

MINUTES

Special Joint Meeting of the Pullman Police Advisory Committee and
Washington State University Police Advisory Board

April 12, 2010 at 5:30 pm

Pullman Police Department Briefing Room

The special joint meeting of the Pullman Police Advisory Committee and the WSU Police Advisory Board was held at 5:30pm on Monday, April 12th, 2010, in the Briefing Room, Pullman Police Department, 260 SE Kamiaken Street, Pullman, Washington, with Committee Chair Arlene Parkay and Board Chair Kim Barrett presiding.

ROLL CALL

Pullman Police Advisory Committee

Present:	Arlene Parkay	WSU Staff & Faculty Representative & Chair
	Zach Hays	WSU Staff & Faculty Alternate
	Barbara Hammond	College Hill Representative
	KNona Liddell	College Hill Alternate
	Marcus Crossler	Military Hill Representative
	Phyllis Stallcop	Sunnyside Hill Representative
	Al Sorensen	Business Community Alternate
	Kim Barrett	Multicultural Representative
	Riley Myklebust	ASWSU Representative
	Dan Hornfelt	Pullman School District Representative
	Bill Hawbaker	Pullman High School Parent Representative
Absent:	Matt Nobles	Military Hill Alternate
	Richard Hume	Pioneer Hill Representative
	Greg Wilson	Pioneer Hill Alternate
	Mike Lowery	Business Community Representative
	DaVina Hoyt	Multicultural Alternate
	Patrick Horton	ASWSU Alternate
	Dallin Larsen	Pullman High School Representative
	Alex Wilson	Pullman High School Alternate
Staff:	Chief Weatherly	

Washington State University Police Advisory Board

Present:	Kim Barrett	Chair
	Mary Anderson	
	Zach Hays	
	Rich Villa	
	Steve Gill	
	Cathy Bergley	
	Arlene Parkay	
	Josh Hart	

Washington State University Police Advisory Board (continued)

Absent: Joan Oviawe
Hanna Smaha
Bill Arnold
Brian Shuffield
Sam Armstrong
Kasey Webster
Eileen Brady
Donna Arnold
Edwin Hamada
Heidi Stanton

Staff: Chief Gardner

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. The meeting had a quorum.

MINUTES The Pullman Police Advisory Board had meeting minutes ready for approval. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 8th meeting passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS Discussion of potential participation in the upcoming Lentil Festival.
Lentil Festival For two years, the Pullman Police Advisory Committee (PAC) has
August 20-22, 2010 had an informational booth at the Lentil Festival. In 2009, the
informational booth was operated jointly with the WSU Police
Advisory Board (PAB).

Members discussed features of the booth in years past and what features they would like to see incorporated in the future. Members expressed support for the idea of hosting the booth again this year. Parkay advised that a signup sheet would be available at future meetings for members to volunteer to man the booth during various time slots. It was noted that having ASWSU participation in this would be extremely helpful in engaging student participation in the booth.

REGULAR BUSINESS Barrett distributed a handout and discussed the series public forums
WSU Police Forums hosted by the WSU PAB throughout the school year on the WSU
Campus, WSU Police: Face to Face Forums. The sixth and final
forum of the series will be held tomorrow, April 13th.

Barrett emphasized that the intent of these forums was to promote face to face interactions between WSU students, community members, and the police officers, and that the forums were successful in promoting those interactions.

Barrett summarized each of the five forums that had already been held, highlighting the successes as well as the lessons learned to be applied to future forums. The forums held so far in the 2009-2010 academic year were:

- Non-Lethal: Action and Response
 - Highlights included a WSU intern being tased, as well as discussion and demonstration of other non-lethal options.
- Crime Scene/Victim Rights and Myth Busting C.S.I.
 - Highlights included a mock crime scene, as well as discussion of rights both for victims of crime and those accused of committing a crime
- Drug Dog: The Nose Knows!
 - Whitman County Sheriff's Office brought in a drug dog, Bosco, who successfully located drugs hidden in the facility, as well as specific Q & A time with the public about how the police department responds to certain situations.
- Field Sobriety Tests: The Sobering Truth
 - Individuals who had been administered different amounts of alcohol in a controlled environment performed field sobriety tests in front of the audience, as well as a pouring demonstration to highlight true alcohol content and consumption levels.
- Reporting Assaults: Breaking the Culture of Silence
 - A verbal fight was staged in front of the audience, and then the police walked the audience through the steps of the investigation, highlighting the challenges posed by multiple witnesses, perspectives, and conflicting information.

The forum scheduled for tomorrow night is a panel discussion, too include:

- a drug/alcohol abuse counselor who was formally a student and an alcoholic;
- a police officer
- a current student currently facing disciplinary action through student conduct

Chief Gardner discussed the positive impact of the forums on the department and the relationship with the community. He advised that this was the first program of its kind that the WSU Police Department had participated in, and he believed it was successful both in that it changed perceptions both for the community and for officers and that it led to an increased interest in the department and what it actually means to be police officer at WSU. There was an increased interest in the WSU Police Department Intern Program, jumping from approximately 22 interns to 38 interns, and an increased applicant pool.

A member asked about how the forums were funded or would be funded in the future. Barrett indicated that various organizations helped offset the cost of hosting the forums: the C.U.B. donated facility space for hosting the forums, Health and Wellness helped cover cost of advertising, ASWSU contributed to other needs. They are looking for other departments and organizations to sponsor the costs.

A member asked about whether any type of official feedback mechanism had been utilized. Barrett indicated that there hadn't been, and that they were looking into a couple different options for future forums.

Discussion was opened up for possible topic ideas or other suggestions for future forums. One member suggested a forum focused on the issue of sexual assault and the mechanisms of making that kind of report and the community resources available to victims of that type of crime could be valuable. Another member suggested a topic of when to call 911, including differentiation between what constitutes a 911 emergency and who to call with non-emergencies, as well as what to expect when you do call 911 (the types of questions you will be asked, etc.).

REGULAR BUSINESS
Taxicab Licensing
Ordinance & Potential
impact on WSU
population

Discussion of the recently passed Pullman City Ordinance requiring the licensing of taxicab companies and drivers operating within the City of Pullman. Parkay provided a brief background of the effort and process that led to getting the ordinance passed.

Chief Weatherly provided an update on actual costs associated with the background check provisions of the ordinance. He advised that the Pullman PD learned it would not be able to complete the criminal history checks on the free law enforcement database, due to Washington State Patrol (WSP) guidelines prohibiting the use of the database for non-criminal purposes, which would include licensing. To meet the background requirements of the ordinance, the Pullman PD would have to utilize an outside vendor. Weatherly advised that the department originally anticipated the costs at approximately \$78 per applicant, but then learned that the costs will actually be \$138 per applicant just for running the background through the outside vendor. Weatherly reiterated that Pullman PAC members had repeatedly expressed that they didn't want the taxicab license to be cost prohibitive for taxicab companies doing business in Pullman, and advised that he had included that recommendation in his final presentation to City Council. Subsequently, Weatherly advised that the Washington State Legislature passed a new law that entitles law enforcement access to the database for licensing purposes. This law goes into effect on June 10, 2010.

In the meantime, Weatherly advised that the department is now accepting applications from the taxicab companies, but that the licenses cannot be issued until the City Council votes to set the application fee. Weatherly advised that based on the new law, he modified his price recommendation to the City Council to just the labor costs (Sergeant: 1 hour/Support Services: .25 hours), approximately \$50-\$65 for an initial application, and significantly less for a renewal. Once the City Council passes a resolution setting the application fees and the new law takes effect on June 10th, the department can process the applications and look to set an enforcement date.

Weatherly also advised of additional steps that have been taken to assist in administering and launching this new ordinance. He advised that Sgt. Dornes has communicated and traveled for training with other jurisdictions licensing taxicabs. In one location, the fees are \$182 a year plus fees for testing and vehicle inspections. In comparison, Weatherly believes what is being proposed for Pullman is very reasonable. Weatherly acknowledged that the process has taken some time, but that the City and the department want to get it right, efficient, and reasonable from the get go, and then move into implementation and enforcement.

Parkay reviewed the Pullman PAC's initial criteria for the taxicab ordinance:

- Background checks for drivers
- Safety check or certification for vehicles
- Fees to be posted prominently
- Photo of driver posted prominently

Parkay reiterated that all of these elements were incorporated into the ordinance that was ultimately passed by the City Council.

A member asked if there was any clarification on the issue of whether limo drivers fell under the authority of the ordinance. Weatherly advised that the ordinance does apply to limo drivers, but does not apply to bus drivers.

Another member asked how much the City of Moscow charges for taxicab licensing. Weatherly advised that he believed it was \$15 per driver and \$20 for the company.

A member asked if a student or other community member has a concern about a taxicab driver, company, or vehicle, whether there was a number that they could call or another mechanism to file a complaint. Weatherly advised that the individual can either contact the police department to make a complaint or they could choose to contact the taxicab company and try to sort it out through the owner.

In some matters, it may be a civil matter that isn't addressed by the ordinance.

Parkay opened up the issue for public comment prior. An audience member asked a couple questions, including about how the ordinance would be enforced for people not caught or convicted of a crime yet. Weatherly advised that the ordinance does not require a conviction, so if an individual is brought to the attention of the department, they would look into the matter, and the license could be denied.

A member asked about provisions against selling drugs or distributing alcohol to minors out of a taxicab. Weatherly advised that is already a crime addressed by state RCW.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Energy drinks & alcohol

Weatherly discussed the growing concern of drug and alcohol counselors, law enforcement, EMS and hospital professionals about the trend of combining energy drinks and alcohol. The problem is that caffeine keeps the drinker awake, so they ingest more alcohol, and therefore their blood-alcohol levels are much higher without the individual necessarily being aware of it.

The legal blood-alcohol level in Washington is 0.08 for driving a vehicle and is considered impaired. Typically, a blood-alcohol level of 0.15 is considered drunk, while 0.20 to 0.25 is considered severely intoxicated. Once an individual's blood-alcohol level is above 0.25, the concern becomes about the health of the individual, as alcohol poisoning and potential organ failure can occur. Recently, emergency responders in Pullman have dealt with individuals with blood-alcohol levels well above 0.25, and as high as 0.40. Weatherly believes if this trend continues, someone will die.

Weatherly discussed the options for addressing the problem. One local bar, Rico's, prohibits mixing energy drinks with alcohol as an in-house policy; however, the rest of the bars in town do serve mixed drinks. Weatherly pointed out that even if bars were legislated, it wouldn't stop the problem because individuals could still mix the drinks. Therefore, Weatherly believes the effective method to counteract this trend is by educating the public on the dangers.

Weatherly spoke in Olympia in favor of prohibition of a specific new beverage that was coming onto the market that blends an energy drink and 12% alcohol beer in one can; however, that law did not pass. Weatherly advised that he did speak in favor of legislation in this instance because the product will be readily available in grocery stores and specifically targets the beer market and would appeal to the student population of Pullman.

Chief Gardner advised that his agency has seen a near doubling of an average portable breath test (PBT) reading in the field, as well as being inundated by detoxification calls. Weatherly advised that the fire department and hospital staff verify increase in numbers for detoxification issues. Several members expressed interest in getting some sort of numbers or statistics about this issue, and Weatherly advised that he would look into it.

Parkay suggested making an educational flyer related to this issue to have available at the Lentil Festival, as well as an educational forum and incorporation into the Residential Life orientation programs. A member asked student representatives for their input as to what type of outreach would have the most impact, since they get inundated by a lot of similar information from various groups on and off campus. One of the students advised that they think that the actual numbers and simple facts would carry the most weight. One person suggested including the hospital costs for a detox event. Another person suggested trying to find someone who has been through the detox experience who would be willing to share their experience.

A member mentioned that students won't just come to the events; the events have to go to the students: presentations in classrooms, getting professors to give credit for attending forums, coordinate with Greek life and ASWSU programs to generate student involvement. A member brought up the fact that getting the message presented once isn't enough for retention and action; the message needs to be repeated and come from various sources and medias. A member suggested a Facebook page about this issue inviting all WSU students to join the group.

As an aside, a member suggested another forum topic would be safety on Facebook and the internet, and shared a scam story about someone gleaning info from Facebook and then contacting and scamming family members. Another member mentioned people posting information online when they were going to be out of town and then returning home to discover that they had been burglarized. Members discussed way of making educational efforts relevant and engaging for the student population.

A member asked about responsibilities of businesses who serve the mixed concoction and any potential liability. Weatherly advised that typically they only face liability if there is evidence of over-serving. A member mentioned that part of the problem is that the combination of the energy drinks and alcohol masks some of the clues that bartenders are trained to recognize as signs of intoxication.

At a member's request, Weatherly and Gardner provided a quick

REGULAR BUSINESS

Future collaboration

debriefing about criminal activity on WSU Mom's Weekend. Members discussed ideas for future collaboration between the Pullman PAC and the WSU PAB. Ideas included:

- Lentil Festival
- WSU Police Forums for 2010-2011 academic year
- Another joint meeting in the fall (possibly October 2010)
- All-campus picnic

CONSTITUENCIES**POLL****Pullman Police Advisory Committee:**

A member requested an update on the rental property owner registration, and the resulting landlord notification process if certain emergencies and/or criminal activity occurred at the rental property. Weatherly advised that staff is working on entering the final large apartment complex into the law enforcement database, and that the process for landlord notification is in place. Weatherly advised that the notification may not be made immediately, but is part of the police report process.

Parkay took a moment to acknowledge the hard work that Pullman PD administrative assistant Spencer has provided to the committee.

WSU Police Advisory Board:

A member distributed a handout about the safety blue light booths on campus. The update is that campus will be adding seven new blue lights.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was interspersed throughout this meeting.

NEXT MEETING**Pullman Police Advisory Committee:**

Monday, May 10th, at 5:30 pm

WSU Police Advisory Board:

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

Parkay entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion for adjournment was seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

ATTEST:


Chair, Pullman Police Advisory Committee

 6/29/10
Chair, WSU Police Advisory Board

 6/30/10
Secretary, Pullman Police Advisory Committee