

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Minutes

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

4:00 PM

3rd Floor Council Chambers

Public Safety Committee

Victor Jones, Chair

Britt Moore

Tyrone Johnson

Chris Williams

Mayor Jay Wagner (Alternate)

Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)

NOTICE:

Face Coverings (Face Masks) are now required inside all public places/buildings in Guilford County.

The Guilford County Board of County Commissioners in their capacity as the Guilford County Board of Health Re-Instated a Mandatory Mask Policy which will be effective on Friday, August 13th at 5:00 p.m.

The mandate requires that:

(1) Individuals must wear Face Coverings when indoors in all businesses, establishments, and public places.

(2) All businesses, establishments, and public places must require that all persons wear Face Coverings when indoors on their premises.

For additional information on the Guilford County Mask Mandate, please visit:
www.guilfordcountync.gov

Public Safety Committee - Council Member Jones, Chair**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was informally called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Following a roll call by Chairman Jones, the following attendance by committee Members was duly noted.

Present:

Chairman Victor Jones
Committee Member Chris Williams

Absent:

Committee Member Britt Moore
Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

Also Present:

Council Member Monica Peters

Staff Present:

Tasha Logan Ford, City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager;
Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Travis
Stroud, Police Chief; Tommy Reid, Fire Chief; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy
City Clerk

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *PowerPoint Presentation: 2021- Impact Crimes Year to Date (YTD)*

2021-379

Presentation-"City Hot Spots" Crimes in the City

The High Point Police Department will provide an update on "Hot Spots" and Crime in the City.

Attachments: [Citywide Hot Spots](#)

[Impact Crime Map with Homicide Stars](#)

[Public Safety Committee 8-21 - Hot Spots](#)

Travis Stroud, Chief of Police-High Point Police Department made PPP on the 2021 Impact Crimes Year to Date (YTD); and provided statistics and aerial mappings on the top three hot spots as followed:

1. (#1 Hot Spot) N. Main St/Hartley Dr.-2600-3000 block of N. Main: provided the number of calls the following businesses: Walmart (473 calls), Lowes (109 calls), Home Depot (133 calls), Food Lion (125 calls); and N. Main/Hartley: top 10 crash intersection. Majority of crimes were property crimes. Traffic stops were not included.
2. (#2 Hot Spot) E. Green/University Area-Centennial-MLK-Brentwood-Kearns: provided the number of calls for the Apple Tree Grocery (136 calls); noted that this hot spot was mostly residential; violent crimes against persons was greater at this hot spot; and spoke to calls received at the Police Department, Courthouse (serve warrants), Mental Health, and Magistrate; and mentioned that the numbers were down compared to previous years.
3. (#3 Hot Spot) S. Main St./Fairfield Rd.-2600 block of S. Main St.: provided the number of calls for the Walmart at 2628 S. Main (493); S. Main/Fairfield=consistent top-10 crash location; and said that this area was a property (larceny) driven hot spot.

Chief Stroud continued discussion regarding the heavy concentrated area in the East Green Street area, which was #2 in ranking; gave an overview of the impact violent crimes that were committed; and spoke to prevention methods that the police department was using.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any successful arrest made. Chief Stroud replied yes; and said that there was a lot of successful arrest made for violent crimes; and that it was a challenging process for larceny charges/arrest.

Committee Member Williams inquired on the hot spots that included homicides, and on the trends regarding different types of drugs used/sold. Chief Stroud replied that there was no concentrated area for homicides; that the predictability for the homicide locations were zero; that he did not have the statistics at this time for drug trends; and noted that the sale of meth, and heroin has increased, crack-cocaine decreased; and

that marijuana has increased.

Chairman Jones inquired the illegal drug charges made in the hot spots; and if the arrest correlated to other crimes. Chief Stroud replied that there was a connection to some larceny, guns, and drug charges/arrest made; and spoke to the large, concentrated area located behind Walmart.

Discussion took place regarding the prostitution hot spots; the demographics for prostitutions and 'Johns' (persons who pick up prostitutes); southside area crimes; the police departments approach to combating these crimes; and drug (illegal) enforcement.

Chairman Jones, and Committee Member Williams both requested to have data/statistics for illegal drugs; and domestic violence trends/statistics at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting. Chief Stroud replied that he would provide that information.

[2021-380](#)

Update-Code Enforcement Efforts of Several Local Motels

Staff will be providing an update on Code Enforcement Efforts of Several Local Motels.

Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager provided an overview on the Code Enforcement Efforts regrading local motels throughout the city; the process started last year (winter-2020); said that the High Point Police Department (HPPD) assisted in identifying the top five problematic motels; the motels were inspected by the Fire Marshall; one of the issues was long-term stay in some motels that were not zoned for that type of use; spoke to challenges faced for issuing violations for long-term residents, related to the COVID-19 sheltering provisions that are in place; mentioned a specific area near West Green Street that included several fire code violations noted in the inspections report; one of the violations included long-term rental occupancy; said that the code violations would be addressed; explained the code enforcement process that would provide a 30-day notice; and that staff would be following up to assured that the violations were addressed or remedied. Mr. Ferguson continued discussion regarding a specific property, formally a restaurant, that has a current notice for condemnation; the property would continue through the process for demolition and would come before council for consideration; spoke to the concerns for the long-term residents at that location; staff has engaged with the Community Development Department along with Service Providers to provide those residents with resources; and stated that at this point, no one has been forced to vacate the property.

Council Member Peters inquired on identifying those that are long-term residents; voiced concerns on the look of the wire fencing into the corridor of the city in the southside area of the city at the I85 intersections; and asked if there could be an ordinance that did not allow that type of fencing. Tasha Logan Ford, City Manger replied that the process now was identifying code violations for the motels; spoke to the

challenges faced for long-term residents; said that typically changes could be made to the development ordinance for fencing; and that some businesses would be grandfathered in with no immediate changes.

Committee Member Williams asked what the penalty was for code violations at the motels. Mr. Ferguson replied that penalties involved a fine based process based on the zoning codes; and that the fines would go to the owner of the property.

Chairman Jones inquired on the maximum timeframe allowed for occupancy in the motels before it would be defined as 'long-term'. Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Manager replied that she would check and confirm that information.

Chairman Williams spoke to having further discussions and revisiting the code violations approach.

Mr. Ferguson said that staff was evaluating other options for code violation penalties, for future consideration, such as commercial code tools-with no fines.

Chairman Jones inquired on the timeframe to start issuing code violations. City Manager Logan Ford replied that staff would have something to act on in January of 2022 regarding the penalty process; spoke to allowing time to educate businesses on penalties that would allow re-inspections; and that staff was having discussions regarding the entire code violations penalty process as a whole.

ADJOURNMENT

*Chairman Jones asked if there were any additional comments/questions.
Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.*

R e s p e c t f u l l y
Submitted,

Victor Jones,
Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
City Clerk