



# Lowell City Council

## *Public Safety SC Meeting Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** December 8, 2020  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Zoom/Remote Participation/LTC

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Chau, C. Drinkwater and C. Rourke. Also present were C. Mercier, C. Conway, Supt. Richardson (LPD), C. Elliott, Manager Donoghue, C. Samaras and C. Nuon.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chau called the meeting to order at 5:30PM noting the reason for the meeting and noting those in attendance.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

C. Chau commend on the need for information to be provided to the neighborhoods as their organizations were not meeting due to the pandemic. Supt. Richardson commented on the crime statistics in the different neighborhoods which included shootings. Supt. Richardson made note of the number of guns recovered by the police from different venues search warrants and vehicle searches. Supt. Richardson noted crime statistically was down from prior year though there were some larger incidents; he further stated that during the pandemic crime has risen nationally and locally but noted that Lowell did decline. Supt. Richardson outlined the use of Shannon Grants in the department and also lauded the efforts of the LPD Gang Unit. C. Chau reviewed the reports and focused on shots fired report provided by the City. C. Chau questioned the protocol in reporting shots fired in the City and how they are investigated. Supt. Richardson outlined the procedure and noted that investigation are intensive and areas of shooting are searched many times. C. Chau questioned statistics regarding gangs in the City and how their members are identified. Supt. Richardson was limited in the information he could make public but noted that members are older and the association is more about money than territory. C. Conway recognized the efforts of the police force and their use of Shannon Grants. C. Nuon commented on gang makeup. Supt. Richardson noted that covid pressure is effecting the whole community. C. Mercier commented on domestic violence cases during the pandemic and lauded the efforts of the COOP team along with the



LPD. C. Chau questioned responses to shots being fired into buildings, homes and vehicles. Supt. Richardson noted it was a top priority for people to feel safe in their homes and noted legislation moving forward to address those issues. C. Elliott questioned amount of pressure on the force during the pandemic. Supt. Richardson noted the difficulties in the community and on the force due to the pandemic and further stated current proposed legislation regarding policing in the Commonwealth is an added burden on the police force because of the negative effect it will have on policing. C. Chau reviewed different neighborhood crime statistics. Supt. Richardson noted policing is surgical and they respond to hot spots but noted community policing covers all neighborhoods. C. Samaras noted support of the LPD and commented that resources should be available for their needs. Supt. Richardson noted the different wellness programs for the officers and the benefits they have provided. C. Samaras noted further subcommittee meetings should be scheduled to discuss needs of the department. Manager Donoghue noted support of the department and further stated that the proposed legislation goals outline programs that the LPD has been doing for years.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Rourke. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk