



Office of the Mayor

Jim Paine, Mayor

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MEETING MINUTES

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 6:00 P.M. - CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Attendance: Deonne Nelson, Councilor Jenny Van Sickle, Deanna Reder
Mayor Paine, Chief Alexander, Nick Raverty, Shelley Nelson, Nicole Thole, Christine Reder

AGENDA:

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.
No quorum was reached for this meeting.

1. Roll Call
2. Elect officers for the Commission

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

3. Update from Chief Alexander on demographics and 2019 citations

Councilor Van Sickle opened with a statement on the history of people of color being disproportionately targeted during traffic stops, this pattern is traceable back to the initial widespread use of motor vehicles. She continued to touch on how most interactions with the police department take place in vehicles during traffic stops. Studies have shown people of color are stopped at a higher rate, but white people have more confiscations during stops. Affordable insurance is hard to people of color to obtain and maintain, which is further stratified by the fact that people of color make less money yearly. Councilor Van Sickle continued to stated poverty is lack of money, power, and relationships. People of color are less likely to contest a ticket.

Chief Alexander informed the Commission there were 3142 traffic citations given in 2019 (this is not the same as traffic stops). The state of Wisconsin has started studying the correlation of race to citations, and now race is recorded on all traffic citations. Although race is recorded on citations, it is the officer's discretion to identify race. Traffic citations broken down by race:

.8% Asian
3.1% Native American
5.6% Black
88.6% White

It is important to note that these statistics are based on traffic citations given in Superior, and does not mean all citations were given to Superior residents.

Commissioner Reder pointed out the percent of white versus black seems disproportionate to Superior's population – 3:1 ratio.

Chief Alexander noted it is difficult to analyze data based on these numbers, and may be more proportional if it were dug into on a case-by-case basis to identify Superior residents. Councilor Van Sickle asked what information is received when a license plate is ran during a traffic stop. Chief Alexander said officers receive basic information such as the owner's name, vehicle information, etc. They do not know the age, race, or other personal information until they approach the vehicle. Councilor Van Sickle asked if it was common for an individual to receive multiple tickets in one stop. Chief Alexander said it is not typical, but happens more frequently with DUI stops. Councilor Van Sickle asked if there is any truth to the rumor that police officers have a quota of tickets to meet in a period of time. Chief Alexander informed the Commission there is no benefit to officers who give out more tickets, and the state of Wisconsin prohibits quotas. Councilor Van Sickle inquired how the price for a ticket is determined. Chief Alexander stated the price is set at the state level for citations. Councilor Van Sickle asked if it is typical for multiple police vehicles to respond to a stop. Chief Alexander said that it is not needed, and should see 1-2 vehicles maximum. Officers should indicate over radio if they need assistance at a stop. SPD is working on training officers to minimize the number of squad cars at a stop, and back up is typically called after the initial approach of the vehicle. Commissioner Nelson asked if a female officer is brought to all female stops. Chief Alexander informed the Commission this does not happen at every stop, but is done for certain situations – namely assault and domestic violence, or when requested. Councilor Van Sickle inquired if DUI checkpoints are allowed in Superior. Chief Alexander stated they are not done in Superior or the state of Wisconsin.

4. Any other business

Mayor Paine informed the Commission that Chair Stephan Witherspoon has stepped down from the commission, but will continue to work closely with them and through NAACP. Mayor Paine also discussed a request from the Superior library to have assistance from the Commission on evaluating the library's accessibility and inclusiveness. The Commission will hold a meeting at the library in the future to evaluate and discuss.

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

The City of Superior complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are in need of an accommodation to participate in the public meeting process, please contact Nick Raverty at (715) 395-7212 by 4:30 pm on Tuesday **prior** to the scheduled meeting. The City will attempt to accommodate any request depending on the amount of notice we receive.

Notice is hereby given that a majority of the members of the Common Council may be present at the meeting, and although this may constitute a quorum of the Common Council, the Council will not take any action at this meeting.

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