

Observer Report

Committee: Human Services and City Council (joint meeting)

Date: February 7, 2017

Observer: Dorrie Lloyd-Still

Present: Human Services Committee: Tendam (chair), Braithwaite, Fiske, Holmes, Miller, Revelle
Mayor Tisdhal, Clerk Greene, Rainey, Wilson, Wynne

Staff Present: Bobkiewicz; Hemenway; Whyte; Ogbo; Ford; Chief Eddington; other police officers

Meeting Began: 6:07 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 pm

The following items were accepted/approved (by Human Service Committee only) with no or minimal discussion:

- Meeting minutes of 12/5/16
- Stone Terrace Bed and Breakfast License Renewal
- Approval of 2017 Human services Meeting Dates
- Evanston Police Department - Diversity and Inclusion Retainer Agreement with Dr. Gilo Kwesi Logan, Logan Consulting Services LLC

Citizen Comment:

Two people spoke to the issue of rodent control, both stating that the only way to control rats is to control their access to food.

The major area of comments was the issue of race / police / community relations in the context of the recent release of the Crosby arrest video and the Reed arrest, with many people commenting. Comments included:

- need to address issue of building arrest record for minor incidents; arrest record hinders employment opportunities; need to help expunge existing records
- no faith in outcome of police complaint process because police control complaint process
- need for transparency in arrest / complaint process
- community and police have concern for public safety
- racism does exist in police department
- NU students are part of community and need to feel safe; lack of perception of public safety may hurt student recruitment
- need community voice in revising policies and procedures and the complaint process

Police Department Policies and Procedures Update

Bobkiewicz reviewed the history of Human Services Committee involvement in the issue of police / community relations. He then presented proposed updates, citing proposed revisions to policies and procedures and relating these updates to the comments and concerns expressed. He noted that Evanston has two civilian boards that review complaints regarding the conduct of police personnel. Members of the Evanston Police Advisory Committee are appointed by the Police Chief. Members of Citizens Police Advisory Committee are appointed by the Mayor. In addition, there are community groups that monitor police relations.

Mayor Tisdahl called for citizen involvement in the complaint process. Ald. Braithwaite discussed the cultural issues impacting the policies and procedures. Ald. Miller called for the Council to look at how the Corporate Council office acts as municipal prosecutor (related to difference in how charges handled in Crosby and Reed cases). Several alderman called for citizen involvement in review of policies and procedures. Interest was expressed in possibly sometimes hiring an independent investigator to review certain police complaints.