

## HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 13, 2021

**In Attendance:** **Vermilion City Council:** *Steve Herron, President of Council; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five.*  
**Administration:** *Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Tony Valerius, Service Director*

**Call to Order:** Brian Holmes, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

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### **TOPIC ONE: Police Chiefs Report**

Chief Hartung reported that Sergeant Chandler and Sergeant Kopniske completed supervisor training in Columbus and him along with Captain Graham went down for the graduation last Wednesday. They have one more promotional exam coming up in January to find out who their fourth Sergeant will be.

He was glad the bridge was open as it was a logistical joy to operate two stations on each side of the city. Everybody stepped up and were hands on deck. He extended his thanks to the men and women of the agency for the efforts they put forth over the last two months. He said Patrolman Reyes and Patrolman Ancog who are part time officers picked up a number of hours, which offset potential overtime costs. He said these two men stepped up and did an excellent job and he is proud of them.

He reported the Road to Happiness was broken into and a lot of tools were stolen. He said if anyone sees anything they should contact the police department. Additionally, they had a lot of traffic activity on Highbridge Road during the bridge closure and a lot of tickets were issued. He said this time of year they are spending a lot of calls on mental health issues and they are doing a lot of transport for individuals with psychiatric issues. He said this is an important time of the year to keep an eye on family members with depression

He reported they received two new bikes for the bike patrol units. One of them is an electric bike and he will show it to council once it gets warmer. He noted that he and Captain Graham completed the Chiefs' In-Service in Columbus, and they will be addressing the redaction software for things like body cams because there are statutory requirements.

He reported they have had a lot of failure to appear warrants. Also, they picked up a system called 'Home and Detect'. One of the issues in the Ohio Revised Code is that you could not differentiate whether the substance was hemp, or it was marijuana, so they have not been enforcing marijuana laws because they cannot testify without extensive lab testing and the difference between the two. They now have a field system that allows them to make an identification in the field.

He said Denando Dante who was involved in a rape trial and decided not to come back during the break, and he cut off his ankle monitor. The Erie County Sheriff's Department put a bulletin

out and they pinged for him on the east side, and he was located. Unfortunately, he suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head and was located on the railroad tracks just east of town.

B. Holmes adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

*Next Meeting: January 24, 2022 @ 7pm at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio*