

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 6:00-7:30 pm
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: Nick Hutchinson, Scott Smedberg, John Collier, Bruce Lundeen, Maddy Schwartz, Morgan Luzier, Danny Villars, Sydney Burroughs, Carly Caputa, Jeff Nelson, Alexis Tarter, Harry, Kori Shingles, Maggie Kozak, Shannon Dotson, Kami Brodie, Halley Norman, Jon Ababiy, Aaron Keith, Bridget Siljander, Kristin Chirhart, Matt Barthelemy

Staff: Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

Presenters: Aisha Chughtai (Council Member Ward 10)

Welcome at 6:02pm by Nick Hutchinson.

Introductions.

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

Ward 10 City Council

Council Member Aisha Chughtai

- 311 inquiries are summarized in a weekly report to council members, which they use to set priorities.
- City Council Committee of the Whole met to review the after action report on the City's response to the protests in the week following George Floyd's murder
- City staff are working on TOPA policy following the community input process. It is expected to go to council later in the year.
- CM Chughtai provided an update on the 911 behavioral crisis response unit.
- **Q:** What is being done to prevent carjacking?
 - **A:** Culturally specific programming to keep kids engaged in community work and have a place for kids to go. Trauma work with youth to address impact from kids lost to gun violence.
- **Q:** Update on small business in Ward 10?
 - **A:** There's been an uptick in alcohol vendor applications, which is a positive sign. CM's office has been engaging with business owners on Hennepin Ave regarding reconstruction.
- **Q:** Does the city anticipate returning to pre-2020 staffing levels as it prepares for a new labor contract?
 - **A:** That is the goal. There are smaller cadet classes now than there were two years ago. MPD says that's a good thing because they've become more selective about who they recruit. Restoring staffing levels to pre-2020 levels is slow moving and will take years.
- **Q:** Why does Lowry Hill get more police protection simply because they have their own personal funds to pay for it?
 - **A:** Buy back program is a product of the police union contract that allows communities to request additional officers from the city and pay them at an overtime rate. All existing police policies apply to officers on duty as part of the buy back program. Most frequently used for large events where alcohol is being served.

Whittier Alliance Updates

Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance

- Whittier Alliance and Lyndale Neighborhood Association have been doing a lot of direct outreach to businesses for commercial displacement risk assessment.
- Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting is happening on Saturday, May 14 followed by a one week voting period, with plans for a community potluck.

- Whittier Alliance applied to the City's RFP for Kmart Community Engagement in partnership with other organizations

Kmart Site Update

Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance

- Visit lakestreetalignment.com for more information.

Ongoing work and project discussion

- Whittier Alliance is organizing an Earth Day Cleanup on April 23rd
- Whittier Really Really Free Market is returning April 2nd from 1 - 4 PM in Whittier Park

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.