



## 3<sup>RD</sup> WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

June 26, 2013

### AGENDA

Meeting opened with Denise welcoming everyone. Our usual meeting date of June 12 was cancelled due to a severe storm that evening.

Denise welcomes our Police Chief William (Bill) Kushner to our Ward and meeting.

Chief William (Bill) Kushner introduced himself and provide a brief background of his career. He began as an Officer of the Chicago Police Department and later on became Police Chief of Berwyn, of which, he shared stories of his time on both departments.

### EOC

Des Plaines Emergency Operations Center opens within minutes of an emergency – Des Plaines Emergency Management Agency – and is located in the basement of City Hall. The EOC is self-contained and able to run the City if necessary. What constitutes the opening of the EOC depends on: severity of storms, floods, tornados.

EOCs came into existence across the country after September 11, 2001. First responders attached to the EOC require training through the National Incident Management System (NIMS). City is focusing to have officials attend this training; including Alderwoman Denise Rodd. A tour of the EOC was suggested for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward tour – possibly for August meeting.

### Severe Storm Alerts

Tornado warnings sound like air raid sirens. Lightning detectors at local parks (THOR) make a long, high-pitched horn sound when a storm is near. The All Clear signal is 3 short horn blasts from THOR.

### DES PLAINES POLICE DEPARTMENT – INSIGHT AND UPDATE

Chief started with “why the 13 patrol officers were not fired” question. As the Chief stated, this is a complex discussion. There is much involved to firing an officer. A Police Officer with disciplinary actions can go with Arbitration or go in front of the Board of Commissioners. Yes, disciplinary action is spelled out in officer’s contract.

- Arbitration can take up to 13 months and cost \$1.3M. To replace an officer can take the same amount of time as Arbitration. (Lateral moves are an option but one that Chief is mixed about using at this time.)
- After talking with the City Manager, Chief decided on doing suspensions. The last of the officers are completing suspensions. Restitution is being made to the city.
- There have already been demotions and promotions within the city. Chief is looking at work ethics of officers and asked these questions:
  - What is it that we do better?
  - What is it that we do worse?
  - What can we do to improve?
- Hired 7 new officers – presently finishing academy, which department is partially reimbursed.

Chief Kushner is working on a 5 and 10 year plan, which includes:

- Acquiring a new Police Station (down the road).
  - New station building could cost from \$60-70M
  - Restructuring of a current building - \$12-13M
- Looking at equipment: squad cars are being purchased. Some squad cars have been replaced with SUVs.

- Drug forfeiture money is being looked at how to be utilized.
- Looking at platforms that would best encompass iPADS to replace present computers/equipment.
- Chief is setting up a Succession Plan that will allow the city to look within for future promotions.

#### 911 DISPATCH CENTER

Evaluating 911 center, system should have been replaced years ago. Will it make it? What will it cost to make it work? Niles and Morton Grove have moved to Red Center. Des Plaines is trying to make things right and be seamless to the citizens. Des Plaines is operating the center with Park Ridge as its customer.

#### NON-EMERGENCY Police (847) 391-5396 ITEMS:

- Skunks/wild animals/animal complaints -- services do charge to come out and trap skunks. Coyotes are an issue. If confronted with a coyote, present yourself as a larger person...wave arms and make loud noises.
- General Inquiries
- Traffic questions

#### SAFETY TIPS:

- "Keep cars locked." There have been 25 burglaries to cars by individuals going from car to car trying doors. If individuals find unlocked doors, valuables are stolen. Kids call this "car hopping."
- Be alert to surroundings – don't zone out.
- Turn on lights around house. Thieves don't like lighted areas.
- Keep car remote near bed and if hearing something around the house, press the alarm button on key fob.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

- The volunteer programs are fragmented. City is trying to put under one segment and Department wants to start up Neighborhood Watch Program again.
- Citizens on Patrol: Under volunteer services and is also being reviewed.
- Citizens Police Academy is a program that provides citizens an inside look at the Police Department. It is from here that we get volunteers for Citizens on Patrol. September/October is the next scheduled Citizens Police Academy.
- Fire Department is working on a Citizens Fire Department program.

#### QUESTION/ANSWER

Q: How long are you contracted?

A: Until retirement.

Q: Do we work with Rosemont:

A: There are gang issues in Rosemont and we are working to keep a "lid" on gang activity. We are the eyes of the Police – "Bother us (police)!" Call 911 if something doesn't look right.

Q: What can be done with the homeless population along railroad tracks?

A: Chief will check into this. There is no transient law, since a homeless person can't pay a ticket. Some transients are arrested. [Follow up: Railroad police inspected the area, and did not find evidence of individuals living there.]

Q: What was the outcome of the shooting on Touhy near the convenience store?

A: Two lawsuits were filed by the family of person shot – both suits were dismissed. State's Attorney office called this a "good shooting" by the officers.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Still working on list of suggestions for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward tours. Juno and UOP are not available for tours in the evening.
- Next Meeting is 2 weeks away –on July 10 at 7:00 p.m. Prairie Lakes.
- 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Parade kicks off at 10:00 a.m. on Center Street.
- Watch for 2 Men and a Truck in the Parade – they will be collecting paper products (paper towels, toilet paper and facial tissues) for the Self-Help Pantry.

TO CONTACT DENISE:

- Phone Number: 847.514.6318. Please call Denise at this number with issues, questions and concerns.
- Facebook is set up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. Search DP3 in Facebook.
- Twitter's hash tag is @Denise Rodd
- Web Site: [www.3rdward.org](http://www.3rdward.org)