said the committee may focus on traffic safety more. He also said that topics like traffic signals and street infrastructure are public-safety concerns, though they are often sent to other committees. He distributed a sheet of suggestions such as advance reading for committee members to be prepared for meetings, and asking focused questions. He discussed parliamentary procedures like motions.

Alder Wingate suggested a public hearing on the new harm-reduction program designed to distribute drug paraphernalia such as syringes and pipes at the police lock-up. He is interested in hearing from both the public and police. He questions the program's appropriateness. Alder Smith said she's concerned about liability. Alder Singh said it could harm drug prosecutions. (This program is partly funded by a grant approved by the committee and BoA recently.)

Alder Smith suggested a hearing on teen homelessness. Alder Singh suggested hearing on police body cams and that program's transparency.

Alder Roth noted that the committee has pending hearings on gun violence and a fire department MOU, as well as driverless car test program. She's also interested in illegal driving of dirt bikes and ATVs. The chair noted that pursuit policies, in general as well as for dirt bikes, are big issues. Alder Smith said the city should designate space for dirt bike riders, such as East Rock park.

There was also a discussion of the progress of the mayor and alders to appoint and convene the civilian review board. Alder Wingate suggested a hearing on police recruiting and testing for city residents. Alder Roth asked why there aren't more women on the fire department.

COMMITTEE ACTION: None.

Adjourn: 8:25 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier,
Legislative Aide

BOARD OF ALDERS NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

The Public Safety Committee of the New Haven Board of Alders will hold a workshop on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. in the Alder Chamber of City Hall, 165 Church St., to:

* Discuss committee policies, procedures and goals for the 2020-2021 legislative term.

Per order: Hon. Gerald M. Antunes, Chair; attest: Hon. Michael B. Smart, City Clerk.

For a disability-related accommodation, please call (203) 946-7833 (V) or (203) 946-8582 (TTY) at least one business day prior to the meeting.