



**MINUTES**  
**Committee on Public Safety**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Conference Room, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Hussain called the meeting to order at 3:31pm

**PRESENT**

Council Member Adam Hussain, Chair  
Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair  
Council Member Ryan Kost, Member – arrived at 3:32

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Renee Richmond, Council Administrative Assistant  
Joe Abood, OCA  
Chief Ellery Sosebee, LPD  
Elaine Womboldt  
Daniel Arnold  
Alex Pedraza, OCA Intern  
Elizabeth Krochmalny, OCA Intern

**MINUTES**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 3, 2023, AS PRESENT.  
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elaine Womboldt thanked Chief Sosebee and LPD for their dedication and spoke on being a Neighborhood Watch Organizer that the CPO's were very involved and is hoping they can get back to being involved again. She finished by commenting on the Logan Square shooting and her concerns.

Daneil Arnold spoke on the panhandling topic and he see's it all the time at the QD across from Riverfront Apts. with the employee's there having to deal with it, stating his opinion that educating the public on how to respond to those asking for money.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish, 3301 Turner Street**

Councilmember Hussain noted the Committee has already seen this back in August and Council requested it sent back to the department because there was a new owner and it was not placard correctly. Councilmember Kost said there is no photo of evidence that it was placard so sent back, Councilmember Hussain confirmed.

Councilmember Wood stated her frustration of this being the third property with errors and asked why they are falling through the cracks. Continuing it drags the process out another 60 days because of the

process and then winter comes and more than likely nothing is demolished until Spring. Councilmember Hussain asked Mr. Abood who is responsible for the legal descriptions, Mr. Abood answered they are put together by the ED&P department, that law just makes sure it is in the correct form. Councilmember Wood indicated there seems to be no mechanism in place, Councilmember Hussain asked Ms. Richmond to reach out to Mr. Hankwitz and inquire on their verification process.

Councilmember Hussain stated the hearing date in the resolution should reflect November 13, 2023 and not October 30, 2023.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE DATE FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2023, FOR SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 3301 TURNER STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

#### DISCUSSION – County Emergency Siren Survey Questions and Implementation

Councilmember Hussain handed out an email with questions from Fire Chief Sturdivant regarding a County Emergency Siren Survey and asked the Committee for input.

Councilmember Wood noted question 8 looks irrelevant since someone living in an area close to the siren can hear it fine but another farther away cannot, and Councilmember Kost agreed.

Councilmember Hussain added maybe having a question on audio level, and Councilmember Kost included maybe a two-part question with a scale from 1-5. Councilmember Wood noted there is no zip code reference and should be, and how is the siren received by residents, phone, TV, computer, that not everyone has all or one of these. Councilmember Hussain inquired on how the survey would be distributed.

#### DISCUSSION – Panhandling

Councilmember Hussain mentioned they are receiving a lot of correspondence on the aggression and walking in the streets up to vehicles, and becoming hostile, asking what laws are in the books about enforcing and what education for Police Officers is there. Councilmember Kost added he spoke to a resident on concerns of people walking up to cars at stop lights and in between vehicles in four lanes of traffic, what is considered crossing the line.

Chief Sosebee stated there is education for the Officers and they can ask what they can do for them however, there are individuals that are not from around here and they come in and leave as well as those that live here. They know the officers will not be aggressive, and the infraction needs to be seen as it happens if they did get a ticket most won't or cannot pay or show up in court. Councilmember Kost inquired how Grand Rapids is enforcing tighter, Chief Sosebee responded he is unsure but can inquire about it. Mr. Abood added another issue is if the panhandler or person soliciting puts hands on a person or impedes them from entering a business.

Councilmember Kost asked if there were statistics on panhandlers that have a home and are bringing in money and where they can/cannot be. Chief Sosebee believes it is a low percentage but it does happen and they have pursued fraudulent charges, adding they are allowed in the public right of way like a crosswalk and motorists are required to yield and cannot block entry into a business, otherwise they are in violation. Chief Sosebee mentioned visiting businesses like CATA and making sure they are viable and the employees are safe.

#### DISCUSSION – Gun Violence and Potential Action/Advocacy

Councilmember Hussain reference an email with the Mayor and asked the Committee to review along with Chief Sosebee.

- 1) Allow for local control regarding guns
- 2) Allow for local control regarding ammunition

- 3) Allow locals create felonies and misdemeanors (fines and/or incarceration) for legal owners of guns if that legally purchased gun is lost or stolen and used in the commission of a crime
- 4) Allow locals to create felonies and misdemeanors (fines and/or incarceration) for production of a ghost gun
- 5) Allow locals to create felonies and misdemeanors (fines and/or incarceration) for a privately made gun
- 6) Allow locals to create felonies and misdemeanors (fines and/or incarceration) for production of any device that makes a legal gun into an illegal gun
- 7) Allow locals to create higher penalties for felonies and misdemeanors regarding guns
- 8) Allow locals to prohibit guns from municipal buildings, public transit, parks, and any other publicly accessible facilities or public gathering places
- 9) Allow locals to prohibit sales of guns or ammunition
- 10) Allow locals to prohibit carrying of guns openly or concealed in their community

Councilmember Wood asked since the passing of the Ordinance regarding reporting stolen weapons, does LPD have a report on those seized. Chief Sosebee responded yes and he would get the report for the Committee, but the issue is until it is report they do not know the violation or once it is recovered. Councilmember Kost asked if the Chief had access to a registry of guns for when they go to a call do they know that homeowner has a weapon prior to entering the home. Chief Sosebee responded they do not do pre-emptive checks, but they do ask once they arrive. Councilmember Kost also asked about holding parents accountable like the Oxford shooting, Mr. Abood indicated that is fairly new and have to show the parents knew it was taken. Chief Sosebee shared the numbers of guns seized for 2023 through September 383, 2022 – 474, 2021 – 582, 2020 – 382, and 2019 – 254. Councilmember Hussain inquired if it was attributed to less pull overs, Chief responded possibly and he could get a report on guns pre-policy for the Committee.

#### **OTHER**

Councilmember Kost asked Chief Sosebee about the multiple cars that hang out at various businesses after hours like Jolly/MLK and play cat/mouse game with LPD Officers. Chief Sosebee indicate he has a strict pursuit policy and his first direction is to find businesses to give a letter of trespass, and like the ORV issues if people call in when they park with license plates that helps. Councilmember Hussain noted the deployment license plate readers will make it easier.

Councilmember Hussain asked Mr. Abood for an update on the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Abood answered they are finishing draft 4 and sending back to EDP Department by tomorrow for review.

Councilmember Wood asked by is it not being enforced currently, Mr. Abood stated he cannot answer for EDP but has advised them.

Councilmember Wood asked Chief Sosebee who is the person meeting with the Logan Square people and if the Committee is able to sit in on it. Chief Sosebee answered he has no issue with them sitting in on the meeting, and Captain Eric Pratl would be the person.

Councilmember Hussain asked lastly were LPD is on vacancies, Chief Sosebee answered they are 30 down but have 17 in the academy.

#### **ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 4:35pm

Submitted by

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 7, 2023