

City of Southgate
Public Safety Commission
January 15th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Commission was held in the City of Southgate Caucus Room, 14400 Dix-Toledo Highway, Southgate, Michigan on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 and was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Commissioner Norm Loveday.

Present: Commission Vice Chairperson James Austin, Commissioner Douglas Gildner, Commissioner Robert Hines, Commissioner Robert Beaver, Commissioner Ed Sukel, Commissioner Paul Knott

Also Present: Mayor Joseph Kuspa, City Councilwoman Zoey Kuspa, Public Safety Director Joseph Marsh, Fire Chief Justin Graves, Chief Mark Mydlarz

Excused: Commission Vice Chairperson James Austin

Meeting Summary

- **Commission Officer Positions were discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Gildner, supported by Sukel to maintain Commissioner Norm Loveday as the Chairman and Commissioner Jim Austin as the Co-Chairman of the Public Safety Commission. All were in favor.**
- Communications
- Director Marsh's Update (Fire & Police Department)
- Chief Mydlarz Update (Police Department)
- Chief Graves Update (Fire Department)

Communications

The October 16th, 2024 Public Safety Commission meeting minutes were approved by the Commission:

- Public Safety Commission Minutes October 16th, 2024, Motion by Commissioner Loveday, Supported by Commissioner Sukel, all in favor.

Correspondence

All correspondence letters were reviewed by the Commission.

- Appointment Letter for Police Officer Houston Garcia
- Promotional Letter for Officer Ryan Venner to Sergeant
- Officer Goins Completion of Probation Letter
- 2025 Public Safety Commission Meeting Dates

Director Marsh's Update (Fire & Police Department)

Director Marsh reported the following information to the Commission (includes discussion):

- **Police Staffing Update:** Officer Houston Garcia was appointed to the department on December 15th, 2024. Officer Nicholas Hernandez resigned from the department on January 4th. Sgt. Kment officially retires on Friday, January 10th. The department is now two employees short. We are still actively working on a background with a DPD officer who is highly interested in joining our department. The goal is to have him hired by end of February.
- **Promotions/Transfers:** Officer Venner has been promoted to sergeant on January 12th, 2025 due to the retirement of Sgt. Kment and Sgt. McCue completed a lateral transfer into the detective bureau.
- **Recruiting:** We will actively been searching for applicants using Indeed, MCOLES website, and academy visits.
- **Beacon:** The last day for Beacon was Friday, December 20th. Officer McClure has completed his SRO duties and on December 23rd started his assignment with the DEA.
- **Public Safety Academy:** On January 9th, 2025 we had our first class session for the Public Safety Academy. The academy will meet on Thursday evenings for the next 7 weeks.
- **GOV Transfer:** On January 6th, 2025, the department went live with a GovTransfer platform for the Records Division. This software should aid the Records department with FOIA and other document requests from the public or attorneys. This system will also allow us to transfer electronic media files to requestors.
- **Community Relations:** Sgt. Murphy worked with DRMM who has committed to donating 20 turkeys for families in need this Thanksgiving. He has reached out to each school to find recommended families and has started receiving their recommendations. Additionally, we hosted our Shop with a Hero which was scheduled for December 10th. On December 12th, 2024, in partnership with the First Responder Children's Foundations we hosted our Toy Express Event.
- **Department Awards:** On February 5th, 2025 at the Council work study session we will be giving awards to several police officers for work performance in 2024.

Discussion: The commission did have some questions about GovTransfer and the cost of the program. The Commission asked if we had a contract with the new sponsored applicants to pay back costs for training/academy if they leave the department early. The Commission was advised that the new sponsored applicants did sign contracts with the City. Commissioner Beaver did ask who writes citations for trash day parking violations. He was advised those citations are issued by either Ordinance Officer Coleman or shift officers.

Chief Graves Update

Chief Graves reported the following information to the Commission (includes discussion):

- Run totals:

	Dec	2024:	2023:	2022:
○ Fire Incidents:	44	645	736	654
○ EMS Incidents:	398	4283	4423	4588
○ YTD responses:	4928		5159	5242
- On Friday October 18th at 2:36 am, Engine 81 and Engine 82 responded to a house fire at 14789 Reeck. The fire originated in the second story of the home with the most likely cause being electrical in nature. All residents made it out safe and 1 Southgate firefighter sustained minor burns on his wrist. Wyandotte and Lincoln Park also assisted on scene.
- On November 2nd at 3:53am Engine 81 and Engine 82 responded to a house fire at 16370 Poplar. The fire likely started outside near the trashcans. The fire burned up the side of the house, into the eaves and chased through the attic. The fire was mostly contained to the garage. Lincoln Park and Wyandotte were also on scene and there were no injuries.
- On Monday November 14th, on Trenton Rd near the movie theater there was a pedestrian who was hit by a vehicle at 5:16 pm. The victim was seriously injured with a skull fracture and multiple other fractures. Victim was in critical condition.
- No Thanksgiving turkeys were ruined due to oven fires this year.

Discussion: Commissioner Hines did ask who was at-fault in the Trenton Rd pedestrian crash. The Commission was advised that the driver was found to be at-fault. Commissioner Sukel asked if we received word back on why we did not receive the ladder truck grant, Chief Graves advised that they did not receive any feedback, just the rejection. Commissioner Sukel asked if it was a possibility to share services with other communities to purchase a ladder truck. Chief Graves explained why they are trying to maintain our ladder truck.

Chief Mydlarz Update:

Chief Mydlarz discussed the following incidents:

Categories	December 2024	December 2023
Calls for Service	1204	1193
Reports	311	382
Accidents	63	63

- 11/26/24 14900 Dix-Toledo (Walmart) – Child Neglect
- 12/29/24 12859 Eureka (White Horse)- B&E
- 12/30/24 Trenton/Cambridge- CCW
- 01/07/25 16333 Allen Rd. (American House)- Fraud
- 01/07/25 14805 Dix-Toledo (Carrabba's)- UDAA

The next scheduled Public Safety Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the City of Southgate Caucus Room.

Moved by Commissioner Loveday, supported by Commissioner Sukel, RESOLVED, that the meeting of the Public Safety Commission be adjourned at 4:58p.m. Carried unanimously.



Joseph L. Marsh
Director of Public Safety

January 16th, 2025