



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

November 12, 2014

### AGENDA

1. Police Chief Kushner/Police Department

### CANINE UNIT

Officer Steve Dixon stopped by our meeting to introduce the newest member of the Des Plaines Police Department, Officer Bane (he carries a badge) of the Canine unit. Bane is a year and half old German Shepard trained as a general purpose, social Police Dog to sniff for drugs, guns, and track people. Although still in his “rookie” year, Bane has been instrumental in 2 drug forfeitures.

Questions from residents:

- What is Drug Forfeitures? Money seized from drug arrests.
- How much do we get to keep? Depending on the work we do determines the percentage we receive. Drug money is used for departmental programs, training, and other items. It cannot be used for overtime

Bane is trained to sit down where he smells drugs and has been given command words to do his job. Officer Dixon explained that Bane will back up his human partner. A vest is being made for Bane.

When asked if Bane will be trained for bomb or cadaver searches, Chief Kushner explained that that would add more training, which possibly could cause Bane to lose focus of his main job. For now, Bane will stick to dope, people and guns. Depending on budgets, Chief would like to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> Canine unit next year.

### CHIEF KUSHNER – UPDATE ON POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Kushner joined our meeting to bring 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward up on the Police Department, crime, gangs, tickets, drug money and provide safety tips.

### Crime Stopper Tips:

1. Lock your car doors and don't display personal property, such as laptops, ipass, purses, and coins. If you are approached by a person claiming to have a gun and wanting your car, give it. Your car is not worth your life.
2. When shopping at a mall or retail area (especially with Holiday Season coming) and you take packages out to your car and planning to continue your shopping, drive to another parking spot.
3. If your purse is grabbed, let it go and be a good (live) witness.
4. Cyber Crime – It's out there. Be careful opening emails if not familiar with person sending you could unleash all kinds of viruses into your computer. Some Trojan horses come in and sit dormant for a while than hit computer. Intel has been picking up “chatter” on ISIS. Best we can do is staying alert, and if we see something that “doesn't look right,” call 911.
5. Someone comes to your house door says they are with a utility, etc.
  - Ask for ID.
  - Don't let them into the house.
  - If not sure if person is legit -- close the door and call 911.
6. Register property with the Recorder of Deeds. Recorder of Deeds will notify if anyone tries to put a claim on your property. Go to the Recorder of Deeds Website <http://cookrecorder.com/contact-us/> for more details.

Gangs/Tattoos/Graffiti: Des Plaines has a ‘gang’ wannabe issue more than an actual gang issue. Graffiti pops up when one gang marks their territory while another gang spray paints over it marking their territory. The person caught doing the graffiti usually has parent(s) reimbursement for damages.

Truck Enforcement Officer: Currently, the City of Des Plaines has 96 officers and the Chief would like to increase count by adding a Truck Enforcement Officer. Responsibility would be the monitoring of overweight trucks through Des Plaines. Revenue gained from overweight trucks would go back into the general funds and could bring anywhere from \$2,500 to \$25K depending on weight of the truck stopped. UPS trucks are one of the worst offenders and even garbage trucks can be stopped. City wants to purchase their own portable scale, which would make the enforcement of overweight trucks much easier by having the weighing done at the stop.

- How do you determine a truck is overweight? By the side walls on the back axle, amount of smoke put out when vehicle starts up from a dead stop.
- How would do the stop? Can be either random stops or roadside stops, both work and can be tied in to a possible hazmat /drug stop with canine unit to doing a “free air” smell of the truck.
- If a truck is found to be overweight, what needs to be done? Truck has to be brought down to right weight and having a second truck called to take the access weight.

Tickets/Towing-Impoundment/Traffic Control:

City does not make as much money as expected from writing tickets – maybe \$2.00 per ticket.

What about snow route tickets? CSO handles the snow route tickets – City has six CSO Officers, two per shift with responsibilities covering:

- Animal Control Officer- handles the setting of traps but doesn't deal with what is caught in the trap.
- Parking enforcement
- Front Desk of Police Station
- Prisoners
- Streets

Does the city get compensated when CSO does traffic control? City is compensated for all but Maine West High School location. District 207 does not compensate. Not sure how or if we can change this since that location is regulated by the School District.

In 2013, approximately \$34k of Police overtime was going for traffic control at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine. This year, Shrine is giving \$7K in cash for traffic control. There will be 14 officers available and compensated over the 2 days of the event to handle traffic. It is on voluntary basis with no on duty personnel involved.

Impoundment/Towing of vehicles cost money and Des Plaines doesn't have space for impounding of cars.

Reduction of Shift Vehicles:

Take home cars will be reduced starting November 15. There will be a rotation schedule and those with the city vehicle will need to respond to all calls. Cars will be in fleet and used for days. The reduction of vehicles and how it will impact the city responding to calls remains to be seen.

[Chief Wax stated that Fire Department may be more impacted because if there is a working fire and chiefs are tied up and another call comes in, Department may need to reach out to neighboring towns for a Battalion Chief. Another situation would be if the shift commander is stuck on extrication, there may be no coverage and town is not covered.]

OTHER QUESTIONS

- Noise Ordinance – Police have a meter when going out to the disturbance and measure the level of sound.
- Voting in Schools – Can we change the location of voting booths to not be in schools? Precincts dictate the voting place and a school are considered a public building.
- Has Maine West participated in a shooter drill? Yes, but only as a walk through. Chief Kushner would like to do a full scale active shooter drill where police/SWAT come in dressed in fatigue type garb showing what would be seen and expected to happen. This would serve as training for school staff, and students need not be present.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday December 10, 2014, Prairie Lakes and enjoy a City of Des Plaines Trivia Contest.  
Happy Thanksgiving to all 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and Des Plaines Residents.

**TO CONTACT DENISE**

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