

**RIVERTON CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE AREA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2020**

The Riverton City Law Enforcement Service Area Board convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Riverton City Municipal Building, 12830 South 1700 West, Riverton Utah.

Present:

Sheldon Stewart
Troy McDougal
Tawnee McCay
Tish Buroker
Claude Wells

Staff:

Don Hutson, Police Chief
Joy Johnson, Deputy City Recorder
Ryan Carter, City Attorney
Trace Robinson, City Engineer
Kevin Hicks, Administrative Ser.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:08 p.m.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Monthly Report – Chief Hutson.

Police Chief, Don Hutson publicly acknowledged and offered condolences on behalf of the City to the Herriman Police Department who recently lost Hondo, their canine officer, during a police operation. Hondo came from the Unified Police Department (“UPD”) where he had an illustrious career. Hondo continued his great work with the Herriman Police Department along with his handler Sergeant Ben Ricks. Hondo and Sergeant Ricks were assigned to a Federal Marshal’s Task Force that tracks down dangerous fugitives. The circumstance was eerily similar to a circumstance that occurred a few years earlier with the Assistant Chief from Herriman, Chad Reyes, and his dog Dingo who were chasing a dangerous fugitive when the dog was shot. The investigation was ongoing.

It was reported that the Herriman canine officer was in Salt Lake City because of the association with the task force. Every effort was made to save the dog’s life but he ultimately he succumbed to his injuries. Because the City has a great relationship with the Herriman Police Department, they were able to provide coverage so that all of their officers could support the handler and canine. Details on an upcoming ceremony would be forthcoming.

Chief Hutson stressed the importance of communication and stated that his intent is to be completely transparent. He would never want to give the impression that he is pushing back with regard to providing needed information. Chief Hutson provided his cell phone number to the Council and would make himself available any time day or night. Chief Hutson also addressed the need to keep some information private and be discerning in terms of what

information is appropriate to pass along. He wanted the Council to feel comfortable speaking to him about anything at any time.

Chief Hutson presented the monthly report and stated that January was fairly typical with 21 DUI arrests, which tied the record set in December. There had been nearly DUI arrests in the department's seven months of existence. They have made a concerted effort to ensure that those on roadways are not impaired. Investigative traffic stops are made regularly that often lead to drug and DUI arrests.

Chief Hutson reported that the number of citations issued increased to 300. There was also a slight increase in fraud-related cases. In the monthly newsletter his message focused on the demographic in Riverton that is susceptible to scam artists. They often call on the phone and try to convince individuals to send them money. He stressed that these individuals are difficult to prosecute and identify.

Drug arrests remained about the same with marijuana being the most common followed by methamphetamines, heroine, and cocaine.

A question was raised about the value of issuing 300 tickets. Chief Hutson reported that the most frequent complaint received from citizens pertains to speeding. Consistent with that is their strategic priority that ensures that the officers want to have a visible public safety presence in neighborhoods. He pointed out that there is nothing more visible than a traffic stop. It has an effect on every driver that passes by and encourages them to slow down. Chief Hutson pointed out that citations are not intended to increase revenue and quotas are not established in the City; however, it is the best display of presence and addresses the most common complaint the Police Department receives. Officers focus their time on areas where there is traffic is heavier and they make multiple stops in a short period of time. Doing so has a residual impact and results in slower speeds throughout the City.

The comment was made that if the City has an unstated objective to raise revenue by writing tickets, they were doing a poor job. Based on the number of tickets written for speeding, most are for 15 MPH hour over the speed limit, which carries with it the smallest bail schedule. If the City wanted to collect as much revenue as possible from tickets they would not be engaged in that practice and would charge based on actual speed. It was noted that officers have wide discretion in terms of what they think is just when they are on duty.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2020.

Council Member Buroker moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDougal. Vote on motion: Council Member McDougal-Aye, Council Member Wells-Aye, Council Member Buroker-Aye, Council Member McCay-Aye, Council Member Stewart-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member McCay moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDougal. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.

Approved: RLESA 03-17-20