

City of Cambridge

The Public Safety Committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, April 7, 1993 beginning at 7:05 p.m. in the Ackermann Room, City Hall.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the above referenced committee, convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this date's proceedings was to receive and discuss the annual crime statistics and to review the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Patrol Unit Staffing and Allocation in 1992. Present at the hearing were: Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.; Police Commissioner Perry L. Anderson, Jr.; Superintendents Walter L. Boyle and Harold F. Murphy, Jr.; Police Planner Raymond T. Santilli; Crime Analyst Richard F. Sevieri; and Deputy City Clerk John E. Flynn.

To begin the discussions, Councillor Myers stated the committee's desire to be a partner with the Police in organizing public awareness in crime prevention. He also stated that the committee would meet quarterly with the Commissioner and his staff to review on-going activities. Upon conclusion of his opening remarks, the Chair recognized Commissioner Anderson for his presentation.

Commissioner Anderson announced to the committee that serious crime witnessed an 8.2% decrease in Part One Crimes when compared to the 1992 total with that of 1991. He further noted that the 1992 Part One Crime Index of 5,951 incidents represented the lowest total reported by the City to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program in over twenty-five years. The Commissioner provided the following statistics for 1992 depicting the largest decline:

Murder	(-60%)
Burglary	(-28%)
Robbery	(-21%)
Rapes	(-13%)
Auto Theft	(-12%)

The Commissioner attributed these declines to heightened public awareness, cooperative ventures of the public and the police through the various neighborhood crime watches and greater police presence and visibility in the neighborhoods.

The Commissioner also noted that in May of 1993, thirty-eight recruits will enter the Police Academy and upon completion, will supplement the ranks of 225 uniformed personnel.

Councillor Myers inquired of the percentage of crimes reported to the police.

In response, the Commissioner estimated the national report rate to be in the vicinity of 40%, in Cambridge 70%, and also stated that nationally some 90% of rape, 60% of burglary and 60% of larceny goes unreported.

Councillor Myers in a follow-up inquired of the percentage of arrest to reported crime.

In response, the Commissioner estimated it to be about 50%.

Superintendent Boyle commented that in both burglary and robbery, one individual could be responsible for a series of breaks of thefts.

Mr. Sevieri noted that burglary was down some 1700-1800 incidents to 866 in 1992.

Councillor Myers inquired if the patrol officers are feeling that the streets are safer.

Superintendent Murphy responded in the affirmative. Mr. Sevieri concurred with the Superintendent Murphy's assessment but with the qualifier that those patrol officers with seven or eight years experience can bear witness to the fact. Commissioner Anderson also stated that at roll call, information is disseminated and through employee recognition awards the staff is better equipped for their assignments in service to the public.

At this time, Councillor Myers steered the discussion towards the CPD Patrol Unit Staffing and Allocation...1992. Mr. Sevieri proceeded to outline to the committee a series of overhead transparencies over a map of the city depicting the following:

- 1) Sector Cars - Areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, (All two officer vehicles) and their staffing patterns:

1	staffed	3.	
2	staffed	2.1	approximately 70%
3	staffed	3.	
6	staffed	2.1	approximately 70%
5	staffed	3.	

(3 = maximum; 2.1 = average, 7 out of 9 shifts)
13.2 units per day

2) Route Cars (1 officer in vehicle) and their staffing patterns:

1	staffed	2.6		
3	staffed	2.3		
2	staffed	.8		
A	staffed	.8	-	Power Shift
B	staffed	.8	-	Power Shift
5	staffed	.4		
6	staffed	.3		
23	staffed	2.9		
24	staffed	2.9		

13.8 units per day

Councillor Toomey inquired if the Power Shift (Alpha/Brava) was confined to only weekends.

Mr. Sevieri noted that it is staffed 8 out of 10 shifts.

3) Walking Routes and their staffing patterns:

19	staffed	.6
16	staffed	2.6
15,5	staffed	.4
16	staffed	2.5
14	staffed	1.7
10	staffed	2.6
12	staffed	2.3
11	staffed	.6
1	staffed	.3

(Central Square and Harvard Square - 3 walking routes 5.5 out of 9 per day)
41 units per day.

Councillor Myers inquired of the Power Shift.

Mr. Seveiri pointed to graphic to better illustrate the deployment of the Power Shift in the lower half of the city where 65% of the population resides and 55% of the crime is committed. (Areas 1, 2, and 3)

4) Additional street units - Drug, Investigatory, Traffic and Juvenile:

8a.m. - 4p.m.	19	4 p.m.-
7 - upper		3 - upper
12 - lower		7 - lower.

Conclusion - U.P.D. by Shift*

Last 1/2	12/8a.m.	13.2
Days	8a/4p	13.2
First 1/2	4p/midnight	14.6

*Average staffing over a 24 hour period over past 14 months.

Councillor Toomey stated that the numbers overall appeared satisfactory but was concerned about particular incidents that jeopardies both the public and the police.

The Commissioner concurred with Councillor Toomey's concern and stated that he was looking at a number of issues to resolve those concerns. He further stated that the additional officers would trigger a new staffing configuration; attempts are underway to decrease sick time; working on vacation revamp; and looking at command schedules to include Captains being assigned to weekends.

Councillor Toomey cited his concern regarding the activities at the Galleria Mall and its overspill into the East Cambridge neighborhood.

Commissioner Anderson, Superintendent Boyle and Superintendent Murphy each concurred with the Councillor's observation and stated that they are presently working with mall management and personnel to address these issues.

Councillor Toomey inquired if more young people are carrying more weapons on their person.

Commissioner Anderson responded in the negative stating that no more weapons than before are being confiscated but there are more serious incidents and activities occurring.

Councillor Myers noted that this is reflective of the changing of times.

Superintendent Boyle stated that the command staff is working with the Mayor and school administrators to deal with incidents at the High School. He stated that a message must go out from the City Council that weapons will not be tolerated and that the city will prosecute to the highest degree. He also stated that prevention should also be instilled in the home.

Councillor Myers noted his concurrence with the School Department's expulsion policy and stated that the Mayor has delivered Superintendent Boyle's message via cable.

Councillor Myers thanked the Commissioner and his staff for the presentation with regards to the patrol division. He noted that the statistics showed that more than 25 officers are on duty per shift.

Councillor Myers then inquired of the status of civilian hirings.

The Commissioner in response stated that at present, attention is being paid to the hiring of police officers.

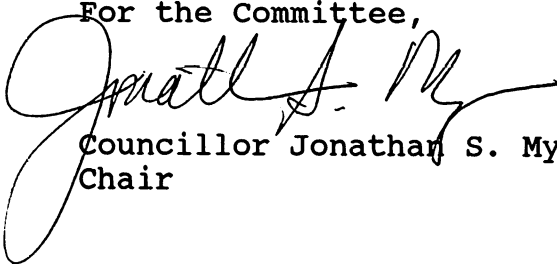
Councillor Myers then inquired of the state of police technology in the department.

Mr. Santilli stated that until the decisions surrounding the CAD and enhanced 911 are made by the Manager, everything is on hold.

Councillor Myers thanked all who participated in this evening's proceedings.

The hearing adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

S-206

Public Safety Committee Report for a hearing held on Wednesday, April 7, 1993 regarding the annual crime statistics and to review the Cambridge Police Department Patrol Unit Staffing and Allocation in 1992.

In City Council,

May 3, 1993

*Report accepted
Placed on file*