

## **LPNA General Meeting 6/17/2020**

Attendees: Cheryl Kozicy, Steve Liston, Nick Perlick, Lt. Christi Nelson, Jacquelyn Kramer, Robert Bell, Ben Durrant, Paula Allan, Patti Hoffamn, Christopher Mearren, Andy, Amanda Cortes, Rashid Ali, Teresa Leno, Sydney Jordan, Pat Vogel, Gwen Neiumister, Steve Gallagher, Ashley Boldin, Lynn, Kevin Reich, Sarah Fox, Alex Bliss, Kari Dziedic, Anna Stahlman

Co-Chair Steve Liston called the meeting order.at 7:05

Introductions

**State Representative Sydney Jordan** (invited guest) gave a report on the current work during the Special Session. She said the POI caucus was leading the drive for various legislation around police reform, specifically in increasing accountability and police standards and partnering with communities. The Promise Act would provide funds to rebuild Lake Street & West Broadway. She is a co-author of the bill to repeal the Stanek Law that prohibits residency requirements for police departments. Rep. Jordan said there is real motivation to get these things done but that everyone has to keep the pressure going.

**Crime Prevention Specialist Rashid Ali** from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct gave a crime report. He said that garage & car burglaries were up and asked that everyone lock their garage doors. Alex B. asked about CM Fletcher's recent public statement saying that the police had "blackballed" his ward after he talked about reducing the police department budget. CPS Ali said that he had no knowledge of that situation and that the CM should take that up with the Chief's office. Lt. Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, said that calls are prioritized in certain ways and that could account for delays in response time. CPS Ali acknowledged that the police department needs to re-establish trust with the community.

**State Senator Kari Dziedzic** (invited guest) discussed legislation efforts in the Senate. One bill adds additional \$6 million for training to the Police Officer Standards & Training Board. She said questions have to be asked about the nature of the training and how to motivate officers who don't want to be trained. Also, provisions to add mental health training including de-escalation and Autism were added to the bill. Sen. Dziedzic said she is in conversations regarding police officers' Duty to Intervene and Duty to Report without retaliation. She stressed the need to address the underlying inequities, like lack of affordable, stable housing, must be a part of the work. The world is watching. Alex B. asked about repealing the Stanek Law. Sen. Dziedzic said there was a bill that has been dropped and now a new bill is being worked on which would also require officers to be a MN resident. (Officer Chauvin was not a MN resident.)

Sen Dziedzic suggested violence and police brutality should be seen as a health issue so that funding for mental health workers could be part of cohorts within the police department. We need to get at issues on the front end.

**City Councilmember Kevin Reich** (invited guest) discussed that the City Charter has to be changed in order to create a different department responsible for Public Safety and to fund how the City Council sees fit. The Charter currently requires a police department and sets a minimum budget. He said the city is committed to change and that they will be working with the community to create change. Neighborhood organizations need to be a part of the work – and need to be supportive of listening to

diverse voices. He said neighborhood organizations need to be allies and have open hearts as we work things through. CM Reich said there have been/will be quick immediate measures to build to longer, real change.

Steve L. asked about reaching out to more racially diverse communities and what the city would do to address the underlying issues Sen Dziedzic discussed.

CM Reich said that we need to think of policing much broader than the current (yet very old) militaristic model. We need to consider what a Health Model would look like. There are new resources now but also complex communal needs. This conversation will need both community and professional input.

Nick P. asked if changing the City Charter needs 9 council votes and also the mayor. Answer: Yes. Another option is for the Council to vote to put the Charter change on the November ballot.

Alex B asked how the City Council was engaging with Mayor Frey to commit to breaking ties with the police union. CM Reich said as an optimist, he hopes the Mayor will move in that direction. He also said he is encouraged that other unions are saying 'this is not what we're about'. There is a need to strike a balance – Unions "yes", failed organizations "no".

**Gwen Newmeister, Logan Park Neighborhood resident**, presented information on Reclaim the Block. She asked that the LP neighborhood consider endorsing Reclaim the Block's calls to asks that the Minneapolis City Council commit to:

1. Never again vote to increase police funding or increase the police department's budget
2. Propose and vote for a \$45 million cut from the MPD's budget as the City responds to projected Covid-19 shortfalls.
3. Protect and expand current investment in community-led health and safety strategies, instead of investing in police.
4. Do everything in their power to compel MPD and all law enforcement agencies to immediately cease enacting violence on community members.

Gwen said that police officers have the ethos to help people but they don't have the proper tools.

Gwen made a formal motion for LPNA to vote to endorse . Alex B seconded the motion.

Ashley B, Logan Park Neighborhood resident, spoke against the motion and requested that there be time for her to prepare a rebuttal.

Pat V. motioned to table the vote until the July General meeting. Nick P seconded the motion. The motion to table the original motion to endorse Reclaim the Block passed 8 ayes, 1 opposed.

Ben D motioned to approve the April & May General Meeting minutes. Jacquelyn seconded. Motion passed.

Steve L adjourned the meeting at 9pm.