

**COMMON COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2025**

The City of Noblesville Public Safety Council Committee met pursuant to public notice on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Police Department Training Center at the Public Safety Building, 135 South 9th Street. Mark Boice, Evan Elliott, Darren Peterson, and Aaron Smith were present.

Also present were City Judge S. Matthew Cook, City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief Uriah Eddingfield, Deputy Police Chief Eric Cunningham, and Deputy Police Chief Colin Whitesell. Police Captain Corey Everhart arrived at 11:04 a.m. Deputy Chief Jason Thompson arrived at 11:33 a.m.

New Police Station Update

Chief Cunningham distributed a handout of renderings for the new building. He reviewed past design milestones. He reviewed the newest floor plan. He stated Garmong will determine the budget needed from the schematics provided. He stated he hoped a design budget would be ready the week of June 6. He stated if all goes well, construction would bid this fall. Mr. Peterson asked if the Council would have a work session to receive more information prior to the bids. Mr. Light replied the session would most likely be held in the fall. He stated the Finance Committee would discuss impacts of Senate Bill 1 on City finances at its June 5 meeting, but there would be no changes to the priority of building the new police station. He stated the Fiscal Plan and the Capital Improvements Plan would be updated in the next month. He stated the updates were expected to be complete in early June.

Mr. Peterson asked if the new police station was designed to last 20 years. Chief Cunningham replied the design had evolved since the project was first announced at the Mayor's State of the City address in September 2024. He stated public parking had been moved to the east side of the building. He stated there would be ample parking on Division Street. Mr. Boice stated he liked the effect of the angled roof at the front of the building. Mr. Peterson agreed. He stated the building struck a balance between institutional, safe, and inviting. Mr. Boice agreed. Mr. Peterson asked if there would be barricades to protect the building from vehicles. Chief Cunningham replied yes, there would be various mechanisms. He reviewed possible options. Mr. Smith thanked Chief Cunningham for his work. Chief Cunningham credited a whole team of people.

Fire Station 78 Land Acquisition

Chief Eddingfield stated the process was progressing to acquire land at the same location they have been working on. Mr. Light stated the owner was determining uses for the larger parcel.

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Response Strategies for the State Road 32 closure at Hague Road

Chief Whitesell stated two pedestrian tunnels would be constructed – one under the south leg of the roundabout, and one under the west leg of the roundabout. He stated Hague Road would close in June, then State Road 32 would close in July. He stated the goal was to reopen the roads by October. He stated the construction would finish the last portion of the Pleasant Street project. He stated police would monitor the Oakmont subdivision for extra traffic cutting through to State Road 38, and extra patrols would be added if needed. He stated official detours would be Little Chicago Road to State Road 38 west of the project, and the roundabout at the State Road 32/38 split at the hospital east of the project. He stated various enforcement plans would be in place. Chief Cunningham stated response plans would be adjusted as necessary.

Peony Festival Update

Chief Whitesell stated the Police Department took what worked best last year and added to it. He stated nine officers would direct traffic and patrol on foot. He stated up to 13 officers could be used. He stated no officers would be allowed to take time off that day. Mr. Peterson asked if there were any public safety runs at last year's festival. Chief Whitesell replied no, there were no problems. Ms. Johnson stated ten Street Department employees would work to maintain trash receptacles during the festival. She stated having State Road 32 open through Downtown also would make a big difference. Mr. Smith stated Pleasant Street over White River had opened since the last festival as well and should aid the flow of traffic. Chief Eddingfield stated the Fire Department would use its ambulance cart if needed, since it was easier to maneuver in crowds. Mr. Elliott asked if this would be the first major festival since the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) was established. Mr. Light replied yes, it was. Chief Whitesell stated the Police Department did not anticipate any problems due to the DORA.

Run Loads

Mr. Peterson stated yesterday evening the Indiana Public Safety Secretary came to the City. He stated it was good for the Council to know how many public safety runs there are and what requests to expect from the Police Department. Mr. Boice stated Chief Thompson shared increases at the meeting yesterday that mirrored concerns he had heard from citizens.

Chief Eddingfield stated Fire Department runs had decreased by two to three percent, but they are not yet sure why. Chief Whitesell stated Police runs had held steady. He stated crime had decreased because incidents addressed by officers had increased. He stated there had been 18 additional emergency detentions to address mental health concerns. He stated the increase was not tied to new developments. Mr. Peterson asked if there was data on crimes committed by residents and non-residents. Chief Whitesell replied yes, there was, but the data was not accurate for various reasons.

Chief Thompson joined the meeting.

There was a discussion concerning fire coverage as the City grows. Mr. Boice stated the last Council had seen run data based on neighborhoods and the types of developments. He stated he

would like the three new Council members to see the data. Mr. Light stated he would work with the Planning Department to make sure Public Safety was informed when new developments were built.

Mr. Peterson asked if police officers who serve in other jurisdictions but live in Noblesville have an impact on crime here. Chief Cunningham replied the data was difficult to gather, but the effect was small. Chief Whitesell stated most of the data was anecdotal and could not be quantified.

Court Update

Judge Cook stated the Court was doing well and running smoothly. He stated once the Police Department moves to its new building, the court would need to install metal detectors. He stated he had no issues to date because the Police Department was in the same building.

Street Department Update

Ms. Johnson stated her biggest challenge was providing services for new developments, with snow removal being the biggest concern. She stated there would not be much brush or leaves to pick up in the first few years, but staff would still be required to drive through and check. Mr. Peterson stated growth was coming, but he did not want the City to be afraid of it.

Other Business

Mr. Smith asked for a report of parking enforcement data from Denison Parking. Mr. Light stated the data could be presented at the next meeting.

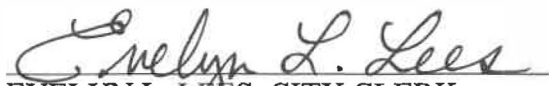
Chief Eddingfield stated a large expense in the 2026 budget would be replacing the Fire Department's airpaks, the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

Mr. Elliott stated the questions he is asked most were about Luna and Carbon, the therapy dogs for the Police and Fire Departments, respectively. Chief Thompson stated there was also Sadie, who was a therapy dog to benefit staff. He stated Sadie had also traveled to other agencies who had experienced traumatic events, to help their staff. He stated there are only 20 public safety therapy dogs in the state, and Noblesville had three of them.

The meeting was adjourned.



DARREN PETERSON, COMMITTEE CHAIR



EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK