

City of Montgomery
Law and Safety Committee of City Council Meeting
August 5, 2019

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
John Crowell, Chief of Police
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Nick Nimeskern, Patrol Officer

Committee Members Present

Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Chair
Gerri Harbison
Ken Suer

The meeting of the Law and Safety Committee of City Council convened in Council Chambers at 3:30 p.m. with Mrs. Bissmeyer presiding.

DEA Drug Task Force Assignment

Chief Crowell explained to the Committee that he was approached by an agent from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regarding Nick Nimeskern's impressive performance during his time serving on DART (Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force). The agent requested for Officer Nimeskern to be transferred full-time to the DEA Task Force. Chief Crowell explained that through Officer Nimeskern's involvement with DART he has been recognized as a DEA Credentialed Officer. Chief Crowell explained that, if approved, this opportunity would allow Officer Nimeskern the chance to work on federal level cases whereas he currently works on local level cases through DART. Chief Crowell explained that this would be beneficial to the City as a portion of assets seized through cases that Officer Nimeskern is involved in will come to the City. He stated that the forfeiture assets can be used for equipment and training in support of drug investigations, however they cannot be used for salaries. Officer Crowell stated that currently West Chester Township averages \$90-\$110,000 a year in forfeitures as a result of several DEA Task Force Officers they have on their force. He explained that this wouldn't be expected the first year as cases have to go through trial first but there would be funding as a result of Officer Nimeskern's involvement. Chief Crowell stated that what is required of the City is to continue to pay Officer Nimeskern's salary and provide a vehicle, which he stated was not a problem. Chief Crowell also stated that Officer Nimeskern would be able to be brought back to the City when needed and that the DEA will cover up to \$18,000 in overtime costs. Chief Crowell added that Officer Nimeskern would be eligible for all federal training and would be treated as a DEA agent.

Mr. Riblet stated that Officer Nimeskern has shown a great passion for his work and the DEA agent had nothing but good things to say about Officer Nimeskern. Mr. Riblet stated that he felt like this would create less risk for Officer Nimeskern by moving him to the federal level. Mr. Riblet stated that the DEA agent would like to see a two-year agreement appointing Officer Nimeskern to the task force. Mr. Riblet stated that he was fully supportive of the assignment.

Officer Nimeskern stated that the City will still be his first priority and if needed the Task Force understands he will return to the department to assist.

Mr. Suer inquired about Nick's replacement on DART.

Chief Crowell replied that the City is not required to have an officer on DART, but we have fulfilled that role consistently. He stated that we are able to participate in the program at any level and are not required to have an officer.

Mr. Suer stated that this will be positive for Officer Nimeskern's career and felt it would work good for the City, however, he stated that we do need to maintain an adequate number of officers at the City first.

Mrs. Harbison stated that she is fully supportive of it and congratulated Officer Nimeskern on this assignment.

Mr. Suer made a motion to approve the request from the DEA to assign Officer Nimeskern to the DEA Task Force. Mrs. Harbison seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Minutes

Mrs. Harbison made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Other Business

Chief Wright explained to the Committee that he was invited to breakfast with the Bethesda Foundation representatives, the Medical Director and Executive Director of the TriHealth Cardiac Care Center, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas. He stated that during a side conversation, the Executive Director of the Cardiac Care Center asked Chief Wright if the department had a Lucas Chest Compression System. He told her "no", but they were applying for a grant through Firehouse Subs to fund the \$15,000 for the unit. Mr. Thomas overheard the conversation and immediately told Chief Wright to purchase the Lucas System and send him the \$15,000 invoice. Chief Wright reported that the Fire Department recently took delivery of the Lucas 3 Chest Compression System.

The Committee was very appreciative of the Thomas's generosity and for Chief Wright's continued relationship with the Thomas's. They expressed their gratitude for Mr. Thomas's community mindedness and humility.

Adjournment

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if there was any further business to discuss. There being none, Mrs. Harbison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Law and Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.



Chair of Law and Safety Committee of City Council