



Regular City Council Meeting
December 12, 2016; 7:00 PM

City Council Questions and Staff Response

From: Alderman Scott Black

Item No. 8C: Consideration of approving a Lease for a Police Sub-Station located at 828 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL.

Questions, in no particular order:

- 1) This idea has taken many different shapes over the years. Could you provide a narrative of how this lease came into being?
- 2) Why are we calling it a substation? Couldn't this be a community engagement location?
- 3) How does this building fit into our vision of community policing?
- 4) Will extra staff be required?
- 5) In the Pantagraph you stated "The new community substation reflects the Bloomington Police Department's commitment to strengthen community relations and enhance public safety". Could you go into more detail about this?
- 6) Could you walk us through other examples of locations/partnerships like this? What was the outcome?

Staff Response by Chief Brendan Heffner:

1) This idea has taken many different shapes over the years. Could you provide a narrative of how this lease came into being? **This lease came into being after MCCA modified their request for a residence for an officer to reside to a substation. The request had to approve by their board first. They had previously made request for an officer to live in a residence twice over a period of a year and a half. No real work began on the lease until this past summer.**

2) Why are we calling it a substation? Couldn't this be a community engagement location? **It is being called a substation because officers will have an opportunity to complete reports at the location and take breaks while in the area, hence the name. They obviously will be visible at the location which also serves as a crime deterrent. Important for the citizens who live in that area that have requested a substation since I assumed the position as the chief. It will not however be a place where will be conducting police business (i.e. interviews of suspects etc.), it's an opportunity for officers to reach out to and engage residents in the area and for**

residents to be able to engage us. We hope to really engage youth when possible because we have some issues with gang involvement at younger ages (as has all of the larger communities in Illinois) and we look to do what we can to decrease this in our city and our substation may help with that.

3) How does this building fit into our vision of community policing? **Just like all the other strategies we use for community policing (FOCUS meetings, educational summit, neighborhood walks, coffee with cops, working with youth organizations like Boys & Girls Club, Youth Build, Shop with a COP) and we plan engage in more when we can.**

4) Will extra staff be required? **NO**

5) In the Pantagraph you stated "The new community substation reflects the Bloomington Police Department's commitment to strengthen community relations and enhance public safety". Could you go into more detail about this? **Anytime we are more accessible to our citizens in a non-enforcement type of contact, they get to express their concerns to us in a non-confrontational manner, get to know us, and conversely we get to know them and the area better and just by being in the area can hopefully deter some of the crime.**

6) Could you walk us through other examples of locations/partnerships like this? What was the outcome? **This is a kind of new twist on the officer living in a residence situation so we will have to assess it after the lease would expire. The beauty of this is that it is requiring virtually no money to do this (alright \$12.00) and we have the opportunity to also make changes during the yearlong lease as needed (operationally). The city of Rockford uses a similar model and recently touted the success at some training regarding community engagement and partnerships that A-Chief Greg Scott attended. It's also important to know that MCCA has played a critical part in gathering information from residents in the area of the proposed substation and received overwhelming support of the idea. They also researched the positive impacts that similar partnerships have had in communities which was integral in them receiving funds for this endeavor.**

This collaboration with MCCA in line directly with the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report, Pillar Four: Community Policing and Crime Reduction.

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