

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6pm at City Hall and remotely through the Zoom web application.

Member present at City Hall was Councilor John Hanlon. Members present remotely were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Marchese and Michael McLaughlin.

Councilor Gerly Adrien, the Sponsor, City Solicitor Colleen Mejia and Police Chief Steve Mazzie were also present remotely.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Gerly Adrien: To request the June 2019 to December 2019 E911 calls to review what other services could have solved the issue instead of sending a police officer or what social service could have helped fix the problem.

Councilor Adrien explained that due to a number of recent sad moments in the black community she was providing the Committee with a power point presentation pertaining to a "Review of 911 Calls and Recommendations" (presentation is attached) which she had previously emailed to all members. She stated that it was important to review the documents and data provided from the Everett Police Department as well as look at how other Police Departments operate to determine if other social services could be utilized rather than having a Police Officer respond. She noted that many of the recommendations listed in her presentation came from citizens of the community. She referenced that the top 20 call types were non-criminal which resulted in over 9,000 service calls by Police over the period of 2016 to 2020 which could be reassigned to either paramedics or mental health professionals as Denver, Colorado has done. She suggested reassigning Police Officers to the list of high service areas to decrease activities. She informed the Committee that the City of Somerville Police Department had three employees in a dedicated office for Community Outreach, Help and Recovery and suggested that the City of Everett consider doing the same. Councilor Adrien concluded her presentation and remarked that she hoped that the Mayor would consider her recommendations. Chief Mazzie responded that calls come in a variety of ways and are not cut in dry as the category that they may be listed under. He concurred that a majority of the service calls are for non-criminal activities since the Police Department is resolving issues without arresting and acknowledged that arrests have gone down. The Chief explained that his Department has a solid relationship with Cambridge Health Alliance and Elliot Mental Health Services as it relates to mental health issues they are confronted with. He explained further that they work with Deb Fallon of Portal to Hope on domestic violence issues, interventions and support and also work with Tori Cyrus, Clinician with the Fire Department on Opioid outreach. The Chief remarked that things mentioned by Councilor Adrien were already going on but agreed that it could be built upon. He stated that it was unfair to compare the City of Everett to Denver, Colorado which has a huge drug problem, but concurred that he's all for additional resources. The Chief referenced an incident that occurred in the City last week in which they worked with Cataldo Ambulance Service on a call in which the paramedics were assaulted and that even though the Police Officers took a very slow approach to the situation in ultimately resulted in them using force with the Chief explaining that some people are just violent. Chief Mazzie responded to his organizational chart being

mentioned in the presentation and stated that the organizational chart doesn't always detail what the person does. He noted that his Community Service Group is dedicated to the assessment of the homeless. Chairperson Martins informed the Committee that the Diversity Committee that she also serves on as a member is also working on these issues. Councilor Marchese asked the Chief how do you determine a dangerous situation as it related on whether to send a Police Officers or a Social Worker to call. Chief Mazzie remarked that it was a good question and noted that his Officers were trained in crisis intervention as well as Mental Health 101. Councilor Mclaughlin informed all that he was present at the incident the Chief referenced in which force had to be used and witnessed the professional job they had done in keeping everyone in a high occupancy building safe. The Chief remarked that a major part of a Police Officers job is to keep the peace. Councilor Mclaughlin noted that there was still some merit to Councilor Adriens recommendations. Councilor Hanlon declared that the data doesn't show the true detail of each incident and doesn't want to turn the duties of a Police Officer over to anyone else. Chairperson Martins announced her support for the funding of the police and its infrastructure. Councilor Adrien disputed some statements made by the Chief and referenced an incident in which she witnessed three Police Officers called to deal with a person with a mental health issue which she felt could have been done differently. The Chief responded that he would be willing to work with Councilor Adrien to determine ways to divert some calls. Chairperson Martins noted that the Diversity Committee was working with Chief and that she personally was hoping to see improvements in the infrastructure. Councilor Adrien stated that she wants the Chief to inform her on what recommendations he will enact and which he won't and why. Councilor Mclaughlin suggested that the matter be laid over one month and that the Mayor, Police Chief, Patrolmens union rep and Human Resource Director be invited to that meeting.

The Committee voted: To grant further time and to invite the Mayor, Police Chief, Patrolmen's Union Rep and Human Resource Director to the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

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Member present at City Hall was Councilor John Hanlon. Members present remotely were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Marchese and Michael McLaughlin.

- The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilors McLaughlin, Martins, Marchese and Hanlon: That a representative of EPD appear to discuss the ongoing big parties that are happening behind Costco in parking lot.

The Committee was informed that the matter had been addressed at the prior Committee meeting and was accidentally on agenda.

No action necessary.

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Member present at City Hall was Councilor John Hanlon. Members present remotely were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Marchese and Michael McLaughlin.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilors Michael McLaughlin and Fred Capone: That the Director of Public Works attend this meeting to discuss street signage and an aggressive plan to replace many of the signs that are no longer readable across the City.

Legislative Aide Mike Mangan informed the Committee that DPW Director Jerry Navarra had informed him that he was ill and would not be able to attend meeting. Councilor McLaughlin noted that he was in receipt of some information on new signage from Mr. Navarra and requested that the Legislative Aide provide that info to all members prior to the next meeting.

The Committee voted: To grant further time and to invite the DPW Director to the next meeting with a further request that Legislative Aide provide the signage info already submitted by Mr. Navarra to all members prior to the next meeting.

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Deb Fallon from Portal of Hope and Police Chief Steve Mazzie were also present remotely.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That Deb Fallon from Portal of Hope provide an update on the state of domestic violence in the City of Everett.

Ms. Fallon provided an overview of the 2019 *EVAPorate Violence Project* (EVAP) which is part of the CIU. She explained that EVAP provides services to victims of domestic violence and related assault crimes and in support of law enforcement cases. Services include assistance with 209A Abuse Prevention Orders (APO), case management, court advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning and referrals to other services. EVAP also provides services to victims and their families who may not have APOs but who have been impacted by domestic violence crimes responded to by the Everett Police and who are referred by other agencies including Cambridge Health Alliance – Whidden Hospital, the Department of Children and Families, Everett City Government, Everett Mayor's Office of Human Services, Everett Public Schools, MelroseWakefield HealthCare, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Safelink, local businesses, community and religious organizations, and by other victims previously served by EVAP. She noted that in 2019, EVAP received and recorded 213 active 209A Abuse Prevention Orders, with 213 adults and 94 children reported as victims. Of this number, 189 victims of domestic violence were female and 24 were male. She noted further that EVAP conducted outreach and follow-up to 296 victims of domestic violence and provided advocacy services to 101 clients. Of this number, 25 cases were assisted with emergency shelter and housing, and 83 cases remain active through 2020 where advocacy services are still required. She stated that it is important to note that in 2019, EVAP experienced a 28% increased need to provide victim advocacy for clients in various District and/or Probate and Family Courts, at DHCD and DTA, and with language interpreter and transportation needs. She explained that EVAP facilitated community outreach activities in 2019 including:

- A) School-based domestic violence prevention education;
- B) Literature campaign (mailing and business community literature drop) to promote EVAP services;
- C) Outreach to state agencies for referral and resource sharing; and
- D) Facilitated community resource training, including with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General – Division of Victim Compensation.

She told the Committee that EVAP referred 89 cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking implications to Portal To Hope (PTH) for additional aid (emergency shelter, support groups, Benevolence Project, legal aid, and housing assistance). EVAP also made 7 referrals to Everett Housing Authority, 27 referrals to DHCD, and 27 referrals to the Department of Transitional Assistance for emergency housing assistance, and 3 clients to Hallmark Health and Eliot for individual counseling aid. PTH provided 267 hours of support service to EVAP in 2019. She confirmed that they have seen a significant increase in 2020 in relation to the ongoing pandemic. She acknowledged that she fully supports the Everett Police Department and would never want to go on a domestic violence service call with or without the police. She suggested that members of the City Council visit her at work so that they can obtain a better understanding on the support system provided to domestic violence victims. She informed the members that she would be extended an invite to upcoming events for Portal to Hope.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Member present at City Hall was Councilor John Hanlon. Members present remotely were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Marchese and Michael McLaughlin.

Councilor Peter Napolitano, the Sponsor, and Traffic Planner Jay Monty were also present remotely.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Peter Napolitano: That Jay Monty appear to explain the Shared Street test program and why residents were not notified in advance of implementation.

Councilor Napolitano expressed his concern that no information was provided to residents or members of the City Council prior to the Shared Street Program appearing. He remarked that he was embarrassed by the lack of communication on this program and only received a flyer 2 ½ weeks after the Shared Street program started. Mr. Monty responded that the City had obtained a \$170,000 grant for this program and that he would take the responsibility for the lack of communication. Mr. Monty provided the Committee with a power point presentation on the “Everett Shared Streets Pilot Project Update” (presentation is attached) which was also previously emailed to members. Mr. Monty explained that the major intent of the program was to provide safer walking and biking connections along Broadway while helping to reduce vehicle speeds and cut-through traffic. He noted that the barriers that have been set up in several locations along Broadway are easily adjustable and removable. He informed the Committee that this Pilot program would conclude at the end of November at which time they will finish collecting and analyzing data to determine if the program should be continued in 2021. He explained that speed and volume counts will encompass before and after the program concludes in November. He explained further that they have posted and provided flyers for a public feedback survey on whether residents approve of slowing and diverting traffic. Councilor Napolitano provided Mr. Monty with his own personal observations on the program setup in his neighborhood and requested that Mr. Monty provide the City Council with feedback on the data. Chairperson Martins remarked that if it has reduced speeds then it does indeed work. Councilor McLaughlin asked if Police Sergeant Joe Gaff the Traffic Commission Chairman was informed of this program prior to implementation and Mr. Monty responded that it wasn’t communicated properly. Councilor McLaughlin requested that Mr. Monty work with the City Council in the future if this program is to move forward and Mr. Monty confirmed that he would. Councilor Napolitano informed the Committee that the program feedback was via a barcoded scan that needed to be done by residents personal cell phone camera, which he felt would restrict most public feedback in order to provide accurate data.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

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The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael McLaughlin: That the Human Resource Director appear at this meeting to discuss a variety of topics regarding city employees.

Councilor McLaughlin noted that Human Resource Director Lara Wehbe had waited for more than two hours on Zoom, but that the prior agenda items ran longer than expected and she was no longer present. He informed the Committee that he has already been working with Ms. Wehbe on many of the questions he had and found her to be very transparent and requested that the matter be referred back to Sponsor.

The Committee voted: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
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#7-C0421-20

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The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That the Everett Community Action Network provide information on how community members have been assisting fellow neighbors and how individuals might reach out to help.

Councilor Martins expressed her disappointment that no invites were sent for ECAN to appear.

The Committee voted: to grant further time and to invite representatives of ECAN to next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees