



NORTH CAROLINA'S INTERNATIONAL CITY™

**MANAGER'S BRIEFING SESSION
HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
December 18, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.
3RD FLOOR LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present:

Mayor Jay W. Wagner; Mayor Pro Tem Chris Williams (Ward 2); and Council Members Britt Moore (At Large), Jeffrey J. Golden (Ward 1), Monica Peters (Ward 3), Wesley Hudson (Ward 4), Victor Jones (Ward 5), and Jason Ewing (Ward 6)

Absent:

Donald Scarborough (At Large)

Staff Present:

Greg Demko, City Manager; Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; Kenneth Shultz, Police Chief; Angela Kirkwood, Director of Human Resources; Eric Olmedo, Budget and Administrative Manager; Jeron Hollis, Communications and Public Engagement Director; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Others Present:

Judy Stalder, TREBIC

News Media:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Note: The following handouts were distributed during the meeting and will be incorporated as a permanent part of these proceedings.

- ✓ *Boards & Commissions- Breakdown by Wards & Boards (as of December 18, 2017)*
- ✓ *Boards & Commissions- Breakdown by Individuals and Boards (as of December 18, 2017)*
- ✓ *List of Applications on file (as of December 18, 2017)*
- ✓ *Term Expirations 2018 (as of December 18, 2017)*
- ✓ *Individual Council Member Appointment Responsibility Sheets (as of December 18, 2017)*
- ✓ *How to Apply to Serve on a Board/Commission*
- ✓ *Email dated November 30, 2017 from Fanta Dorley, Human Relations Manager, for Human Relations Commission appointments*

City Manager Greg Demko called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He pointed out the Police Department is one of the key areas that requires much attention and focus on with the community. He mentioned the deferred maintenance that has been on-going with the Police Department and noted the staff would be developing a budget in concert with input from the Council to determine

the areas of importance and to give staff the necessary guidance as to what Council would like to see included.

Police Department Update

Chief Shultz provided an update on the following:

- A. High Point Central High School Incident
- B. Hotel/Motel Review Program
- C. Part 1 Crime Statistics
- D. How Complaints/Concerns are handled
- E. Drugs
- F. Social Media/Press Releases

A. High Point Central Incident

Chief Shultz provided an update on the High Point Central incident that occurred on December 11, 2017 around 2:00 p.m. that involved multiple calls of shots being fired on campus. This resulted in an Emergency Alert going out to all of High Point Police Department, and surrounding jurisdictions and also involved responses from Guilford County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Highway Patrol and other agencies. Although they were treating the call as an "active shooter" incident, upon arriving at the scene, the School Resource Officer (SRO) inside the main building confirmed this was not the case. One shot had been fired into the cafeteria doors by a young person who appeared to be a student. No one was actually shot. A description of the suspect was provided, and confirmation that he was seen fleeing from the school campus.

Chief Shultz commended the school administration at High Point Central school on how they responded and how they controlled the situation and kept the students safe by issuing a "Lock Down" order and staff pulled all students into secure areas, locked all doors to prevent access and to ensure the students safety. With the assistance of the school's staff, the SRO was able to quickly pull photos of the suspect off video surveillance system and verified that the shooter was not a High Point Central student. The photo was quickly shared with officers and on social media in an attempt to identify the shooter, who was later confirmed to be a 15-year old from nearby Thomasville. Later that evening, the 15-year old was in custody, and the following day, a second 15-year old (a High Point Central student) was arrested as an accomplice. It was determined that this was a gang-related incident and involved members of different groups. The school administration staff is proactively focusing on individuals that are known to be involved and will continue to work with the court system and routinely interact with their parents in an effort to deter violence.

He explained that because incorrect information was being released to the public through phone calls, texts, social media, etc..., they had a lot of parents who showed up at the school, who were on the verge of rioting. He reported that one of the chaplains working with the department

observed how the officers interacted with the parents, and as a result complimented the SROs who were there and worked hard to de-escalate the situation.

Chief Shultz reported that the city does contract with the Guilford County School Administration to provide eight (8) SROs that are assigned at the high schools and middle schools. He noted that Lt. Petula Sellars is responsible for supervising the SROs and does a wonderful job interacting with the SROs, as well as the administrative staff at the schools.

Council Member Hudson shared that he has two children who attend High Point Central and they felt safe throughout the incident. He commended the Police Department on doing a phenomenal job, but expressed concerns about how things were reported on social media.

B. Hotel/Motel Review Program

Chief Shultz mentioned the recent shooting at In Town Suites on N. Main Street and advised that after the shooting, they determined that several hotel/motels are driving a lot of the crime/activity. He explained a lot of resources have been put into this program from the Police Department, Fire Department, and the Inspections Department. The high crime hotels/motels that have been identified by the Police Department are:

1. Hotel North Carolina, 2000 Brentwood Street (540 calls for service);
2. In Town Suites, 2860 N. Main Street (354 calls for service);
3. Travel Inn Express, 2429 W. Green (291 calls for service); and
4. Motel 6, 120 SW Cloverleaf (195 calls for service).

Chief Shultz pointed out these involved serious calls such as murders, drug overdoses, search warrants for drug activity, etc..... In an effort to counteract these issues, the Police Department has implemented the following response options:

- Patrol Focus (drive throughs and foot patrol)
- Street Crimes (surveillance, jump outs, etc...)
- Vice/Narcotics (search warrants and working with informants)

The Chief noted they have come to realize that the Fire Department and the Inspections Department can take advantage of more opportunities and have much more flexibility in getting in to observe the conditions of these properties. As a result, they are focusing on code violations. He explained they have been meeting with some of the management teams, with very responsive and positive results. The Fire Department is also implementing a program that will allow them to go in and target some of these violations in an effort to be more effective.

C. Part 1 Crime Statistics

Chief Shultz reported that the High Point Police Department is data driven and this is how they determine what will be done, where it will be done, and where to focus on what types of crimes. This is done by making comparisons within the Police Department from year-to-year, month-to-month, as well as looking at 5-year trends. Some Part 1 violent crimes are:

- Criminal homicide
- Rape

- Robbery
- Robbery with a firearm
- Aggravated assault

Some property crimes are:

- Burglary
- Forceful entry
- Unlawful entry
- Auto thefts
- Larceny (including shoplifting)

The Chief pointed out that the violence in High Point has dramatically increased, and noted that as of today, the city has less than 1% in violence crimes than the statistics for last year. He further stated that it has fluctuated between 2% (up and down), and that this could change with a major shootout. He advised they are seeing a lot of positive results out of them focusing on the right people, making the necessary arrests and getting individuals off the streets.

The property crime statistics indicate a 1% increase. Chief Shultz advised these numbers were a boosted somewhat due to the fact that the Police Department did a shoplifting project and posted officers at Walmart to charge, book, and arrest shoplifters.

Council Member Ewing asked if any benchmarking data was available comparing cities with counties, regional or statewide, from a per capita standpoint. Chief Shultz replied that the city does participate in benchmarking studies, and comparisons are made based on 100,000 in population. He further noted that it would also provide clearance rates as well, and while they do look at national clearance averages, their goal is to be above average in the good things and below average in the bad things. He noted a more detailed comparison of the numbers would be provided after the first of the year.

D. Complaints/Concerns

Chief Shultz assured Council that the Police Department aims to be very transparent and they do investigate complaints received. He explained the department accomplishes this with the assistance of the three assistant chiefs that report to him. In addition to the assistant chiefs, there is a captain who reports directly to the police chief because of the importance of professional standards within the department. This captain's job is to conduct investigations and deal with complaints/concerns.

He encouraged Council to email the managers with any specific concerns, whether it involves an issue with an officer, a drug area, a speeding area, etc.... and he would disperse the complaints for investigation and report back.

E. Drugs

Chief Shultz reported there would be a media release on Friday about 11:00 a.m. involving an impressive effort with major drug and case seizures and several arrests. He explained that until the announcement is made, no further details could be provided.

F. Social Media

The Chief suggested the best way to receive up-to-date news about what is going on within the city is to subscribe to the news alerts/press releases, and this could be accomplished by visiting the city's website www.highpointnc.gov, clicking on "Notify Me", then "Press Release" information. He also encouraged frequent visits to the Police Department's Twitter and Face Book feeds.

As a matter of information, City Manager Demko shared that the former Council approved some new positions at the Police Department, and one of those positions was an officer dedicated to getting information out to the public in a timely manner. Chief Shultz advised that Lt. Curtis Cheeks was hired for this position and he is being proactive in pushing out the Twitter and Face Book information, as well as organizing many of the special events and engaging the community.

Mr. Demko agreed that it was important to keep in mind that the Police Department has been very engaged with the community for a long time, but until recently, it has not been publicized. He noted that the new position would help in getting the necessary/factual information out.

Boards & Commissions Update

City Clerk Lisa Vierling provided an update on Boards & Commissions. She explained that while some of the appointments to the boards and commissions are ward specific, council members could go outside their respective wards to make appointments if necessary. Council is encouraged to make appointments according to residency or primary occupation, with a preference given to residence before primary occupation.

Most boards do have a two-term limit; however, this does not apply to the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Board of Adjustment, or the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Vierling provided information as of December 18, 2017 on current vacancy reports, breakdowns by wards/boards and boards/individuals, individual council member appointments, and provided guidance on accessing the information in OneDrive. Citizens interested in submitting applications are encouraged to visit the city's website www.highpointnc.gov and apply on-line. Descriptions and current rosters for the various boards/commissions are updated on a regular basis and can also be accessed on-line.

Following the presentation, Ms. Vierling advised there are some boards that require immediate attention where appointments/reappointments are considered critical:

A. Human Relations Commission (HRC)

Currently 5 vacancies on a 9-member board. This makes it difficult for the board to hold an official meeting, due to not being able to obtain a quorum.

Ms. Vierling referred to the email from Fanta Dorley, Human Relations Manager. Ms. Dorley has reviewed the active applications for the individuals that are interested in

serving on the Human Relations Commission and has forwarded her recommendations to the City Council in an email.

B. Library Board of Trustees (LBOT)

Ms. Vierling advised that there are also several terms that have expired on the Library Board of Trustees that also require immediate attention, as well as some vacant positions that need to be filled. She noted these appointments are ward specific with each Council Member making an appointment to the board.

C. Theatre Advisory Board (TAB)

As with the Library Board of Trustees, Ms. Vierling pointed out there are three terms that have expired on the Theatre Advisory Board. These appointments are not ward specific.

Questions were entertained following the presentation. Ms. Vierling encouraged council members to contact her with any questions or concerns regarding the process.

Mr. Demko asked if there was any further discussion. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk