

Aiken City Council Minutes  
WORK SESSION

December 2, 2014

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, and Councilmembers Dewar, Ebner, Homoki, and Price.

Absent: Councilmembers Diggs and Merry.

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Kim Abney, Charles Barranco, Phil Kestin, Marty Sawyer, David Turno, Karl Odenthal, Ben Harm, Mary Ann Burgess, Lalita Ashley, Cynthia Mitchell, Bryan Mills, Jennifer Bickle, Ron Shelley, Melissa Hooks, Melissa Odenthal, Sara Ridout, Roger Brock, Bill Busser, Shelby Saunders, and Maayan Schechter of the Aiken Standard.

BUDGET

Mayor Fred Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review the Public Safety Department budget.

Interim City Manager Roger LeDuc stated that the comparison being made at this meeting is from 1999 – 2014. It is a 15 year gap that is being looked at. The intention is to look at zero based budgeting. He stated Council will see some of those elements and other elements are difficult to zero base budget when you have over 30,000 calls a year coming in from 911. He stated they want to go ahead and be able to sit down with Council and be able to answer the questions they have, and if Council sees some areas that are lacking or need further information, Chief Charles Barranco and his staff will get that information.

Councilman Dick Dewar asked why the starting year was 1999. Mr. LeDuc stated that is 15 years, and it was also when he became the City Manager, so he is familiar with it from that point forward. Chief Barranco stated there have been some significant changes so they thought that would be a good starting point. Councilman Reggie Ebner asked if it was broken down more than twenty years or so. He asked if they go down every five years and tell Council or use that as one peg and go farther. Chief Barranco stated it can be done like that. They have used fiscal year 1999 and this current fiscal year, but it can be broken down further. He thinks that having multiple sessions is good because if things come up they can get that information for Council and bring it back. Councilman Ebner stated there have been a lot of changes in the population and what the City does since 1999. He asked if fiscal year meant June 30, 2014 or 2015. Chief Barranco stated fiscal year. Councilman Ebner asked if that meant December. Chief Barranco stated it was the financial year. Councilman Dewar stated it should be up to June 30, 2014.

Chief Barranco stated they want to take a good look at Public Safety because there is not an easy way to say this amount of dollars is going to get you this, because being Public Safety, they are cross trained in so many different areas and that will be detailed out so Council will have all the information together to talk about. He stated during this session they will talk about patrol and community services as well as the CALEA, the accreditation process. The next session will talk about the fire division, support services, and ISO. The final session, if needed, will be to answer all the questions that are raised and talk about the other divisions within Public Safety. He stated there have been a lot of changes over the last 15 years. The price of gas has changed; the CALEA manual has had 20 revisions; the complete budget went from \$5.7 million to \$9.6 million; the starting PSO salary, sworn personnel, etc. Along with these different ways of operating, the civilian personnel went from 20 in 1999 to 47 now. The percent of the budget taken up in salaries has risen, 911 calls in dispatch have gone up, and how the incident reports are taken has changed.

Councilman Dewar stated he has asked this before, but 36,656 911 calls is 100 per day. Chief Barranco stated that is just 911 calls. Captain Phil Kestin stated these are calls coming over the 911 system. It could be a collision on the road, and it could generate 6-8

calls on the same incident. The way they get that is to call the 911 office and ask them how many calls came into Aiken Public Safety. Councilman Ebner asked if this was only City. Chief Barranco stated yes.

Chief Barranco stated other things that have changed are how they take their incident reports – carbon copy and handwritten – to using the MDTs, and how employees are contacted. A lot of it was with pagers and a roll of quarters calling them from a pay phone and now most is through smart phones. Most everything is done over the smart phones. Computer access was very limited to employees and now everyone has one. There are some other major events that have happened within Public Safety during that time. He stated they were once on eight hour shifts, and now they are on 12 hour shifts. This is important because every two weeks the people on 12 hour shifts work 82.25 hours. They were working 80 hours, so there is a cost to that. How they train has changed. Before, back in 1999, they were training on their off time. They would have to come in and be compensated for that training. Currently they train on the clock so it is part of their work day, and we are able to supplement with Community Services or other personnel to be able to cover the road during that time. A large cost has been the take home car program. We did not have a take home car program in 1999 and now we do and will show the depreciation numbers. The first accreditation was all paper and a lot of money was spent on that paper. The accreditation that they are going through next week is all in the Cloud. They have saved some money by not having to print all the reports. The technology has come a long way – from in-car cameras to mobile MBT computers. They have started the process of using some body worn mics, but the way the trends are going, he felt everyone will have a body worn mic very shortly. That not just takes the cost of the body worn mic, but you have to have the server to hold all the video to be able to accommodate that. Talking with IT, we need about 3 times the amount of server space that we currently have if everyone is going to have a body worn mic that is on the road. Station 5 has been added, and there have been some major annexations, like Gem Lakes, Whiskey Road corridor all the way out, and another Walmart. He stated it may not seem like a lot, but Public Safety responds to calls for service at Walmart on a regular basis. Those are some of the big comparisons from 1999 to 2014 and some of the things that have happened. He stated he is talking about being a Public Safety Department. There are pros and cons with everything and one of the largest pros to the citizens of Aiken and the taxpayers is a huge cost savings being Public Safety. He stated he will show over the next couple of sessions what will have to be done if they split up and what kind of cost values will have to be done with the staffing on the police and fire side. Public Safety is a huge cost savings. You get a highly trained person answering the calls for service for the citizens of Aiken. They can handle multiple situations. He told Council he has talked to Council several times about what happens when a Public Safety Officer comes up to a traffic collision and what they are able to do and the service they are able to provide as a Public Safety Officer compared to being just fire personnel or a police officer. He stated a lot of times a traditional Fire Department has a very warm relationship with the community, and we have embraced that as well and incorporated that into the policing efforts. The relationship with the community has benefited through being Public Safety, and truthfully, to excel and trying to do the best we can at everything we do attracts that attitude of excellence for people, and Public Safety is looked at as a department of excellence. The overall safety to the community is a good example of being a Public Safety Officer. That was seen during the most recent ice storm, and how they were able to respond to many different situations such as medical, fire, and police situations. They were first City employees as they dragged limbs out of the streets side by side of their brothers and sisters. Being Public Safety, and the high level of standards that they are constantly promoting within the department, requires the excellent candidates they get.

Chief Barranco discussed the budget by departments. He stated he does not want to talk out of both sides of his mouth, and when they talk about Patrol-Fire they will try to delineate just the patrol side and the fire side. They cannot break out the salaries because Public Safety Officers are fire and police, but he will show it to them. Investigations, Community Services, Youth Services and Support Services are the Public Safety concept. The attitude is to do more than is required. There was a Maintenance Mechanic today at a collision helping direct traffic. He was helping the patrol officers.

He stated he would first like to discuss the patrol function. The three areas to talk about today are the patrol component, the community services division, and law enforcement accreditation. All of them tie together very well. The reason Community Services Division and Patrol are being talked about is because Community Services does have a patrol function and supports the patrol function, so it needs to be talked about at the same time. He stated Captain Turno would talk about how the patrol shifts are set up.

Captain David Turno stated there are four shifts. There is a lieutenant, two sergeants, and nine officers on each shift. As they are today, every shift is full. There are 12 officers on every shift. Four will go to the Fire Academy in January for Fire Academy training so they will drop back down to 11 per shift. He stated these officers are the heart, soul, and face of Public Safety. They are the first ones to respond. They do not pick and choose what calls they go to. If a citizen calls, they go. These are the robberies, burglaries, the dog calls, animal calls, domestics, medical calls, escorts for banks and funerals. They do not charge for these services. They looked at that because the sheriff's office does charge to do a funeral, but the City has never charged. Most of the cemeteries and churches are close so it's a service they provide, and it is fairly easy and quickly done. If they were to charge that service out with a three hour minimum for a paid officer, it could be very difficult to fill and get it done. In the summer they are pretty quick, so they provide that service. It is a patrol officer that goes out and handles those calls. When they work the accidents they have to follow up at the hospitals. The officer has to go there, and they may have to follow up the next day if they are injured or cannot talk to the officer. There is a lot of follow up with a call to a person's house. They may get a call back because they did not have a serial number right. There are a lot of follow ups from the initial call that the officers do. They receive requests from the neighborhoods for people speeding down their roads. They assign officers to go into the neighborhoods when they have time. They are steadily busy handling calls. This is something they can go out and do when they have the time and patrol a neighborhood, watch for speeders, and do some selective traffic enforcement. At the same time they are out there doing their own initiated calls like stopping cars for speeding or DUIs. There are a lot of those calls in the community. He stated the Chief said they work 12 hour shifts. They work 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. On the vehicle part, he stated they have 43 assigned vehicles to patrol. Thirty-four of them are assigned to officers. They are assigned based on seniority to the officers from the lieutenants, sergeants, and then down into the officers based on their time of service with the City. They have 6 fleet cars, 3 spare cars, 1 is a spare canine vehicle, and 1 is a transport van. He stated with the canine vehicle, Council is aware that they are looking to getting back to a second canine after December 19<sup>th</sup>. They have the funding to get another narcotics canine and hope to have one canine per shift by this time next year. They can pay for themselves in productivity.

Captain Phil Kestin stated one thing they are asked all the time is how they figure out how many officers they should have. There are courses to take on that and research papers can be done on it. When you do that research, you find there are typically four ways police departments determine what their staffing is. It is one of the four methods that is listed on the information Council was given. The one that is easy to calculate is the per capita approach that he has heard Councilman Ebner talk about. You figure out how many per thousand population. If you do research in the southeast it is typically a number like 2.6. If you take 2.6 per thousand and multiple by 30, since we have about 30,000 people the officers are staffing, if we were a straight police department, would be about 78 officers. That is one way to calculate it. Typically they try to do more detailed calculations on when officers need to be there, what time they need to deploy, what days of the week is it necessary for them to be out there, etc. He stated they use numbers 2 and 4 on the list. Number 2 talks about figuring out minimum number of officers to patrol the streets and make sure the citizens get their calls answered in the geographic boundaries they cover to make sure they have enough officers for backup. It is an officer safety issue. Number 4 is a very detailed approach. They actually look at the man hours required. It is a very detailed calculation; that is, how many man hours are required to answer the calls for service that are called in by the citizens. Number 3 they have never done, but it is an authorized level approach. It is listed in literature. It is when the keepers of the money say they don't care what they need, here is the money you have, so make it work. That is another method used in cities and counties around the country. He stated he was going to go into more detail on the minimum staffing approach and the

work load based approach so that Council will understand what numbers they come up with and how they come up with them. There is an example in the information that was given to Council on how to determine minimum staffing on the Patrol Division. It is really a check and balance for them to do the work load based assessment. With the minimum staffing approach, they know they have five geographical beats in the City. There were four until they took in more property on the southside of town. When Whiskey Road and Gem Lakes came in, they knew the travel and response times were getting very long. Even though there was more call volume in some of the more densely populated parts of the city, they were having longer response times on the southside so they added that beat to the southwest. That makes five patrol beats. They try to make sure that one of the patrol cars is a two-man unit. They try to make sure one of those cars is a back up unit. They try to put it in an area of the city at the time of day they think they will have events or more people. There will be a two-man unit there that is able to respond to calls and services where maybe the suspect is still on the scene. That adds a person and they have to have a supervisor working. If there is only one supervisor, that is the person doing paperwork and changing out cartridges and video cameras, and they also need another back up unit to make sure that all the units in the city have another person out there for officer safety issues. They need a minimum on patrol working of eight. If you look at that number, there are eight working, and there are currently 12 assigned to each shift. He stated the reason there are extra people is because they have to be working 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Officers are off for vacation, sick time, training, military leave, family leave, etc. Right now each shift has 12 assigned. Also, eight is the minimum. There are times when eight is not enough. There are nights with a lot of events in town, and they need more than that minimum number of officers working.

Captain Kestin stated the workload approach is the more detailed approach. They do a periodic workload assessment as a requirement for law enforcement accreditation. The standard says that you will allocate and deploy people based on the periodic workload assessment. That is something they started doing 12-14 years ago when the standard came out. He stated the way that is done is complicated. He said they dump all the calls for service out of the computer system, and it comes out looking like a mess of numbers and dashes. Everything means something – the time the call came in, the time the officer was there, how many officers went there, the nature of the call, the location, the date, the day of the week, etc. Then they start doing a lot of filtering and calculations. He stated Sgt. Bickel helps with that. She is pretty good on the Excel spreadsheets. They figure that out. They take all the calls for service that come in and filter that down to just the calls the citizens contacted them on. Officers do a lot more than just answer a call for service. They do a lot of self-initiated activity and a lot of follow up. They filter that down to just the calls for service that the citizens call them on, and they figure out how many man hours it takes to handle that. How many man hours were they on those calls for service? By looking at those calls for service they calculate what percentage of the officers' time they want to allow them to handle just calls for service. They need time to be proactive, not reactive. If all you are doing is responding to calls for service, you are simply going to where the crimes occur and you are leap frogging from place to place. A successful police department doesn't just do that. They are proactive as well. They are doing self-initiated activity to deter crime as well as solving crime. That is all kinds of things – walking into public assembly areas and stopping in, stopping in at schools and making walk throughs, going to the mall, going to Walmart, doing high visibility patrols through parking lots where there are large parking lots, traffic enforcement, DUI enforcement, stopping in events occurring in their region and their place of patrol, etc. All of these things help deter the crime, so when they figure out percentages based on models from the experts at University of Michigan and places like that, what portion of the workforce do they want available self-initiated activities versus calls for service. They also look at all the administrative duties that officers have to do now. It is much higher than it was years ago. Officers record everything in the patrol car. It is statutorily required when they are doing traffic enforcement. They have to stop and get with their supervisors. There are a lot of controls for security and cameras in their cars. They are not allowed to pull their own video cards out and turn them in and get a new card. They have to meet with their supervisor and those things have to be changed out. They get calls a lot of times to go back to places. They have to do amendments to their incident reports after the victims get all their information together. There is a lot of video evidence that comes with it. A lot of the shopliftings and things that occur locally are

captured on video and the local stores will contact Public Safety a day or two later after they have their video expert come and pull the video. The information they are grabbing is calls for service from citizens, and they try to factor in all these things that are included in that calculation. When they do that calculation, the numbers on the information given to Council is what they get. He stated it was the most recent workload assessment that has been done this year for where and when officers need to be working and how many there needs to be out there. When you look at that information, it breaks down the days of the week. They know Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are different from Monday – Thursday. They then break down the hours in the day, and you can see some of those peak times are when they are really exceeding the minimum staffing is for the Patrol Division. The way they make that time up is by scheduling the people in the Community Services Division to work during those peak times. That makes it safer. Citizens are not waiting for responding units, and that makes things operate the way they do. He stated the manpower could all be dumped on Patrol Division for a worst case scenario, and then in the middle of the night when there are not peak times there are so many officers out there not doing an effective and efficient patrol because we have more when we don't need them and less when we do need them. They try to schedule the supplemental shift for the Community Services Division to fill in. Captain Kestin asked if there were any questions he could answer about the calculations.

Councilman Dewar asked what the asterisk meant. Captain Kestin stated that it means they are over the minimum of the Patrol Division. Councilman Ebner thanked Captain Kestin for the information. He stated he assumes when the University of Michigan does these calculations, they take into account different sections of the country. Captain Kestin stated they do. Councilman Ebner stated he knows in fire suppression and the equipment required, a lot of the stuff drifts down from the organized areas to the merit shop areas and a lot of things get included that are not necessary. He stated what is in Wyoming, South Carolina, and Michigan are a whole lot different. Captain Kestin stated there are different needs. He stated when the per capita approach is done, they talk about it being very common to have 2.6 officers per 1,000. When you go out to the Midwest, that number drops down 1.5 or 1.8. They give guidance on how to do that. The total percentage of time an officer spends on their activity is pretty much a model that people like to track. Unless you have a certain specific need or cause, for instance the Savannah River Site, maybe their law enforcement is dealing with a completely industrial setting, no residential homes, they may have a different model they are using. For our city and our model we try to follow what they recommend.

Councilman Ebner stated another thing that has come up in the past, when somebody is either promoted or something happens, what is the average shift over a period of a month or so with everybody on holidays or training. He thought he heard him say they supplement back so they are always running the 12. Captain Kestin stated they are always running a minimum of eight. During these peak times, they are pulling people from the other divisions. Councilman Ebner stated eight out of 12 is always the minimum. People would supplement from other divisions on that. Captain Kestin stated that was correct. Councilman Ebner stated the other thing that has always come up is like the Lobster Race. There are a lot of people, and there are a lot of other officers on duty. He asked if those people are getting paid for it or is that comp time. Chief Barranco stated that is paid by the organizer. Councilman Ebner asked if there are times when there is a city event and Public Safety is involved in that, are they paid for that. Chief Barranco stated because of the flexibility in Community Services, they are able to use people that are currently working. If it is a city sponsored event or they are working with PRT, they try to accommodate those. Over the last couple of years they have migrated for the larger events and people want Public Safety there. They pay for them. Councilman Ebner stated that on the weekend at Citizens Park, there could be multi-thousand people there. The traffic control would be different when the little league is here in the summer. Chief Barranco stated PRT does a great job with that, and Public Safety does not have to have a lot of additional personnel out there. They do work with PRT if they have additional events or large events where there are a lot of people. They, in concert, decide whether they need to hire some Public Safety Officers or not. Councilman Ebner stated that would be a paid event for the officer. Chief Barranco answered yes.

Councilman Ebner asked where comp time falls in the overall picture of the Patrol Division. Chief Barranco stated they will talk about it more later. He stated he will talk about some of the specialized units they have like the SRT Team, the Honor Guard, accident reconstruction team, etc. A lot of times they are able to work that out with scheduling on the shift, but sometimes they do accumulate comp time. Patrol officers are paid up to 86 hours every two-week period. They are scheduled for 82.25 and they are paid straight time up to 86 hours. After that is when they get the comp time at time and a half or paid overtime. Most of the time it is comp time. Councilman Ebner stated the same rules apply across all four shifts. If one shift is given 1.5 hours comp time, another shift is not paying for that same type work. Chief Barranco stated not that he was aware of. He stated one of the shift lieutenants is at the meeting. He stated they should all be the same. Councilman Dewar stated it is individual. It is whatever the person works. Councilman Ebner asked if the policy is the same if the person works overtime on Shift A he gets 1.5 comp time. Shift B may say they don't like that policy and want to pay 1.5 salary. Chief Barranco stated that is controlled by Finance. They get comp time. He stated he has to send a letter to Finance authorizing paying them overtime. Finance Director Kim Abney stated they have to put it on their time sheets. They record it on their time sheet and are paid across the board the same. Councilman Ebner stated shift employees are usually the place where problems occur if there is not the same policy per shift. Captain Turno stated the only issue he may see is if A shift has the manpower, he knows he has to try to schedule that person off. We would prefer not to pay. They would prefer if he is going to work tomorrow and it is his day off, for him to be off. If B shift doesn't have the manpower or it's at the end of their cycle, he may have to put his on his time sheet. Councilman Ebner stated his biggest concern is that all four shifts are treated equally.

Councilman Dewar asked if Finance could give Council a report of the comp time. He was told yes. He asked who monitors that within the department. Chief Barranco stated he gets an email each month of anybody over 200 hours of comp time. There is one person there now. Chief Barranco stated he would love to pay the officers time and a half because the comp time does cost more in the long run. Councilman Ebner stated that is his concern. When comp time gets to be a burden, especially with a young officer, it makes a difference as to whether it is paid time or time off. Chief Barranco stated he has heard from other people that SCE&G doesn't take comp time to pay their bills. Councilman Dewar asked how many people have accrued comp time. Chief Barranco stated he does not have that number. He stated he can get that information from Finance. Councilman Ebner stated it always becomes an issue. He stated the body mics and cameras worn by officers take three times the storage space. When Angela Hales gave the report on Channel 4, they talked about the loop around the city and storage space. He asked if that is something that needs to be addressed. If you go to body cameras, the amount of data and how long it has to be kept is enormous. The Cloud is no more than a hard drive sitting somewhere. Chief Barranco stated he would defer to Angela on that. They have had discussions about it. Mr. LeDuc stated the city would either hire a company to store the data or have to get some more servers ourselves. He stated they have talked about the pros and cons. It is not just the body cameras. It is all the emails and other data that is being accumulated over the years. Councilman Ebner stated there is upstream and downstream data called back office. It is not economical and then you have to see if you can use third party contractors to do it. Mr. LeDuc stated you can use third parties. A lot of cities are doing it.

In response to Councilman Dewar's question, Mr. LeDuc stated that just about every officer has comp time. It may not be 200 hours, but it is something. They will all accumulate comp time. Councilman Dewar asked how often that is reduced. Mr. LeDuc stated if they ever get over 200 hours then we talk to them about taking time off.

Councilman Homoki stated they mentioned the shifts were 12 hours. He asked if they had a waiver from DOL or is there a procedure for security people working over the allotted time. Chief Barranco stated there are some special exemptions for Public Safety personnel. In that two week period they can work at straight time up to 86 hours. Mr. LeDuc stated the Fair Labor Standard Act is very specific on what Public Safety Officers can do. Councilman Homoki stated the second thing is on directives, they said they email them out instead of having it on a clipboard. He asked if there is a way to verify

that the individual actually opened the email. Chief Barranco stated they rely on the shift supervisors to go over in roll call to make sure they received the information and to be able to answer any questions from the emails. He said they also want to answer any questions or concerns they have. He said that is handled in roll call.

Councilman Dewar pointed out there are three supervisors for eight people. He wondered if that is consistent and reasonable. Captain Kestin responded it is three supervisors for twelve. Councilman Dewar stated there is a Lieutenant who is taking care of eleven people. He was not sure how they divide the sergeants. He said he assumed they work four and one-half. He felt that is a lot of supervision for nine people.

Lt. Mills stated it is very difficult to work with fewer supervisors. There is a lot of work supervisors have to do. They have to download the videos, reports they have to check, going out to calls with the officers, phone calls in the office. He said it is very difficult to work with less than two supervisors.

**Special Response Team.** Captain Turno stated he would talk about some of the special teams that patrol works with. He said he wanted to go back and talk about assigned cars. He said the Special Response Team is one area where every member of the team has an assigned vehicle. He said these vehicles are seen in the neighborhoods by the people who live there. The cars are a morale issue for the officers who get their own car. They take care of it, and it is something they have pride in. He said he has a list of the next man or woman on the list to get an assigned car. He said Aiken Public Safety was the last agency in this area to go to an assigned car and not everyone has a car. He said we still have the fleet cars that are driven 24 hours a day 7 days a week. He said most of the cars are depreciated out in seven years. We do have a number of them over the seven years.

Captain Turno stated Lt. Mills is the Team Leader of the Special Response Team. These officers are highly trained. They are the more experienced officers. There is a minimum requirement for them to be accepted on the team. They have special training every month. They have equipment to handle all types of situations. He said they have a very small budget each year. He said they certify their fire arms more often than the regular officers. He said these officers are split up on each shift so there is a tactical team member on each shift. They may respond to calls where rapid deployment is important. He said we could rely on the State to send a SWAT team down from Columbia, but we may not want to wait for a situation. He said we need people prepared and ready for a rapid deployment. They do high risk drug seizure search warrants as well as high risk fugitive warrants and barricaded subjects, which we have had. He pointed out these officers are all volunteers. They must have certain physical standards, marksmanship standards and volunteer to be on the team. They do not get any extra money for being on the team. They do have different uniforms. If they are trained, they do get compensated for their time. They do get compensated if they are called out.

Captain Turno stated there is also a Hostage Negotiation Team which is a volunteer group. These are trained and certified officers who would respond to a barricaded subject with the Special Response Team and work with them to help talk the person out. He said SLED could be called out, but they don't know our community or our people. He said North Augusta has a team as well as the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. The team has one armored car that was donated and one armored Humvee which was obtained through the Military Surplus Program. He said the Humvee was the only vehicle that would stop a rifle round. The armored car would not stop a rifle round. He stated even the shields the Department has would not stop a rifle round. Both vehicles were obtained for free.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if the city should have equipment that stops a round. He pointed out Captain Turno had talked about the shields we use. He said a shield is not too good if it does not stop a bullet. Captain Turno said the commander of the Swat Team is in the room and has been asking for equipment for years. He said he could put it in the budget again. He said he thought they cost about \$10,000 per shield. He said they would only need one. Chief Barranco pointed out the shield is so heavy it has to be on wheels to be able to move. He said that is how powerful the rifle rounds are. There has to be something very substantial to be able to stop them. He said a person could not



move if they had body armor on that would stop a rifle round. Mayor Cavanaugh asked if there had been an occasion to use it. Chief Barranco said they always look at the worst case scenario. There are many different examples of where it could be needed. Fortunately, we have not needed it to this point. He said they thought the armored Humvee would be able to be used in certain situations. He said he was not saying they did not need a shield. However, it comes down to looking at the budget and balancing the needs.

Councilman Ebner asked if the Humvee was painted white. Chief Barranco responded that it is drab green. Councilman Ebner said the white one then is not bullet proof. Chief Barranco responded that it is not. Councilman Ebner asked if the NATO rifle shell 7.62 is what they call the Humvee. Captain Turno stated that is correct, but it is very limited. It is only armored for the driver and passenger, but not if you are in the back, as it is open. It is only good on the front and half of two sides. Councilman Ebner said he was familiar with it as he worked at the Dupont plant that tested all this stuff.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked how Aiken compares in this regard to what other cities might have. Captain Turno stated that North Augusta and the Aiken County Sheriff's Office both have a vehicle that will stop any round with full protection. He said they got the equipment from Military Surplus. He said it is one of the pieces of equipment that was used in Ferguson, MO. He said it is a large vehicle.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if the special team has enough money for equipment and supplies to keep the citizens of Aiken safe. Captain Turno said they have \$4,500 each year. Lt. Mills stated the team is able to maintain what they need yearly with the budget. He said the major items they purchase have normally been purchased through narcotic funding. Chief Barranco pointed out that is non-taxpayer money. It is drug seizure money.

Councilman Homoki asked if there had been a reduction in the 1033 program for surplus property. Lt. Mills and Councilman Dewar pointed out that President Obama is going to expand the program.

Captain Turno stated they really have to understand the program to know the true value and benefits of the program. He pointed out that the shoes he was wearing came from Military Surplus. He pointed out the City of Aiken pays \$1,200 per year to be a member of the program. He said he goes to the site and looks for things that could be of use to the City of Aiken. He said he had requested 20 pair of binoculars. He felt the officers could use the binoculars. He said he felt the program is phenomenal. He pointed out that around the country probably some agencies have gotten things they should not have. He said, however, the City of Aiken is very selective of what we request from the program. He felt the program is great. He said we get shoes, boots, and handcuffs. He said we have received well over \$1 million of items from the program. He felt it is a good program. He pointed out that there might be some oversight, but the President had said this morning that the program will continue. President Obama also mentioned the body worn cameras. Captain Turno stated we know there will probably be a mandate that we have body worn cameras like they mandated that patrol cars must have cameras. He said cameras will be coming to the officers. He said the good thing is that it looks like the federal government will provide 50% of the money for the cameras. He pointed out that a camera will be the most expensive piece of equipment that an officer will wear. He said a camera is an expensive piece of equipment.

Chief Barranco stated as we replace some of the cameras that we have, they will actually come with the body worn cameras. He said they have a system in place for the supervisors to download and maintain for evidence the cameras and the video on them. He said we hope to grow that area with our in-car cameras as some of them are getting to the end of their life.

**Reconstruction Team.** This is also a volunteer group of officers consisting of a team leader and 12 members. They are called out for traffic matters in the city. They have been called out eight times this year. They also respond to very serious accidents as well.



They require a lot of training to be on this team to keep up their skills, and the diagrams they must draw for court purposes. They average four to six calls per year. There is very little in the budget for the team. The training they get from the Police Academy is almost free. We have to pay a few hundred dollars for meals. There are three two week classes for this training. He said staff will be asking for money next budget year for software so they can utilize equipment that Engineering and Utilities has purchased. He said they will be using another division to help them. In the past they have had to call an engineer who could do the site work and the schematics needed and the measurements. With the new software they will not have to sub-contract that out. With the use of the Engineering and Utilities equipment with the software for accidents Public Safety will be able to do this work. He felt the cost would be about \$2,000.

**Honor Guard.** The Honor Guard is a volunteer group of officers. We have been able to outfit them almost 100% with a private donation funding for their special uniforms. He said their most recent uniforms are very sharp looking. He said the Honor Guard is requested for many events. Chief Barranco stated most recently there was a retired police officer from a jurisdiction up north passed away and as part of the funeral she actually paid the officers to be there as a ceremony component to the funeral.

**Community Services Division.** Chief Barranco stated they would next present a review of the Patrol Division as a whole. The Community Services Division has seen many different looks. He said Lt. Odenthal would talk about the division. He said we have seen different forms as to what Community Services has been in the past. He said it is currently a leaner division that provides a support function to patrol at peak times. He said Lt. Odenthal would talk about all the other stuff that they do. He said we talk about minimal components to law enforcement, and there are ways to just respond to those minimal components. However, Aiken Public Safety has always gone above and beyond to provide the additional needs to different parts of the community, and he feels that is important to the community. He pointed out the Aiken Public Safety has an integral bond with the community. He said some of the things happening across the country are not happening in Aiken because of the relationship they have with the community. He said that relationship does not happen overnight. That takes a lot of time, effort, and trust to get to that point. He said they are not perfect, and do have areas that they need to grow in. He said Aiken Public Safety is looked at as a model by other places as to how community and law enforcement should operate.

Lt. Odenthal reviewed a breakdown of the manpower in the division. He pointed out the full staff is 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and 12 Public Safety Officers. He said the officers in the division are senior officers. There is no one with very little experience assigned to the Community Services Division. He said the division has two ATVs which they acquired through a Department of Homeland Security grant. He said they do a lot of mutual aid with the County. He said they are the first on the scene if anything happens in Hitchcock Woods such as if a rider goes down, etc. They use the ATVs and get in Hitchcock Woods and coordinate with the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. They do search and rescue operations in Hitchcock Woods. He said they have some trailers that are used to move some of their equipment around and for some of the neighborhood events they do.

Lt. Odenthal stated Captain Kestin had talked about the different patrol function needs and where that needed to be supplemented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in some of the higher call volume areas. He said they have broken down the Community Services Division into 1 Sergeant and 6 officers, and they each have a rotating weekend. They will be in the community during the peak times to assist in taking calls. There are occasions where there might be a big event on Saturday which needs to be covered and some of the officers will be shifted to cover the event so the patrol will not have to do it. That keeps the patrol officers free to patrol.

Lt. Odenthal said when he started with the city in 1990 they did their fire training and Tuesday training on their off time. They would come in on their off days for their training and then go to work. Now that is done on their training time. The working patrol shift on a 12 hour day will work the first part of the morning. They come back on

the second half of the shift and do their training. He said the Community Services Division takes over the road patrol on Tuesdays while the assigned patrol shift is doing their fire training. They are already on the clock, so it is not costing the city any additional funding for them to attend training.

Lt. Odenthal said the Community Patrol also covers special events. He said someone has to staff the intersections for events such as parades and funerals. He said some people are pulled from Investigations and some of the daylight people to cover the events. He said with this help we are able to keep taking calls and maintain the staffing of at least 8 officers. He said if someone gets a traffic ticket in Aiken, and they don't meet their payment requirements or don't show up for court, and the Court issues a bench warrant for the person's arrest, Community Services personnel will pick them up anywhere in the state. He said they go and get them. The best thing for them to do is to pay their fine in the City of Aiken. He said they actually went to California about a year ago to pick up someone who was wanted in a series of burglaries when he broke into a lot of houses in Aiken.

Lt. Odenthal said they also have volunteers on the Bloodhound Tracking Team. Lt. Mills is a member of the SRT team. Sgt. Bickle is on the Hostage Negotiation Team. He said all of these are on volunteer time. He said for a dog call we are on a mutual aid agreement with the County. He said if a call goes out the Team gets activated even if it is in Beech Island. If the dog call is in Aiken to track someone down, the County personnel come into the city and helps the city. He said it is a mutual aid situation. He pointed out that rather than go over 80 hours in the time period where they would acquire comp time or over time, if he can work it out he schedules them to be off. He pointed out, however, he does have one guy that has over 200 hours comp time. He is relatively new to the position he is in. He started training to be an officer in May. He is an officer, but he also does some Animal Control functions. Just due to training and overtime that it takes in working calls and learning the job, he has built up comp time. This person just completed his training last week. When he takes time off, he will be paid as it is comp time earned. It would be like taking vacation.

Lt. Odenthal stated Abe Lincoln once said "God must love the common man because he made so many of them." Lt. Odenthal said keeping that in mind that is kind of what the Community Services Division deals with. He said they go out and try to deal with every day Joe guys. He said they try to involve them in what they are doing in terms of preventing crime and solving crime. He said the way you do that is to work with people and with groups. He said he felt it is one of the most misunderstood things in the department and even within Council. He said he felt people do not fully understand what they do. He said he wanted to give a background of what they do. A lot of what they do stems from the principles and studies of two researchers from Michigan State University. He mentioned some things which came out of the research. Basically Community Policing is a philosophy where the average citizen and the police form a relationship and a partnership. He said that is what they are striving for. They start off with a relationship and that evolves into a partnership. He said when he started in 1990 he remembers specifically going to a call at Smith-Hazel. He said in 1990 there were people there who would not talk to him because he was a white law enforcement officer. They would not give him any information. He said they asked for a black officer. He said that was not uncommon. He said if you talk to the officers who work the streets now, they can't fathom that ever happened. He asked how we got passed that. He said we put officers out in the neighborhoods and a trust was developed. He said when the PACT Team was developed in the mid 1990's Smith-Hazel was one of the first neighborhoods they went to. He said he remembers working a call, and a person was beaten almost unconscious. He said no one would say they knew the guy nor would they tell him what happened. He said it took him an extra week to solve the matter. Being in the community for about six months as a Community Officer, he was able to establish a relationship and the kids started talking to him and telling him things. He said they went from not talking to him at all to knowing him and liking him. He said the goal is to establish a relationship and turn that into a partnership. He said they try to meet them in the neighborhood, ask them what is going on and tell them if they need anything to call them. They create opportunities for interaction and engagement between citizens and police. He said it does not matter if you are buying a car, getting teeth worked on, or going to jail, you want to

deal with somebody you know because you can trust them. He felt that is what Community Services does. They have the engagement and interaction that helps build relationships. He said he did not think Ferguson, MO. had done that. They did not have the community capital that the City of Aiken has. He said Aiken has invested in our communities and decided to do that in the 1990s. He felt Aiken is ahead of the game. He said when officials from High Point, NC came to Aiken one of the components they recognized was that Aiken is far ahead of them in our community component. City Council and Public Safety have done a good job in terms of developing our relationship with our citizens. He said he wanted to really emphasize that point.

Lt. Odenthal stated that having this community patrol really does break down racial stereotypes for both citizens and the officers. He pointed out the Bikes and Books Program where they work with some of the kids at North Aiken Elementary school. He said it is kind of about reading; kind of about bikes, but it is really about an opportunity to engage some kids that are really at a high risk. He said one of the most telling things he heard one of the kids say was that there are people in the neighborhood who don't like the police, but once you get to know them, they are not that bad. He said that is exactly what the officers want. The kids got to know the officers, and the officers got to know the kids. He said the kid is reading and the program has helped him. He said the whole purpose is about the relationship. Lt. Odenthal said they are in the Smith-Hazel neighborhood, Crosland Park, Governor Aiken Park, and the downtown area. He said two officers are assigned to each of the four areas. He said they have 2 teams broken down, 6 officers for the weekend duty, and a Sergeant supervisor. They are further broken down into assigned neighborhoods with 2 officers in each neighborhood.

Lt. Odenthal asked why community patrol. He said he had mentioned some things already. He said he looked at the current website of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. One of the things he noticed is that 66% of all violent crime occurred in the presence of someone in addition to the victim and offender. 80% of all crime is known by a third person. He asked what that means to Public Safety and police officers. He said that means that if he has a relationship with the community, he will have a better chance of knowing who that 66% is. If not that, he will know who they talk to. One of the things in the past where they have helped Investigations is when there was a murder in one of the neighborhoods in which they were assigned. One of the first things the Investigator did was talk to the officers who work that neighborhood and ask if they knew certain people. They might not know that person, but they might know others that the Investigator can talk to. The bigger piece of the puzzle is that information is gained and exchanged between the police and the citizens when a relationship exists. He said in talking with the citizens they start talking about things in the neighborhood. He said he has turned over a lot of information to Narcotics and Investigations that has ended up leading to successful search warrants and raids just based on information he has gained by talking to people.

Chief Barranco stated Public Safety Officers talk to the neighborhoods all the time. In some of the conversations we tell them that law enforcement can't do it all. He said they tell them they have to have a relationship and trust with the community to get that information. He said Public Safety knows there are crimes being committed, but if no one will talk to them, they will have a hard time solving the crimes.

Councilman Dewar pointed out that Public Safety has a big help with Roger Brock. He has done a yeoman's service in working with the community.

Councilman Ebner asked what Public Safety does about the donut holes. He pointed out there are areas surrounded by the city. He wondered if that is where the joint work with the County comes in. Lt. Odenthal stated they work well with the County. He said presently they are working a case with animal control issues which to him can be overwhelming. People call about everything in relation to animals. He said a lady is trying to sell her house. The house next door is in the County, and the person there has 25 to 30 cats running around the neighborhood. The cats are coming into the yard of the house for sale pooping in the yard. The person looking at the house for sale steps into the cat poop and says the house is not for her. The property owner is upset because she can't

sell her house because of the cats. The owner has already moved up North, but comes to Aiken over the weekend. He said Public Safety had partnered with the County Animal Control and discussed how they can effectively trap these animals because the City does not have jurisdiction over the house in the County. However, the owner of the house for sale doesn't want the traps in her yard as people will see that when they look at the house. He said it is a delicate situation, but it is a challenge.

**Community Services Coordinator and Youth/Family Coordinator.** Lt. Odenthal said that Cynthia Mitchell had suggested that "ships" was the answer for Community Services. That is relationships, partnerships, and ownerships. He said that is where it comes together. He said Ms. Mitchell does a great job merging Public Safety in a concept of Public Safety in with what the community needs are. He said they are a team and complement each other in terms of the goals. He said he could talk about relationships and help develop them. He said as far as meetings, the real meetings happen after the meeting when the citizens come up and start talking and telling you what their problems are. He said they make sure they stay around and get that information. He pointed out that Ms. Mitchell is another source where we can help integrate some of that information. Sometimes people are not comfortable talking in front of a group, but they will tell you one on one. He said Ms. Mitchell is one of those people who can put all those pieces together. He said he can talk about relationships and partnerships and Ms. Mitchell can also, but she brings the third component of ownership. If there is a problem in the neighborhood Ms. Mitchell can help that neighborhood owner. They now own the problem and together Public Safety can help come to a resolution of the problem. The owner has to be a part of the solution. He said that is one of the things that Ms. Mitchell is spectacular in. Ms. Mitchell creates and sustains neighborhood relationships. She integrates Public Safety with the different organizations; she provides direct and consistent communication with organizations. Ms. Mitchell hits the beauty shops and finds out a lot of information.

Lt. Odenthal pointed out that the Public Safety Officers, as well as Ms. Mitchell, are resources for the community. He said they may find someone who is homeless and not breaking the law; however, they may receive calls from citizens who are afraid and concerned about the person. He said Public Safety does not provide beds for people or serve meals, but they police. He said, however, they are a resource for the agencies that do help. He said Community Services is a point of contact for the social services. He said they are not trying to be them, but serve as a referral service. He said sometimes they come in contact with people more than some of the agencies. He said Community Services is a referral service. He pointed out that if someone has a problem, some of them are afraid to go to Public Safety Headquarters. He said Community Services many times meets these people in their neighborhood at a meeting or on foot patrol and many times they will talk to them. He said the same thing happens for Ms. Mitchell at some of the events she attends. He said many times they direct people to resources. They don't provide the services, but just get the people to where they need to go or make them aware of the services that are available.

Lt. Odenthal stated Lalita Ashley is the Coordinator of Public Safety's Police Athletic League. She is a retired Captain from the Juvenile Services. He said with that comes a lot of status in the juvenile services community. Ms. Ashley is on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. She partners with the Parks and Recreation Department. She does things with the Aiken Center as far as education classes. She does alcohol and drug education and prevention for students at the Center for Innovation Learning at Pinecrest. He said that center is for students who are kicked out of school for some reason and are placed in Pinecrest. He said they have the opportunity to work with the students and many of them are alcohol and drug issues and Ms. Ashley can try to help them. He said the Police Athletic League is a 501(c)3. Public Safety does not fund PAL. PAL is funded by fundraisers such as the Blue Night Run, donations, and grants. The City does pay Ms. Ashley's salary and benefits.

Ms. Ashley stated PAL was established in 2006 so it is almost 10 years old. She said they have reached about 200 kids involved in the program at any time. She said they have probably served 800 kids. She said they work with the kids, their parents and families. She said she has kids now who are in college who are coming back serving as

mentors. She said they have helped kids who probably would have chosen a left turn when they should have turned right. They are now in the military, high school, and are involved in a lot more positive things. She said if the students stay connected with the program they tend not to get in trouble.

**Animal Control.** Lt. Odenthal stated that Animal Control is something that has grown and is more labor intensive than he had ever imagined it would be when it came under his supervision. He said there is a lot going on with Animal Control. He pointed out an incident where there was a burglary and a dog was barking and someone put the dog in the oven and cooked it. Public Safety responded to the house fire. They made an investigation into making arrests and the subject went to jail. About the same time there was a sexual assault of a young girl. Her case was going to trial about the same time as the burglary and the incident of the dog in the oven. He said the Solicitor's office told him they got more calls about the person going to trial for putting the dog in the oven than they did about the girl that was sexually assaulted. He said as a society that says some really sick things happen, but it also says that if nothing else Aiken loves its animals. He said he realizes that more and more each day in this role. He said since the information had been put on the website that citizens could contact Public Safety about animal issues, he gets information every day about animals, barking dogs, etc. He said the internet services have to be one of the most used sources of information for animal complaints. He said the thing about the Animal Control Unit as well as Community Services is that we are all city employees first. He said we do what we have to do and what we have to get done. Tim Coakley had someone to quit during the ice storm and someone else was out for surgery, and he did not have enough drivers with CDL licenses to drive the trucks to pick up debris. We had the trucks, but we did not have anyone to drive them. Mr. Coakley asked him if his division had anyone who could help. Lt. Odenthal stated he had two guys who had their CDL so he had two guys from Community Services who drove trucks to pick up debris to help Public Services out in a time of need.

Lt. Odenthal stated Animal Control staffing has one Environmental Control Officer and one Public Safety Officer. The Environmental Control Officer used to be Jeff Wilson. He pointed out that Mr. Wilson was definitely a work horse. He knew where the dogs and cats were. Lt. Odenthal said when he was a shift sergeant it seemed that when Mr. Wilson was not working, it was always when his shift was working. He said they always got a lot of animal control calls when Mr. Wilson was not working so his shift had to respond. He said he fully appreciates what the Animal Control Officers do. He said he was chasing chickens as a Lieutenant three weeks ago on Calhoun Place because we had an Animal Control Officer in training. He said chickens are pretty fast. He said the department had reallocated one of the six officer positions on the weekend rotation and slid him over to help out with the overload in terms of Animal Control calls. The Environmental Control Officer position is presently vacant. He said animal control is definitely a two man job. He said he felt this is an opportunity for an area of cost savings. Presently when an animal is picked up and taken to the SPCA, the City of Aiken pays for that animal. He said the cost is \$10 per day per animal. They have to keep the animal a minimum of 5 days. Five days does not include the day the animal is taken to the SPCA. According to the South Carolina Supreme Court the first day and the last day are not included in the five day minimum stay for an animal. He said if an animal is brought in on Friday, the five days do not start counting until Monday. Then the last Friday does not count because that is the last day. So the animal has to be held over until Monday. He said the City is paying \$10 per day for the days that the City has to legally hold the animal. He said by having the extra officer, we could screen people at the SPCA to determine if the animal was actually picked up inside the city. If we find that they have provided false information, we could take them to court.

Chief Barranco stated that has happened several times already. It has been proven that people drop the animals off and say they found them in the City of Aiken thinking the animal will never be euthanized. They take the animals with good intentions to try to help the animal, but it costs the City of Aiken a good bit of money.

Lt. Odenthal stated having the officer at the SPCA should help. He said they have rewritten the Intake form. He said Ms. Nelson had been very nice to work with at the

SPCA. He said when we don't have an officer at the SPCA, or have someone who doesn't know the system, a dog that might have been able to be released or turned over to the SPCA, we are not catching those things because we don't have the position staffed like we should. He said presently we have had an officer in training since May to be a patrol officer and have these dual duties as Animal Control Officer. He said a road patrol officer has been doing those duties. He said he tries to get by the SPCA, and he sends some officers over there. He said when we have to euthanize an animal, we have to have a DHEC and DEA certificate in order to be able to handle the drugs. He said these drugs are a controlled substance. He said the same thing with the tranquilizer dart to take a dog down. He said think what effect the tranquilizer dart would have on a human. It is a controlled substance. He said you can't just put anyone in that spot. He said we have to screen who we put in Animal Control. He said we want to put the right people in there. He said we also don't want to put someone in there who enjoys torturing animals. There is a screening process that takes place. He pointed out an issue they had with a non-sworn position. He said they had partnered with the Hitchcock Foundation. He said there is an equine virus which is basically horse aids, and it is very detrimental to the horses. It is transmitted by flies. Hitchcock Woods wants to do an awareness campaign. He pointed out that Hitchcock Woods is in the County and not in the City. However, it is the gem of our city. The city does not police the Woods. He said they have tried to enact mutual aid to help in this matter of the test they have to do if a horse is to be transported. He said they have tried to get the County Animal Control to help. He said when it comes down to the state law which talks about legal transporting and the requirement, the County officers can't enforce the law. He said the city was kind of in the same predicament sometimes with using our Animal Control Officers before we reallocated the officer position. Now we have an officer who can write up any state law. He pointed out an incident where a horse was hit on Whiskey Road and a deer hit on Whiskey Road. He said we had the Animal Control Officer trying to tell the officer where to put the gun to put the animal down peacefully. He said they don't have time to run back and get some of the stuff to put the animal down. That is the quickest and most humane way to end that animal's life. By having an armed officer serve as the Animal Control Officer that is another situation where being an officer has been very helpful.

Chief Barranco stated he had heard there had been questions about a Public Safety Officer working in an Animal Control function. He said that is not all they do. They still cover the road on Tuesdays. They can work in other functions. It was not to try to elevate the position, but it was to supplement that position with all the other functions that go on. The work load as Lt. Odenthal has explained is very high.

**School Crossing Guards.** Lt. Odenthal stated that School Crossing Guards also fall under Community Services Division. He said CALEA standards require that we do an assessment every year of our Crossing Guard situation. We basically have four at this point with one at Millbrook Elementary, Kennedy Middle, South Aiken High, and one at Aiken Elementary. He said they had taken a look at how the crossing was working. He said there was always a back up on Pine Log Road. He said he thought they had found a remedy for that, and the traffic does not back up as badly as it used to. He said they also realized that the School Crossing Guards were actually on the job longer than we were paying them for so that was adjusted.

Chief Barranco stated Public Safety is working with the School District and Millbrook Baptist Church in finalizing an agreement to bring to Council for approval about a crossing lane to keep them off Pine Log Road and an arrangement to be able to pick the kids up in the church parking lot instead of people trying to stop on Pine Log Road. He said they were having some very dangerous situations.

Captain Kestin stated he would review some of the costs for the patrol function. He said the vehicles, equipment, and the officers are always something they keep an eye on. He showed a slide listing the cost of a marked vehicle and all the various equipment needed in a patrol vehicle. He listed the total cost of the vehicle, equipment, and labor to install the equipment at a cost of \$44,573 per vehicle. He pointed out that some of the equipment can be reused when purchasing a new car. However, some of the equipment that fits into a patrol car is vehicle specific. Things that would fit into a Crown Victoria will not fit in a Charger. Things that fit into the Charger won't fit in the new Taurus and

police interceptor cars. The basic price of a vehicle is \$24,147 on state contract. The items listed are usually what they get through the contractor and the labor associated with the installation. When we can reuse some of the things we do that. He pointed out that a lot of the equipment such as the video camera systems are required by state law.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that it has been almost four years since we put computers in all the cars. He asked about the life expectancy of the computers. He asked if we are pushing the use to where we are getting poor service. He said electronics wear out especially if they are in a car that is hot and cold.

Chief Barranco stated Captain Kestin is managing the mobile data terminals, and we had the discussion last budget year for a plan to replace that equipment. Captain Kestin stated since all we are doing is running a software packet over a modem system, the computers last a much longer time than what we have been accustomed to. He said they use Panasonic ToughBooks in the cars, the same thing the military uses in the tanks in the desert. They last much longer. We are not anywhere near the capacity of what the computer will do. He said the plan is at nine years to start switching out the computers with four or five a year. They would start swapping out the ones that have been giving them the most trouble. He said when the project was originally done, we were able to do a lot of the installation in-house rather than taking them to a contractor so we have several thousand dollars left over from that project in CPST money. He felt a good option would be, if the money is still available since it was slated for that purpose, to start planning to use the excess money from the MDT project to start replacing the computers that are oldest at the time.

Councilman Ebner stated Captain Kestin was talking about the computers in the patrol vehicles. He asked about the other vehicle equipment such as the in-car camera, the radar unit, the mobile radio, etc. Captain Kestin stated the mobile radios usually last a very long time since we stay on the basic UHV system. Radar units last a long time. The newer units are smaller and more electronic than the heavier units that probably lasted 20 years. He said they have been able to get a lot of the units through participation in LEN Law Enforcement Network. He said he thought most of the radar units we have gotten over the last few years we have gotten at no cost through our participation in LEN. He said the in-car cameras are the things that give the most trouble when they start failing. He said we try to use them as long as we can before we spend another \$4,000 on a video camera. Councilman Dewar asked if we were depreciating them. It was pointed out that they are not depreciated as they cost less than the limit for depreciation which is \$5,000. The units cost about \$4,000 each. Councilman Dewar pointed out that if there are 65 vehicles times \$4,000 for a video camera, the cost would be about \$260,000 which will hit a budget at some point in one year.

Chief Barranco stated they at least try to get the unit through when the vehicle is to be changed out. He stated three were slated to be changed out this year. He said there is the liability overhead.

Captain Kestin stated it takes about 50 weeks to train an officer. The officer is being paid their salary, and there is a little bit of cost to go to the fire academy. Some of these things are required by state law. You cannot be a certified police officer unless you go through the 12 weeks at the police academy. When officers come out of the fire academy they are IFSAC Accredited fire fighter II. It is a national certification, and they can be a firefighter anywhere in the country with that certification. It provides them a high level of safety, security and confidence when they are out working. He stated they never let the officers come out of their academic environment and go right on the street. They are always placed in field training, and that is on the job training. That is standard across the country. There are some small towns where they do not have the resources to be able to put another officer in the car with a newly trained officer, and they go right on the street without any on the job training. We are fortunate to have a very detailed field training program based on the San Antonio model out of Texas. Councilman Dewar asked how many vacancies we currently have and what divisions they are in. Captain Kestin stated there are four vacancies at this time. Chief Barranco stated one is in Investigations, one in Fire, one Administration, and one in Community Services. He stated one thing he did



not mention was they talked about the pros of Public Safety. He stated one of the down sides is the long training time.

Captain Kestin stated he also wanted to show Council what it costs to bring in new officers and outfit them. Whenever they are able to reuse things, they do. Things like body armor has to be custom fit. A lot of equipment and uniforms take a lot of abuse while they are on the street. They outfit them properly when they come in and give them an allowance each year to maintain the level of what they need. He stated that when the nine firefighters were killed in Charleston, OSHA did a large investigation into the incident and found out that Charleston firefighters, like a lot of other cities and towns, were wearing polyester uniforms underneath their bunker gear. The NFPA clearly states you are not to wear manmade materials under the bunker gear. He stated the City of Aiken wore polyester like everyone else in the state did for a long time. Then the risk managers received a blast email saying that OSHA has identified this as a problem and they do not need to wear polyester uniforms underneath their bunker gear when fighting fires. Polyester was great - \$27.00 for a shirt and \$23.00 for a pair pants. It lasted forever and never faded. The materials they use now with a blend of cotton are very expensive and do not last. They fade very quickly. A wool blend is also very expensive and requires different laundry. He said they were able to find something with rayon which is similar to a manmade. The uniform budget has increased over the last couple of years based on these findings. Rayon will pass. The standard is determined by putting the cloth sample in the oven at 500 degrees. If it drips or melts or doesn't ignite like cotton then it is not good. They do not want something underneath the gear that will stick to you in a really bad fire.

Captain Kestin discussed the law enforcement accreditation. He stated it is a voluntary program that Chief Busbee started many years ago. He put them on a path to try to meet a set of national standards and get the organization structured in a manner that was consistent with the best practices across the country. It is voluntary and not required. It demonstrates Public Safety's desire to be a professional agency. There are four organizations that form CALEA, usually the organizations that are considered the pros in Public Safety. They developed the first set of standards back in 1979, and they update them four times a year. Public Safety receives the updates through their software program. The standards address all the aspects of a law enforcement organization from how you hire people, what your role is, what gives you authority, your personnel actions, operations, how you respond to calls, how you clear cases, how to deal with prisoners, etc. All those things are included in the Law Enforcement Manual. The benefits have traditionally been that the employees understand what is coming. Everything is in black and white. It is a very detailed policy manual. They know what kind of discipline they are subject to if they get in trouble, and they know how to apply for promotions. They know how to respond to specific calls for service, what equipment they are supposed to have, and it has also provided the city and the department with a tremendous reduced risk and liability. When Public Safety is asked questions from the outside, they generally have a procedure or process in place for how to answer those questions. He stated Lt. Odenthal brought up the situation in Ferguson. The newspaper did a story and came in and got information from Public Safety. They got our racial and gender make-up of the people that we arrest, stop, and write tickets to. Public Safety has been doing a report that details that for the last 12 years because it is a part of the accreditation standard. They do a report where they analyze what an officer is doing on their self-initiated activity versus his calls for service from the citizens. They report the percentage of the racial make-up of the people they stop intentionally, self-initiated, and the people they are called to deal with.

Captain Kestin stated the other thing the process does is that it gives tremendous civil protection against officers, the chief and the city being sued, etc. Typically what is provided is a lot of support from the government officials because Public Safety is voluntarily saying they are going to bring in a third party to take a look at the practices. People the city doesn't know and have never met will come in once every couple of years and review the city's policies, practices, and reports, talk with the employees and citizens and make Public Safety better. They will show Public Safety things they can improve on or show deficient areas that need to be addressed. Also that process greatly enhances your Community Oriented Policing Process (COP) because there are huge chapters in it

that talk about the need to have a relationship with the media, the community, and with other organizations that interact with the department. There are only about 4% of other agencies in the country that are accredited. Only about 4% of law enforcement in the country is able to obtain that national accreditation. If you look at the ones in our state that are accredited, those are the agencies that you think of as the bigger agencies such as Charleston, Greenville, and Lexington. They are trying to do it right in those towns. There are county agencies with the sheriff's office, SLED, the university at USC, the College of Charleston VPS, and the police academy are all accredited. Those are the agencies that Public Safety looks to for answers when they are asking questions on how to do things. There is a \$4,000 annual fee to be accredited. Once every three years the city pays \$2,400 for the software that lets them truly be paperless. The assessors will be auditing Public Safety next week and not a single piece of paper has been mailed. All of the information is in the Cloud, and they pull that down and review it and we are already getting feedback from them. He said the team will be in Aiken next week for about four days to look at Aiken's practices. He said the cost for accreditation is \$4,000 annual fee and \$2,400 every three years for the software to have access to the program so we can do it paperlessly. Someone has to go get the award at least once every three years after they have reviewed us, and that is an estimated cost of \$1,200 to travel to a conference. We have to answer some questions and a board is here that reviews our on-site assessment. The largest cost is the manpower to do the work. Public Safety has been accredited since 1998. He said we are in the mode where each department knows what documentation that they need to hold on to as they run across it. Investigations does an excellent job making sure that when they run across these papers that they hold onto them or email them directly to Captain Kestin so he can drop them into the system.

Chief Barranco stated that when you look at the International Chiefs of Police Association, the CALEA websites, when other agencies go out there to look for model policies, most of the time they are pulling down Aiken Public Safety's policies. When the new agendas and standards come out, we do the hard work. Sometimes we will use other agencies, but we get it out there on the front end and submit it to the different organizations, and they put them out as model policies. You can go all around the country and find Aiken Public Safety's name on a lot their policies.

Chief Barranco stated there are probably a lot of questions, so he had representatives from Public Safety present to answer the questions. He said they are the experts doing the job every day. He stated it is not just a policy manual they put out and tell them to go do it. They help develop the policy manual. He stated if there is something they need to prepare for future sessions, they would be happy to. If Council has any questions after the meeting, they can bring them up at a later date. Staff will be happy to answer them.

Councilman Dewar asked what is happening with the shoplifting. He stated he reads in the paper that Public Safety is picking up a lot of shoplifters. He asked if they are being processed or let go. Chief Barranco stated that shoplifting is usually a Municipal Court charge that comes into the City of Aiken. You have to have a couple of offenses before you go to the big court on Park Avenue. They are being prosecuted. He stated if Public Safety goes to Walmart, typically they are on video, so there is probable cause for the arrest. Public Safety is the conduit for Walmart, who has already had them under arrest, and Public Safety transports them to jail. They come and testify in court. He stated Public Safety makes sure they have jurisdiction to do that, but they are really the avenue for that person that is already captured when Public Safety arrives.

Councilman Dewar asked if the Walmart private security people are arresting or is Public Safety arresting. Chief Barranco stated they detain them a lot, and Public Safety takes them under that custodial arrest and transports them to the detention center. They have a loss prevention crew that is talking to Public Safety as a shoplifter is walking out the door and Public Safety is there to pick them up. Councilman Dewar stated Walmart receives all the publicity, but there has to be other places where there is shoplifting. He asked if there were a lot of problems at Target. Chief Barranco stated there are some shopliftings there, but not the numbers of Walmart. Lt. Bryan Mills stated that Target does not usually prosecute like Walmart. The shoplifter is usually banned from the store. Chief Barranco stated that Walmart hasn't always prosecuted like they do. Lt. Mills stated that at one time they would only prosecute if it was over a certain amount of money, but now

they prosecute everyone. Councilman Dewar asked if Public Safety had a burden with the companies that do not want to prosecute, but that just use Public Safety to taxi the shoplifters off of the property. Lt. Mills stated Public Safety will go out and issue a trespass notice. It is not a huge burden. Walmart is more of a burden because Public Safety can be called to Walmart three or four times a day. Councilman Dewar stated that is why he raised the question, but they are prosecuting. Chief Barranco stated they are prosecuting.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he had a question about manpower. He stated it seems to him that there are some officers that will be leaving that we know about. Chief Barranco stated that was correct. Mayor Cavanaugh asked what is the timing on that and is the city looking ahead to seek other people so that we can move pretty fast. He stated he knows they have to go through a lot of things, but since we know there is a group leaving. Chief Barranco stated it is about 10 in 2017. He stated they have not discussed this yet, but his proposal would be to try and hire some people ahead of that time. That costs money and has to be approved by City Council. He stated they will be in a similar situation as they were in 2012 with the turnover in 2017 if they do not get ahead of it. Mayor Cavanaugh stated that should be part of the budget if there is money in there to hire some people early, not to have the other ones leave and be waiting for months. Chief Barranco stated it would be about a year.

Councilman Steve Homoki asked Chief Barranco if on the Safe Communities Program if he had statistically seen a reduction in people using firearms during robberies. Chief Barranco stated he does not know that they have seen a reduction in those that are committing the violent crimes, but he does know that on the street some of the officers have reported to him that one of the first things they say is that they do not have a gun. They may have a pocket full of drugs, but they do not have a gun, because they know, that most recently Public Safety prosecuted two at the federal level that reoffended in the Safe Communities Initiative that will spend a significant amount of time away. That word is getting out on the street. He stated that when he first spoke with David Kennedy, he stated the streets will change the night of the first notification. Chief Barranco stated they had seen some signs of that as well. He stated he shared with Council the executive summary. The murder rate, robbery rate, and burglary rate have dropped from 2012-2013. He has not received all the numbers for 2014 yet. He stated Safe Communities plays a large part in that, and it is because of the hard work that the officers are doing every day in the community building those relationships. The community is taking ownership.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he believes Public Safety has visited several other cities upon their request. He asked if that was correct. Chief Barranco stated that was correct. He stated they have done some preliminary work with other cities about Safe Communities and the U.S. Attorney's Office has asked Public Safety to share information as most recently as their last notification, a couple of weeks ago with Jasper County. They have some very violent crimes that are going on. Public Safety is open to share their information with them. He stated Public Safety had to have some help getting started too. We were fortunate enough to have High Point help us and lend us a helping hand. We actually visited High Point with some of the community members, and he believes the results have been astounding. It is something that will continue to produce dividends.

Councilman Ebner stated that following up on the Mayor's concern about the vacancies in 2017, they need to be addressed in the budget in three or four months in the 2015-2016 budget. The budget goes from June, 2016 and they would need to hire some of those people in early 2016 to meet the requirements. Chief Barranco stated some of those people are early in 2017 and some are late in the year. Councilman Ebner stated maybe there needs to be three or four of them in the 2015-2016 budget which has to be put in in the next three or four months. The next year would be the balance of them. He said we got way in the ditch in 2012 which probably no one was aware until it happened. He said we know this is coming, plus normal turn over. He said we will need at least four or five people in next year's budget for January, 2016 hire. Chief Barranco stated that is just the ones we know about. He pointed out there are several other officers that are eligible for retirement. They may not leave, but they are eligible. Councilman Ebner stated we can only hire two or three at a time because they cannot get the slots. Chief Barranco stated

they have done well with four at a time. The larger numbers do make it more difficult, but some of the trends that they went away from in 2012 is historically they like sending people to the fire academy first. They could not get everyone in the fire academy so they reversed it and went to the police academy first. Now we are still catching up on some of the guys getting to the fire academy. Councilman Ebner stated we need to look at the budget for 2015 – 2016 to cover four or five new hires.

Councilman Dewar stated the purpose of the whole process is not to look for ways to spend more money. On paper it makes sense, it's the right thing to do, but unfortunately we are the government, and we do not have the liberty that the private sector has. He asked Chief Barranco if he was able to identify anything thus far in his review that will reduce the expenses. Chief Barranco stated he grew up at Aiken Public Safety, and it really makes sense. He stated what was shown at this meeting were the minimum staffings, and he feels there are some areas that some belts could be tightened; however, they train and prepare for the worst case scenarios. He said he really doesn't think that reducing staff is the right way to go for the safety of the citizens. He knows they talked about Community Resource Officers. There are a lot of things they can do, but there are a lot of things Community Resource Officers cannot do. He went back and did some research and talked to Chief Pete Frommer about the Community Resource Officers and how they would be able to be used. They were developed for a specific reason. There was a shooting at Odell Weeks. Public Safety did the training for them and the radio procedures. Public Safety spent a lot of time, after discussion with some people, trying to find some stuff for them to do legally. They talked about funeral escorts – they cannot do that. They have to be a certified officer. They can be a medical first responder, help with traffic control at certain areas, and pass out white forms at parking lot wrecks. The staff, collectively in looking at that, does have a list of things they can do, but they are concerned about being able to keep them productive during their time frame. Chief Barranco stated the community wants to talk to the Public Safety Officers that are responding to their area. He stated Cynthia Mitchell can go into the community and give the same numbers that the Public Safety Officer does, but the community wants to hear it from the officers themselves. It builds that relationship with the community members to have that public trust.

Councilwoman Lessie Price stated she was not clear if Chief Barranco was recommending separation of fire and police. Chief Barranco stated absolutely not. He stated he was answering Councilman Dewar's question. Councilman Dewar stated he raised the discussion primarily because of the training aspects of it. You lose an officer and you will not have a fully trained officer for 50 weeks. If you had a separation, that would be down to the 20s to get the replacement, but Chief Barranco is clearly a fan of Public Safety. Councilwoman Lessie Price asked if that was off the table. Mr. LeDuc stated now we have a hybrid. We have gone from purely Public Safety where there was nobody in the fire department whatsoever and now there are full time fire driver apparatus/operators. We are no longer a pure Public Safety.

Councilwoman Price asked how many other municipalities operate like the City of Aiken. Chief Barranco stated that North Augusta and Union have true Public Safety. He stated there are very few. He stated through his years of experience and traveling around, questions have been raised. Some people do not like to be a fireman and some do not want to be a police officer. We are past those years where people were part of the old police department and fire department. Everybody understands clearly that they are part of the Public Safety Department when they come in. He stated we are not trying to trick anyone into being a Public Safety Officer. We have always had discussions since he first came to Public Safety about if they were to split someone would rather be a police officer or a fireman. He stated the service that Public Safety is able to provide the citizens as a true Public Safety Officer he thinks exceeds a lot of levels of training and expertise that goes to the citizens that they provide service to.

Councilwoman Price stated her second question deals with community policing. She stated the group as a whole does an incredible job, but it is not always about the trust. It all goes back to providing safe communities for people to live in. She stated if we had not created a safe community with decent housing we would still be running into the same problem with trust being built. When a community feels that they have a safe

neighborhood and decent, affordable housing, this brings it together. She stated she remembers the times when we did not have the community policing. She felt that losing that puts us back where we were years ago, and things have gotten worse. She feels there is a strong need to continue it. There is concern with the downtown business district. She asked how many officers are on foot patrol downtown. Chief Barranco stated two. She asked if they would continue that during the holidays. Chief Barranco stated yes. Councilwoman Price stated there is an officer assigned to Pinecrest. She stated she sees a lot of great officers coming through there. That is serving as a feeder source to our criminal justice system. She does not know what to do about that in terms of building a relationship with the school system, but something needs to be done in terms of helping the students that are there. Chief Barranco stated that out of Safe Communities they have developed Safe Schools. They started with Aiken Middle School. They had a little gang issue that came up there. The principal at Pinecrest (CIL) is part of this group that meets. They talk about the issues in the schools. They work with gangs and with Devon Harris who is over Full Circle Refuge. He said we do have small gangs here. Gangs are a feeder for some of the criminal activity. Having the officers go and speak to the children helps. They try to walk through during the day just to see the kids. It is hard to place a dollar figure to that, but he has seen the benefit from it. Even if one of those kids does become a victim of crime or perpetrate crime, they have a relationship with them. He stated a previous officer, Richard Abney, was the coach of a team called the Neighborhood Diamonds and several years later they were able to identify a person of a crime through those relationships. They were able to talk him in without incident.

Councilwoman Price stated they are great kids. They need some one-on-one mentoring attention. They are great in the setting and do well. It is when they return to the larger environment and the public school system that they reoffend or commit some act to cause them to be expelled from school. The setup there is wonderful with great counselors, and she would like to have something set up so we can follow and track the kids. Ms. Cynthia Mitchell Woodberry stated that in the last meeting they had regarding developing Safe Schools, this is something they have been working on. They want to figure out how to develop mentoring and a system where the mentor can be with that student if they are dismissed or expelled from a school. They would go to CIL and back. That is one of the pieces they are trying to develop. They want to ensure confidentiality, and then make sure the right information is shared and the background check is complete. In Safe Schools there was a subcommittee meeting and that was a major part of that meeting. Councilwoman Price asked how long they had been working on this. Ms. Woodberry stated this was the third meeting. Councilwoman Price asked if this came as a result of the two gentlemen. Chief Barranco and Ms. Woodberry stated partially. Ms. Woodberry stated Safe Schools was meeting and there was another meeting so they tried to bring those pieces together. Councilwoman Price stated this needed to be talked about with community folks and not contained amongst themselves. There are hardworking volunteers out there trying to help solve the problem without connecting with them. They are giving precious time.

Councilwoman Price stated her last item deals with bias based profile. Captain Phil Kestin stated bias based profile is a standard of the law enforcement accreditation process. It requires them to fill out a report on Standard 129. They do a bias based profile report once a year. They track their citizen contacts, subjects on incident reports, subjects arrested, how many traffic stops are made, how many are issued warnings or tickets, etc. Councilwoman Price stated she was trying to correlate whether that is the basis, based on those criteria, for us to become accredited. Captain Kestin stated that is not the basis for being accredited. That is just one of many analyses and reports that are required for them to have on file and available for the public to look at. It is one of the many things they do to become accredited and to maintain accreditation. If we have a lopsided effect in our hiring practices and traffic stops, that we have a plan to address those issues. Councilwoman Price asked if hiring practice was a criteria as well. Captain Kestin stated it is. He stated Equal Opportunity Plan and the Recruitment Plan are reports they generate every year as well, and it is shared with the Human Resources Director Alicia Davis.

Councilman Ebner stated that at a previous budget meeting he had misread some of the numbers on how many people are in the police force. He had his numbers reversed and instead of nine new it was nine others. He wanted to correct that from before.

Chief Barranco stated they are open for any questions they may have.

Councilwoman Price stated these sessions are great to go through, but one of the last things you want to consider cutting is your law enforcement, unless it is overwhelmed with a lot of visible things that you know should be eliminated.

Councilman Dewar stated if that is Councilwoman Price's opinion, then he doesn't see why there is a need to have any more sessions. He stated it is very informative, and Council always learns a lot, but the focus is a \$700,000 hole in the budget. Where will that money be found? He stated that has not been decided yet, but one of the ways was to look at Public Safety, and if there are no cost savings to be found, then there are 10 of the uniformed people that could be doing much more appropriate things than explaining what most of Council knows. You run a great department, the people are very dedicated and do a good job. He did not think it was inappropriate to ask if there was cost savings that could be achieved by looking at the budget. If that's the case then he doesn't see a need to continue the sessions.

Mr. LeDuc stated he felt it would be good to talk about the fire so they can hear about the Class II versus the Class III. He stated that typically as the community grows larger and larger, there tends to be more of a separation between police and fire. At some point and time, we may truly have a fire department and a police department. He stated that would be if Aiken got to be 50,000 or 60,000 people. Councilman Dewar stated that was a good point. He stated while we love what we have, it's costing more money than if we were organized differently. Mr. LeDuc stated he felt it would be good to get together on December 17. Chief Barranco stated with the fire, some of those numbers will come out, and they will see the cost savings of Public Safety.

Councilman Ebner stated that there are two more sessions scheduled. Mr. LeDuc stated there is one more scheduled and there could be a third meeting if needed. Councilman Ebner stated there were three and one was cancelled. Mr. LeDuc stated the third meeting could be if we need to have a wrap up on everything. The next meeting will be covering fire because we felt it needed to be separate from the police. He stated he knows one of the things that has been talked about is when you look at where the community started back in the 1700s and 1800s, it was protection from the militia or from a fire is how things happened. We have now gotten into more social programs. It could be decided that is not what needs to happen. He said that is a great philosophical discussion. He asked how far should we get into social programs. There are a lot of communities that do not. He stated the City of Aiken has been doing this for quite some time, and he feels it has reaped some benefits. The fact that we are rubbing elbows with the kids in the neighborhoods has made a big difference. He asked what the national average was for crime solving. He was told it was under 20%. He stated Aiken solves well over 20%. One year we were in the 30s. We are able to solve a lot of crimes because of what they do. One of the things that was not covered very closely was regarding animal control. It was two Public Safety Officers and now one of them is going to be an Environmental Control Officer. Over a period of time, there are a couple of people in the Maintenance Division that do not need to be Public Safety Officers, so there will be some cost savings over a period of time. The very first slide that was shown was that in 1999 there were 91 sworn officers. Today we have 91 sworn officers. We really have not added any more sworn officers. There will be a little bit of cost savings.

Chief Barranco stated some of the positions that are sworn officers were not done to increase the salary, like the Records Management Supervisor, but to increase the knowledge of what was going on. That position is one that will be gone in 2017. The Maintenance Mechanic position will not be a sworn officer when it is replaced.

Councilman Dewar stated he has a lot of sympathy for legitimate crime victims and people that lose property or are assaulted. He has a lot less sympathy for people who do

not lock their car doors or even their front door. He asked if with the sophisticated reporting were they able to separate the people that have appreciated their property and want to keep it and those that don't. Captain Kestin stated Captain Sawyer has a better handle on that information, but it is still called a B&E Auto by state law, whether the person left the car locked and they broke the window or they left the car unlocked and they just opened the door. Captain Marty Sawyer stated he reads the report every morning. He stated 9 out of 10 B&E Autos are not B&E Autos. The B&E Auto is where there is forced entry that happened during the daytime. At night they are going to unlock cars because if they bust the glass it will be heard. He stated a perfect example is in the neighborhood he lived in before he moved to Gem Lakes there were six car break-ins in one night. He got to work and read the report and went to check his truck. When he checked his truck, which was locked, beside the concrete where he parked was an ant bed. There was a foot track in the ant bed that was not his. They went to his truck but it was locked so they left it alone. Councilman Dewar stated he ventures he could walk out on Park Avenue now and there would be a lot of vehicles unlocked. He asked if there was a way to document the incidents and go back to the people that are really victims. Captain Sawyer stated they call every B&E Auto victim to let them know there is not much they can do, but ask if their credit card has been used. If that is the case, then that case is assigned to an investigator because there is something to follow up on. Chief Barranco stated a lot of times there is not because it is just a simple lifting of the handle. Captain Kestin stated that definitely affects the statistics. Councilman Dewar stated that is why he asked if they could be categorized so they do not have to focus on the people that do not protect their property. He stated he grew up in Boston, and if he is five feet away from his car, the car is locked. Captain Kestin stated the only thing they can do is exactly what the Investigations Division does. They have to make that follow up phone call, and if there is nothing to follow up on then it becomes an administratively closed case that they do not spend time on, but it does have to be documented. If there is something to follow up on, then they will follow up on it. Chief Barranco stated if there is nothing there then the solvability factor goes way down.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated before they adjourn, Bill Busser would like to speak.

Mr. Bill Busser stated he is part of the crime watch in Gem Lakes. He stated their program started through Ms. Cynthia Woodberry. He stated Ms. Woodberry helped them develop their system and helped get ACON started, which is Aiken Council on Neighborhoods. This has worked into a very good working relationship with Public Safety, and they have covered a lot of data. They have had meetings. They now have posters out in places that talk about locking cars. They send the data out to all of the people in their groups, and within these meetings they learn a lot about what is going on from the Public Safety point of view. Public Safety gives them the areas where they are having problems, and then they can go back to their groups and talk to the people and try to make people more aware and make the communities more of the eyes for Public Safety. They are also working the same thing with the Sheriff's Department because part of Gem Lakes is in the County. He feels there has been a big development in the last three or four years to pull everything together, and he feels they are getting a lot of cooperation and this is helping the situation.

Mr. Roger Brock, of the Kalmia Hill area, stated they started in 2008 after going through Ms. Woodberry's program, and Captain Turno had a sign-up sheet at the fire department. They started out as a crime watch group. They are now a neighborhood watch group. He stated because they got to know each other, they moved beyond crime to other problems that happen in the neighborhood, like sewers or anything that comes up. They have the resources to tackle. He stated everybody talks about knowing the neighbors. That is what they do in Kalmia Hills. That has been working out well because the neighbors look out for each other and get to know each other. He stated he was impressed with how much free equipment the city receives from the U.S. Government and military. He doesn't know how that is factored in, but he hears about a lot of free equipment the city has gone after and received. He is impressed with that program and congratulated Public Safety for that. Councilman Dewar stated that if each neighborhood had a Bill or Roger in it, Public Safety's work would be a lot easier. They are not only there, but they are aggressively there.

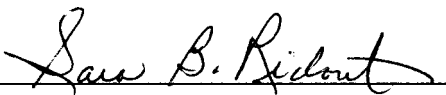


Mayor Cavanaugh stated he felt the Worksession was excellent. He stated he learned a lot and thanked everyone in attendance. He also thanked the Public Safety team for working so hard keeping the city the best it can be. He stated all of the departments within the city are important, but without a strong Public Safety, the city would not be what it should be. It would not be a great city. The budget is so important. If we could find something that is legitimate and wouldn't hurt Public Safety, that would be one thing, but he would hate to give up anything that the majority of Public Safety feels is important to keep up and improve. He stated the last time Council talked about zero based budgeting they did not find anything and ended up adding items to the budget.

Councilman Homoki stated there has been \$240,000,000 identified to help local law enforcement with the personal cameras. He asked if it has to be applied for. Chief Barranco stated that process has not been developed yet, but he knows the President has identified a group of individuals to come up with that plan. Mr. LeDuc stated usually you do apply. It is a grant. It will probably be a 50/50 grant. Chief Barranco stated that has already been mentioned. Councilman Ebner asked if the back office work would be 100% City. Chief Barranco stated that was correct. Public Safety has to do all the paperwork with the help of Finance. Councilman Ebner stated you have to store all the information and keep up with it. Mr. LeDuc and Chief Barranco stated that was correct. Councilman Ebner stated he understands the information has to be kept for a number of years. Captain Kestin stated if it is data that the officer has on their routine basis, it would be held for 45 days or 60 days in case something comes up from what they recorded. A lot of the time if it is active in a case then that case information has to be held, especially if the person is prosecuted.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanaugh adjourned the work session at 6:35 P.M.

  
Sara B. Ridout  
City Clerk