



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

**COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO – NAVE
7506 EAST INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Larry Hewitt, Chair
Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Vice Chair
Nancy Doty Brady
Louise Lamb
Richard Siegel
George Spatola
Craig Handzlik (MS Teams)

STAFF: Taylor Reynolds, Commission Liaison
Nick Carroll, Long Range Planning
Jeff Walther, Scottsdale Police Chief
David Pino, Code Enforcement Supervisor
Cassie Johnson, Police Director of Strategic Initiatives
Virginia Bermudez, Police Policy Research & Accreditation Manager

Call to Order

Chair Hewitt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

1. Approve Draft Summary Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

COMMISSIONER LAMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 28, 2024, NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER SIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR HEWITT, VICE CHAIR SCHWARTZ-MANOCK, AND COMMISSIONERS DOTY BRADY, HANDZLIK, LAMB, SIEGEL, AND SPATOLA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Scottsdale Police Update

Jeff Walther, Scottsdale Police Chief, gave an overview of the Department's mission and strategic plan and provided a community crime briefing. He highlighted recent crime-related issues, noting that overall crime numbers show a four-percent reduction since 2023. He talked about the increasing occurrence of assaults on officers and the importance of technology, partnerships, and strategic deployment in addressing incidents and officer safety. He talked about the benefits of the new license plate reader camera system and provided details about the ongoing dinnertime burglary series. He noted that the perpetrators of the dinnertime burglaries have been identified as organized crime groups from Chile who are exploiting visa waiver programs for crime tourism. Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies led to arrests. He discussed legal rights regarding self-defense in burglary scenarios, emphasizing the importance of community awareness and collaboration in crime prevention efforts.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Chief Walther said that the majority of the dinnertime burglaries in Scottsdale have been in the northern area, and the perpetrators are accessing homes off of large, open-space areas. Areas near Indian Bend Wash have not been affected. He explained that immigration, including the visa waiver program, are under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and the Scottsdale Police Department is only involved if a crime is committed. He does not expect that the recent Chilean group will return to the Scottsdale/Phoenix area because of the surveillance technology used by the police departments and local media attention.

Chief Walther continued his presentation, talking about the Department's efforts to address the increase in aggravated assaults against the police, general lack of respect for police, and lack of civil discourse in society. He talked about restrictions the Police Department has related to homeless individuals in the city. The Scottsdale Police Department focuses on resource management and crime prevention. He noted that the statute prohibiting urban camping was struck down by the 9th Circuit, but the City was able to institute no urban camping in Indian Bend Wash because of the threat of flooding.

Chief Walther reviewed the progress that has been made in the organization since he took over as police chief in 2020. He talked about the details of programs that have been put in place that focus on raising the level of communication within the organization and building robust community engagement. He highlighted the fact that the Scottsdale Police Department is the only department in the state of Arizona that is dual-accredited, with accreditation from both the

Commission for Accreditation on Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP). He outlined the steps that were taken to decide on the Scottsdale Police Department's new mission statement and strategic plan. The mission statement is, "As part of our community, we are united in purpose, and selfless in action to ensure a safe Scottsdale." The mission statement, together with the Department's 25 foundational behaviors, was used in developing the new strategic plan.

Virginia Bermudez, Police Policy Research & Accreditation Manager, said that the four main components of the strategic plan are:

- Attracting high-quality employees
- Empowering employees by investing in wellness and development
- Pursuing industry-leading infrastructure and technology
- Focusing on community, collaboration, and partnership

In response to questions, Chief Walther talked about the Department's stance on prosecuting shoplifters, the Department's mechanism for dealing with civil unrest, and code amendments being proposed for the City's short-term rental ordinance. The Police Department has a unit dedicated to short-term rental complaints, Code Enforcement imposes penalties, and City Council has a forward-looking vision to create an ordinance that will regulate short-term rentals as much as possible under the state restrictions. Chief Walther confirmed that Scottsdale emergency services, 911, has the technology to locate someone calling from a cell phone. He said that the Department currently has 10 school resource officers and one supervisor for 60 schools, three of which have been identified as needing more resource officers. He went into detail about the state of Arizona's school safety officer program and resources that are available to the City that will be used toward pay for off-duty police officers to work at those schools. He talked about the newly created reserve command that will consist of retired Scottsdale police officers and civilian investigators.

3. Code Enforcement Program Update

David Pino, Code Enforcement Supervisor, provided a presentation (attached) on Code Enforcement's purpose, responsibilities, common violations, and enforcement processes. Common code violations include violation of sign restrictions, tall grass and weeds in right-of way areas, outdoor storage, abandoned vehicles, dead vegetation, and graffiti. Mr. Pino said that Code Enforcement is responsible for enforcing short-term rental (STR) requirements, which include obtaining a transaction privilege sales tax license (TPT), notifying neighbors, providing the City with an emergency contact number, obtaining liability insurance, and registering the STR with the county. City Council will be considering proposed STR code amendments on May 6, 2024.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Pino clarified that there are limitations regarding signs on private property. People are entitled to freedom of speech, which means disagreements regarding art signs or signs conveying negative/offensive messages on private property is a civil issue. Mr. Pino said that Code Enforcement proactively monitors and removes illegal signs and campaign signs left beyond the 15-day allowance. Taylor Reynolds, Commission Liaison, explained that the billboard sign located at McDowell and Miller is a legal non-conforming structure because it was built prior to the zoning code text amendment

prohibiting billboards in the City of Scottsdale. Mr. Pino said that Code Enforcement provides education and resources to people who are in violation. Repeat offenders are issued a citation. Violations can be reported anonymously to the Code Enforcement Department by telephone hotline, email, or a request submitted through the website.

4. Commissioner Items

Mr. Reynolds explained that this new agenda item is a reflection of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission Section 205 of the bylaws and is intended to offer Commissioners a formal opportunity to suggest future agenda items for consideration. He reviewed the process, noting that once an item is suggested, the Commission will have the opportunity to request that the topic be agendaized in a future meeting, request that staff investigate the matter and provide a written response to the Commission, or take no further action.

No items were submitted for consideration.

5. Staff Updates

Mr. Reynolds said that the Spirit of Scottsdale Awards were awarded to Principal Matt Patzlaff and Neighbors Helping Neighbors during the March 19, 2024, City Council meeting. He thanked Commissioners Lamb and Spatola for presenting the awards.

The next meeting is on April 24, 2024.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER LAMB MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CHAIR HEWITT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR HEWITT, VICE CHAIR SCHWARTZ-MANOCK, AND COMMISSIONERS DOTY BRADY, HANDZLIK, LAMB, SIEGEL, AND SPATOLA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.