

DRAFT



MINUTES

Committee on Public Safety

Thursday, July 16, 2026 @ 3:30 p.m.

City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spadafore called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Peter Spadafore, Chair

Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair

Council Member Clara Martinez, Member- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Legislative Office Manager

Sunny Miller, OCA

Rawley Van Fossen, Code Compliance

Tom Berry, Code Compliance

Meredith Johnson, Code Compliance

Crystal Collins

Chief Backus, LPD

Tim Rumler, Investor

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MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 8, 2026, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish; 4507 Devonshire

Council Member Spadafore noted it was before the Committee last week.

Mr. Van Fossen confirmed the owner has emailed multiple documents since last Friday. They have signed a contract to do \$8000 proposal for interior and exterior clean up. They have paid half and proven they have the remaining funds. When speaking to the owner yesterday they were told they still need the list of what needs to be repaired with cost estimate, and proof of funds from the owner. There was a letter of an interested buyer. Knowing they put the \$4000 down, the department is excited on the progress and recommend to table until next meeting.

Ms. Collins would like it noted she accomplished from 72 hours within the last meeting, and when this started she was not aware of the situation, but this should reflect with 72 action she is making every attempt. She does have several interest with people purchasing “as is”, but not sure what criteria or needs the City needs, to allow that to happen. She is currently looking for direction or input to move in that direction. Any one interested have stated they can do the purchase in a timely manner. Mr. Van

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Fossen stated the City cannot provide an actual list because of liability, they have to approve per State code, and a list should be done by a licensed contractor. Ms. Collins asked if she can sell before inspection. Mr. Van Fossen stated she can sell now, but what this body is considering is the make safe or demolish, so that would require a builder. Council Member Spadafore stated when a property is red tagged, and potential buyer, and they were reluctant to buy because it could still be torn down. They provided a plan and that released the demolish order to hold position until updates from contractor and inspections. The new owner would have to have and know the timeline to make it safe, and if demonstrates making the home safe, the Council can delay the order to demolish. The next steps today, if not delay, Council July 27th for a 60 day order. Then after that there is bidding and utilities. In that process she can bring a contractor to determine safe, meet with an agent to sell. What the Committee has before them is to consider moving this to Council.

Mr. Rumler explained his role with this property, and working as an agent working with cash buyers to close in days. He noticed this property last fall, tracks down owners, finds them a buyer. With all the recent activity by the City, he came today. He has told her he can potentially find her a buyer in the current status and state of the home, and can feel at 95% assurance, to meet her needs and investors. He noted he has 3-4 ready to purchase and step up to rehab home, meet or exceed the status in the neighborhood.

Council Member Hussain referred to the contract on interior and exterior cleanup and when it would start. Ms. Collins stated it is going on now, and their timeline 2-3 weeks. Council Member Hussain noted it has been red tagged 2017, the relationship with Mr. Rumler was last fall, and in this Committee they apply the ordinances and policy. There is still needed a timeline, financial, list of repairs, and he is interested in seeing that ASAP, not 2-3 months down the line. Ms. Collins stated she also wants it finished, and once she became aware of this process she is concerned about it as well, and has made progress since the last meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO TABLE ACTION UNTIL THE AUGUST 6TH MEETING FOR 4507 DEVONSHIRE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION– General Public Safety Update – Lansing Chief of Police

Council Member Spadafore spoke briefly on neighborhood meetings where the Chief has spoken.

Chief Backus stated there are 196 sworn in officers, there are 19 in candidate sponsorship and will start in August, and with graduation in December. There is an open application process they will start shortly, that will have the candidates start in January. There hope is to get 10 in that academy, and hope to be fully staffed.

With crime numbers there is a 6.2% overall increase, violent crimes are down, increases are in the property crimes.

Calls for service, 350 more this year.

Regarding staffing and overall police strategies. They have taken 10 officers who completed field training program, which were put into shifts and placed them into their busiest hours, starting at 11 am. There is a grant from the COPS office, that puts more officers on the road on Friday and Saturday nights, specific to enforcing parks.

They have added river patrols; either on bikes or golf cart. This operates from Old Town to Impression 5, during specific hours, and expanded into Saturday and Sundays where they also enforce down to Hawk Island.

With CATA, they have added two police officers during afternoon hours.

They have a dedicate downtown CPO.

On the July 4th staffing there were 120 working with 80 to downtown and fireworks, and the remaining to road patrol.

They have an RFP out for road cameras.

They are giving special attention in Old Town due to the recent renovation at Fish Ladder, with more presence.

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Council Member Hussain, with staffing, he asked how many officers over the last 3 years to other departments. Chief Backus stated they have lost 5 over the last year to other departments, some to East Lansing. East Lansing does not require officers to pay into pension, and the City does require it but the City does have a rate that has a more immediate payoff. East Lansing does not pay into health care, and it wasn't until recently the City of Lansing did require that. Outside of that, someone moved out of state, someone moved to follow significant other career. Council Member Hussain, when looking at cities similar to Lansing, what is there retention when looking at pay, benefits. Chief stated similar would be Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo; same median income, housing, and what they do for their officers. Council Member Hussain asked if time in program was expedited to get people on the streets, and the Chief said no, but if they lateral from another department, they might go faster because they are trained and they need 3-4 months to learn Lansing. Council Member Hussain asked about CPO for the City, and Chief stated that CPO will be evaluated to place more people in as a priority. Council Member Hussain asked about neighborhood watch person, and Chief Backus stated it changed over July 10th. Council Member Hussain asked about gang activity, historically, and has the LPD changed the definition of "gangs", are their ties to other agencies. Chief Backus said Lansing does not have traditional gangs, but what they call hybrids – they start with friends, schools, there might be 5-10, and there might be 1 performing the violence, but if they are around them they are perceived to be affiliated with that 1. There is no leader, no underlying crimes, retaliatory violence, not financial gain, more reputation and ego. There affiliated groups and hybrid. Council Member Hussain stated his whole life in Lansing have had what the Chief is calling hybrid, and asked if they are still dealing with, or has the City evolved into the organization structure and multi-generational. Chief Backus stated they are performing focus enforcement, there is usually one and they motivate another group, and then that group is motivated the 1 person's group. They make efforts to make contact with that person, they might already have criminal complaints. They are working with Advance Peace to target them with their programming, and the LPD is there if they choose not to take the program. Council Member Hussain stated they are getting questions on the FLOCK cameras; there was grant in 2023, expanded. Chief stated there are 5 locations, with 4 cameras at each location. These are in public right of way, none on private property. There is no facial recognition. It is a snap shot of the plate, not connected to any personal information. Only the police can determine who it is connected. They do not share information. The department will be doing a news story on how they use, what benefits there are, and there is log that tracks who accesses it. The intelligence of the camera can note specifics on the vehicles. Council Member Hussain appreciates the education he can provide, actual way being deployed and used.

OTHER

No other topics.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on