

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Joe Frederick, Wendy Margolis, Joe Flood, and Larry Browne, as well as Borough Manager John Davis, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, Councilperson Noni West, Fire Marshall Scott Fleischer, and CBRPD Chief Karl Knott.

The **Minutes** of the November 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Wendy Margolis and seconded by Larry Browne.

John provided information on the **Harvey Avenue and Doyle Street Permit Parking Study**. The process is lengthy and detailed. Significantly less than the required 30% of occupancy is from non-resident cars, which shows Harvey Avenue does not qualify for permit-only parking. The study will be revisited again after the holidays. Joe Flood mentioned the area of Hamilton and Clinton Streets on Doyle Street is often very full of cars and may need a parking study as well. John will expand the next study to include Hamilton Street, on a recommendation from the Committee. A resident of North Hamilton Street spoke on the same several cars parking on her street for the past six months or so, and that they may work in a neighborhood business.

Chief Knott discussed a recent uptick in **computer and telephone scams**. The police department has been increasing distribution information on these types of crimes in various ways, although they are not always made aware of the issue, and it's difficult to follow the path to the criminals online.

Chief Knott reviewed the current **Status of State and County Marijuana Laws and Enforcement**. Currently, small amounts of marijuana are still considered a misdemeanor in Pennsylvania. Several Counties and Boroughs have already moved toward decriminalizing small amounts for personal use. In response to questions from Jack O'Brien, medical marijuana use is not considered a criminal offense with a valid prescription. Chief Knott did explain the word 'decriminalize' may not be the most appropriate word, as it currently is a criminal offense. If the Borough would move toward ordinances similar to those recently passed locally regarding small amounts of marijuana, it would not become part of a permanent criminal record; rather, a non-traffic citation could be issued. Chief Knott feels it would be a positive move. The Committee agreed to review the recent, local ordinances, discuss it with Borough Counsel and will move forward with the next stages.

New/Old Business: Scott discussed Covid-19 mask guideline enforcement; most people do comply and the Borough works with the Bucks County Health Department on restaurant seating occupancy.

Joe Frederick asked Chief Knott if the concerns in Washington DC have expanded to Doylestown; Chief noted his staff keeps a close eye on the local chatter online. Other police departments in the County are seeing the same: all seems to be quiet on the local possibility of any issues. Chief Knott noted his department is prepared for any issues, should they arise, and is working with County offices as well as other local police departments.

Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.