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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

September 12, 2019

The Public Safety Committee of Wheeling City Council met on the above date at 12:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers. Committee Members present: Chair Dave Palmer and Member Melinda Koslik. Vice-Chair Ken Imer Absent. Others present: Councilors Thalman and Scatterday; City Manager Robert Herron, City Solicitor Rose Humway-Warmuth, City Clerk Brenda J. Delbert, and media

The following matters were discussed:

Discussion on Police Department Reduction in Sergeant Positions

Mr. Palmer invites Police Chief Shawn Schwertfeger to present his request in reduction of Sargent Positions. Chief Schwertfeger states there are currently 20 Sergeant Positions almost 1/3 of the department. He strongly believes this is too many for a department of our size. The Sergeant is an extremely important position, they are the first line supervisor; there are currently four who do not supervise anyone. Chief Schwertfeger is recommending 15 Sergeant positions assigned to the following: 10 for patrol, 1 investigator, 1 drug task force, 1 staff/special operations/traffic, 1 office of professional standards, 1 public resource officer. There will be no immediate cuts but will happen over time. The estimated financial savings is \$27,000. Chief Schwertfeger is recommending the extra 5 positions to be placed into the PFC rank. Mr. Herron explains this will go back to the way it was prior to May 2010 when previous Chief requested the increase from 15 to 20. Ms. Koslik moves, seconded by Mr. Palmer to accept to forward the proposal to Council.

Discussion on Fire False Alarm Ordinance

Mr. Palmer invites Fire Chief Larry Helms to present his request. Chief Helms clarifies this only applies to false medical, EMS calls. The premise is to implement same as WPD false alarm program. Chief Helms explains most false calls come from "pull calls" when the string is pulled EMS is called. When EMS responds the crew cannot identify what apartment made the call; 76 false calls were at one location and only 17 were able to be traced to the original location. Property owner will be held accountable if the apartment location cannot be identified. Chief Helms believes a third-party involvement is unnecessary for enforcement and it should be handled through Municipal Court. Ms. Koslik moves, seconded by Mr. Palmer to accept to forward the proposal to Council

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Koslik moved, seconded by Mr. Palmer, to adjourn. Motion carried. Time: 12:34 p.m.