

JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
5:45 P.M.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
JOPLIN CITY HALL
5th FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
602 S. MAIN STREET
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, will conduct a Work Session at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020 at Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor Council Chambers, 602 S. Main Street. This meeting can be viewed via livestream at <http://www.joplinmo.org/182/Video-Multimedia> In compliance with the social distancing requirement of six feet, the number of guests in the Council Chambers is limited to 45.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Joplin Police Department Engagement Report – Chief Sloan Rowland
3. Listening Tour Presentation – City Manager
<https://www.joplinmo.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=71>
4. Adjourn

Notice posted at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2020

If you are in need of disability related auxiliary aids or services, contact the City Clerk's Office at (417) 624-0820 ext. 220. Forty-eight hours' notice is requested.

JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE  **SLOAN A. ROWLAND**

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JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT ENGAGEMENT REPORT



AUGUST 2020

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Introduction

The ability of a police department to fulfill its mission to secure a safe and peaceful society is dependent on securing the community's trust, approval, and respect. Committed to building community trust through community engagement, transparency, and accountability, the Joplin Police Department has institutionalized new processes for internal critical review; established schedules for reporting on core metrics around use of force, reporting and review of force, crisis intervention, and traffic stops; provided increasing public access to JPD data; equipped its patrol officers with body-worn cameras as another tool to provide transparency into police-community interactions. In addition, the Joplin Police Department has continued to strengthen and expand its initiatives to actively engage the community as a partner in keeping Joplin safe and welcoming for all. In this report, we provide updated information regarding our ongoing initiatives, programs, and strategies around outreach and engagement that are all undertaken towards that end.

Programs

Citizens Advisory Committee

It is the policy of the Joplin Police Department to reach out to citizens of the City of Joplin and proactively engage them in determining whether the Department is upholding our Vision, Values and Mission Statements. Accountability to our citizens is of the utmost importance in maintaining community support and ensuring that the department responds to the needs of our citizens in an appropriate and professional manner. Accountability is built and maintained through diligent attention to many facets of contemporary policing, ranging from entry-level selection practices, to ethics and integrity, training, supervision, policies and procedures and performance evaluation. The implementation of the Civilian Advisory Committee provides opportunities for community input on these issues, police programs and services.

The Citizens Advisory Committee was established in 2003. The Committee has recently been expanded from 9 members to 11 in an effort to gain a wider voice from our community.

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Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention consist of Crime Free Business (CFB) and Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH). The Crime Free team assist with neighborhood revitalization areas, organizes National Night Out, patrols city parks (particularly seeking out alcohol violations, graffiti presence and vandalism), performs site surveys and make security recommendations to city departments and property owners as problems arise, monitors trail safety, conducts city-wide theft from vehicle campaigns, promotes education and enforcement.

Online Information Reporting

Approximately 10 years ago online reporting was added to the department website. This program allows citizens to make some criminal and accident reports online. Citizens can also report traffic violations, compliment an officer, or make formal complaints against officer(s) through the portal as well. This has allowed more access to citizens to make reports and encouraged those individuals hesitant to make reports an easier avenue than visiting the department or calling for an officer to meet them.

Internal Affairs Report Publication

Internal Affairs Yearly and Quarterly Reports are published on our department page under the reports section. The purpose of these reports is to provide a statistical analysis of the lethal, less lethal, and non-lethal force used by the JPD Officer and JPD Detention Officers; and enhance transparency between the Department and its stakeholders within the City of Joplin. The reports also detail IA complaints and cases that are investigated by the department.

Biased Based Training

The purpose of this training is to reaffirm the Joplin Police Department's commitment to unbiased policing and to reinforce procedures that serve to maintain public confidence by providing service and enforcing laws in a fair and equitable manner. The training is designed to allow officers to understand and recognize bias and its relation to law enforcement operations.

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The training also focuses on “probable cause” and reasonable suspicion” criteria for officer stops and searches. Traffic enforcement and pedestrian contacts are routinely performed by officers but for the motorist or pedestrian who are stopped it is frequently an emotionally upsetting experience.

Police Chaplains

The Joplin Police Chaplain Program has been serving the Police Department and citizens of Joplin on a volunteer basis since 1988. The chaplains provide spiritual, emotional, and/or physical assistance to those citizens involved in traumatic incidents. Currently the program has four volunteer chaplains. The Chaplains are members of the International Conference of Police Chaplains and the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Shop With A Cop

Each December, the Joplin “Shop With a Cop” event is hosted by the Joplin Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police. The Joplin Police host approximately 80 to 100 children who are selected by their school counselors from the free and reduced-price lunch rosters. Each child was provided with a \$100 gift card, provided through donations from private citizens and local businesses, to buy presents for themselves and loved ones. The Joplin Police Department has been participating in “Shop With a Cop” for more than 27 years.

National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community event between the Joplin Police Department and the community. We focus on neighborhood cooperation with an eye toward cooperation. The Crime Free Team works with local businesses and community partners to sponsor the event, which includes a free swim, with dinner and soft drinks provided. This event usually has over 800 to 1000 people in attendance.

Citizens Police Academy

Twice a year, the Joplin Police Department hosts a Citizen’s Police Academy. This program is offered to interested members of the community who would like to know more about the operations of the Joplin Police Department. The 14-week Academy allows citizens a behind the scenes look at what it is like to be an Officer with the Joplin Police Department. There are two

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primary goals of the Citizen's Police Academy. The first is to inform citizens of the expectations and operations of the Joplin Police Department. The second is to facilitate better communication with all members of our community and gather valuable input on how we can serve our citizens and visitors better. Graduates of the CPA can complete further training and become a Sentinel.

Sentinels

Sentinels are comprised of individuals who have completed the Citizens Police Academy and aspire to serve the citizens of Joplin by completing further training and donating their time to the community. They assist with tasks that don't require sworn officers, so those officers are able to engage in other high priority activities.

The sentinels provide a variety of services to citizens to include house checks for citizens who are out of town, vehicle unlocks, found bicycle pickups, security, community support, fire scene support, traffic control at major events, crowd control at parades and special events, and other various non-enforcement support functions. Currently the sentinel program is made up of members from all areas of the community. Each member completes a minimum of 8 hours of service every month. Most of the members work full time jobs but still make the extra time to serve their community.

Police Explorers

The Joplin Police Department Post #164 is one of the oldest in the State of Missouri. The Explorers meet every Thursday evening for three to four hours. The goal of our post, which is sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, is to educate our area youth in the career and related fields of law enforcement. We train on all aspects of law enforcement from policy to tactics. This program is a great way to spend time with youth, teaching them good moral values and demonstrating how the criminal justice system works. Skills learned in Explorers help with interpersonal communication and to help the youth increase their confidence, as well as assist in building goals for the future.

The Explorers assist the police department with directing traffic, foot patrol, and parking cars at Freedom Fest, the Christmas parade, and other events throughout the year.

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Rise Above Program

Rise Above is a series of lessons taught to fifth grade students in the Joplin School District as well as several private schools. Rise Above was created by our officers with the assistance of the school district as a customized education program tailored to the needs of our community. The program, taught to over 700 students yearly, focuses on the importance of the character of the individual student while giving them insight into some of the roadblocks to their success.

New Programs/Initiatives

Policy Publication

In July we have begun to publish our department policies as they are reviewed and approved each month. Policies are divided into 12 sections for monthly scheduled review. The policies are placed on our department website for ease of access. This move will serve to foster transparency in current operating procedures and department policies.

Diversity and Inclusivity Training

Currently we are in the process of developing a Diversity and inclusivity training program. This program is designed to improve officer training and education regarding cultural norms that may impact police and citizen interactions and enhance understanding the role of the police in the community. The training further seeks to provide the officer with an understanding of cultural diversity among different populations of people and to equip them with cultural competency skills to interact with people of diverse cultures, especially in conflict. The training will be specifically tailored to the Joplin area and its citizens based on research.

Community Stakeholder Meetings

In early May we realized the need for a broader based public forum to discuss issues and solicit input from citizens and stakeholders in our community. In June of 2020 the Joplin police Department hosted its first meeting at the public safety training center with 15 people present. During the meeting discussions were held on improving transparency and information flow

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from the department to the community, along with suggestions to improve community relations.

In response to the first meeting we contacted numerous stakeholders in the community and attempted to build a network of individuals who were willing to meet for future discussions. On October 22 a second meeting was held at the training center where 20 participated in the meeting with several others that were unable to attend but were contacted afterwards. Numerous organizations and groups were represented from across the community. Plans have been made for the Community Stakeholders to become a permanent group meeting quarterly to discuss and deal with community issues and concerns in relation to the Joplin Police Department.

Department Demographic Profile

Studies have shown that law enforcement agencies that reflect the cultural diversity of their communities have greater trust, support, and involvement from the citizens they serve. The Joplin Police Department has recently conducted a demographic survey of its sworn officers to determine diversity within the department (*Attached*).

Weekly Activity Report

In June we started a weekly activity report that we publish every Monday morning. The report lists the total number of calls from the previous week and breaks down individual classifications so citizens can see the number and types of calls officers have responded to, along with the results of those calls in an abbreviated format. This has helped to inform the public of what we are doing on a weekly basis.

Did You Know

In June we started a weekly series that we publish every Thursday morning. The Did You Know program highlights different areas of the department, programs, or series of policies every week. This is designed to increase transparency with the public, foster trust, and increase public knowledge of department operations.

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Traffic Tip Tuesday

In June we started a weekly traffic tip program that we publish every Tuesday morning. With the increased awareness of traffic crashes and violations this program is intended to advise the public of traffic safety tips, most common causes of crashes, and increase traffic safety.

Community Involvement

Coffee With The Chief

Ride Along Program

Special Olympics

- Torch Run
- Bowling
- Truck Convoy

Salvation Army – Red Kettle Drive

MAAD/DWI Partnership

K9 Demonstrations

SWAT Demonstrations

Senior Presentations

Mentorship Programs

JAC – Leadership Joplin

JAC – Tomorrows Leaders Today

Elementary Pen Pal Program

Numerous Requests from civic organizations to speak at events.