



**Public Safety
Advisory Committee
March 02, 2010 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Wroblewski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Committee Members present for the meeting were:

Chairperson Gerard Wroblewski

Vice Chairperson Leon Washington

Member William Buckley

Member Sarah Fuller

Member Sam Gabr

Member David Ingling

Member Carrie McDowell

Member Vicki Scroggins-Johnson

Member Anne Stockdell-Giesler

Committee members absent from the meeting were:

Member Chira Chiramanaphand

Also present were the following staff members:

Directorate of Community Services Tony Chiotakis

Street Superintendent Jim Grimstead

Captain Charles Wilson

Captain Todd Lewis

Support Services Coordinator Shannon Fonville

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

ACTION: *Vice Chairperson Leon Washington* made a motion to adopt the agenda. *Member William Buckley* seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 5, 2010

ACTION: *Vice Chairperson Leon Washington* made a motion to approve the minutes. *Member William Buckley* seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments

5. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations

6. OLD BUSINESS

• Bicycle Safety Complaint (T.Chiotakis)

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Tony Chiotakis stated that at the last meeting we were presented with an email from a resident who had a concern about bicycle safety issues and using signals. He stated that the Manager sent out a memo which listed some areas that he wanted to make sure was covered in the ordinance.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we didn't allow racing on sidewalks or greenways and that the type of bicycling that was allowed was basically recreational bicycling. He stated that he was not sure if we needed to address this more specifically in the ordinance.

Member William Buckley stated that at the last meeting we discussed that it was really an education thing. He didn't think that the ordinance needed to be changed. He asked if Mr. Chiotakis received a lot of feedback from the Committee.

Support Services Coordinator Shannon Fonville stated that there was one change sent in by Member David Ingling and the email was attached to their agendas [The recommended change was to Sec. 58-124 which would add the word "audible" signals (verbal or mechanical)].

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that this change would really clear up this aspect of signaling.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that perhaps we should have some language in the ordinance that states that bicycling is permitted in the streets in accordance with specific laws.

Captain Charles Wilson stated that there are some laws that strictly deal with bicycling but it mainly deals with bicycling on the streets and how to operate with lights and hand signals.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that our ordinance actually talks about our requirements for lights and making signals but it doesn't talk about bicycling on the street necessarily. He stated that maybe we should work on a section or an addition that would address bicycle riding on the street.

Member David Ingling stated that we could refer them back to the North Carolina General Statutes for that topic because our laws would not supersede the State's law. He stated that we could just put a statement in our ordinance.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we could add an addition in Section 58-123 to address this issue. He also stated that we didn't address parent responsibilities in the ordinance.

Chairperson Gerard Wroblewski stated that he looked at Carrboro and Chapel Hill and they didn't have any guidelines regarding parental responsibility per se. He stated that Carrboro

may have had something that alluded to children under certain ages being accompanied by a parent. He also stated that his only concern in regard to street bicycling was that when the weather became nice, there would be quite a number of bike riders on Morrisville Parkway. He stated that there could be a couple hundred bicyclists out riding in the morning.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we could make a statement that said competitive or group bicycle riding/touring was not permitted on sidewalks or greenways.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we addressed bicycle safety and right of way conflicts, but we didn't really address education per se. He stated that this was an ordinance and not a policy kind of situation. He stated that this would be more of a community awareness initiative by the Police Department when they had their bicycle rodeos and through our newsletters.

Member Buckley stated that this is what he was getting at; instead of changing a lot of ordinances, we should step up with our education to the public so that they understand our ordinance.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that with regard to bicycle helmets, we could add a statement to the safety section that says every rider of an authorized vehicle under this ordinance shall wear a protective helmet that is designed and manufactured for the purpose of protecting the head in the event that a rider falls from any vehicle described herein and in accordance with NCGS 136-171.19 which is the bicycle helmet law.

Member Buckley asked if this ordinance covered skateboards.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that it would cover skateboards but the bicycle helmet law did not list skateboards. He stated that it was kind of implied but it was not required so police would not be able to enforce someone on a skateboard not wearing a helmet.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we could add all of our changes to the agenda for April. He stated that if the Committee was in concurrence with the changes, then they could vote on it that night.

ACTION: *Member David Ingling* made a motion to incorporate into the existing ordinance by reference the requirements for wearing bicycle helmets as well as amending section 58-124, section A, "Every operator of an authorized vehicle under this ordinance shall exercise due care to avoid collision with any pedestrian and shall use *audible* signals when necessary, such as before overtaking and passing pedestrians." The addition would be adding the word *audible* to this section. In the same section, we would add a section K that would require the riders of authorized vehicles in this ordinance to comply with the bicycle helmet law. *Vice Chairperson Leon Washington* seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Member Buckley stated that earlier in the month he sent the Police Chief information on the North Carolina Safe Kids Coalition so that he can work with them. He stated that they gave grants for bicycles helmets and rodeos. He stated that Wake Med was the closest coalition here, but normally the National Safe Kids Coalition works with fire departments, police

departments, hospitals and local businesses in getting education out not only about bicycles, but also about fires and other things.

Chairperson Wroblewski asked if the Fire Department already worked with Safe Kids.

Captain Todd Lewis stated that the Fire Department did operate with the North Carolina Safe Kids Coalition through the Office of State Fire Marshal and that they already had a child safety seat program in place.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Member Ingling stated that in recent events concerning school safety, specifically the recent event where a shooter approached from the parking lot and the teacher was able to take the shooter down. He stated that he was wondering if they could examine K-5 and look at the schools to see if there was an active shooter policy or an ability to do a lock down on the school remotely from the office. He stated that he knew teachers were out helping kids get in the cars at the end of the day, but was there any teachers looking at the big picture that stay back looking for the big threat coming to the school. He also wanted to know if they had communications with the office to notify them if they saw something unusual so they could lock down the school.

Member Buckley stated that the day after the shooting, they did practice one of their Code Red drills and they locked down the school. He stated that in talking with the teachers, they actually took the kids away from the doors and windows and held them in a corner so that if someone looked in through the doors or windows, they actually couldn't see the kids. He stated that the principal went around to the doors and jingled them to see if any of the kids would make any noises. He stated that this was at Morrisville Elementary. He stated that they could not lock down electronically, but he noticed that they did have radios when they did the carpools.

Member Ingling stated that he was wondering if they should take a look at all the schools in Morrisville.

Member Vicki Scroggins-Johnson stated that Wake County Public Schools had a policy on alerts. She stated that at her daughter's school, they had a real yellow alert in regard to a shooter that robbed a bank or a store very close to the school. She stated that at her daughter's school, they locked all the external doors, closed the windows and blinds and shut off the lights. She stated that she knew that there were real practices, but it was just of matter of knowing what was that chain of command and how did you cue them at Cedar Fork since it's very close to the Police Department.

Member Ingling asked what the person's name was in charge of school security.

Captain Charles Wilson stated that he didn't know the guys name but there was a gentleman that came to his Department and spoke to Captain Sykes while he was out of the office. He stated that the gentleman gave her an overview of everything about all the schools. He stated that what they would have to do was get up with him anytime they wanted to do some kind of training in that particular school and notify him in advance and he would provide them with all the information so that they would be familiar with the schools. Captain Wilson stated that he didn't get a chance to talk to him.

Member Ingling stated that he wondered if the guy could come out to talk to them about any questions they may have. He asked if there was a standard approach to testing the doors for lock down, active shooter communications, and procedures in place for the schools in case we had an incident. He stated that we could possibly have a 3rd party take a look at our schools.

Chairperson Wroblewski asked if the Committee was interested in something like that, then would they work that through Police Department.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that the Police Department could take the lead on organizing this. He stated that we could have someone from Wake County come out to talk to the Committee about the procedures and how they work.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated he would need to get with the Police Department about another aspect of it which was to see what was our response plan to situations at schools that involved a potential for a lockdown or an activity that would require sequestering a group of students in the school. He stated that they could come back and give a presentation to the Committee about what their process and procedure was, how they operated, and what training they have had or had scheduled. He stated that we could first address this issue with the Police Department and following their information, if the Committee still had concerns, then we could get someone from Wake County to come out and talk with them. He stated that Wake County could come out and discuss their policies with the Committee so that they were familiar with them and that would give them a chance to exchange and interchange ideas.

Vice Chairperson Leon Washington asked if Wake County had a policy that was consistent with the State's policy.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that he was not sure about this. He stated that we would need to speak with Wake County about that.

Chairperson Wroblewski stated that Committee members should come poised with their questions. He asked if staff would take this back through the Police Department and advise.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that they would shoot to have this information available for the May meeting.

Chairperson Wroblewski stated that he heard DOT's going to be shutting down the railroad crossing on Morrisville Parkway for almost a year.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that the State had received notification of funding through President Obama's Administration, the stimulus package, where they would be converting the crossing to a grade separated crossing. He stated that they had not received any specifics for that project yet; it had just been announced that it was going to happen. He stated that in the original plan when the TTA was contemplating doing the same thing, there were plans for a detour. He said the Town tried to take advantage of those detour funds and apply them to the extension of Town Hall Drive to Crabtree Crossing, but that plan had been taken off the table. He said that he could only assume that there would be some provision for a detour.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that the Town was having a series of public hearings on the expected closing of Barbee Road. There was going to be a hearing that coming Tuesday. He stated that if anyone had any concerns or comments, then that would be the time to make them.

Chairperson Wroblewski stated that in the article about the closing of Morrisville Parkway there was also a notification about the Barbee Road closing.

Senior Director of Community and Emergency Services Chiotakis stated that we were in the budget season and staff was working to start preparing their FY2011 budgets. He stated that there was a budget calendar posted on the website. He stated that it was not looking terribly bad, but however he would say that very cautiously because the sales tax revenue continued to erode and that was about 20 percent of our budget. He stated that our initial look at revenue projections, estimated year end expenses, looked favorable to be somewhat in balance without having to use money out of the savings account or fund balance but that was not a guarantee yet. He stated that we were looking for a lean year in FY2011. He stated that there would not be a lot of new things happening.

Street Superintendent Jim Grimstead stated that he checked on the question about the speed limit signs on Davis Drive and they were still putting up signs out there. He stated that they had poles up for speed limit signs, but as of last Friday they had not put them up yet, but they were coming. He stated that it was a slow process.

Chairperson Wroblewski stated that they did a good job on the roads for the big snow. He stated that they were at it pretty hard with the plowing.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

No Committee comments

10. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION:

Chairperson Wroblewski adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Vice Chairperson Leon Washington

Secretary to the Committee

Date

Date