

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2003  
VILLAGE MANAGER'S OFFICE**

**Members in Attendance:**

Sue McConnell, Commissioner  
Stan Urban, Commissioner  
Enza Petrarca, Village Attorney  
Chief Robert Porter, Police  
Deputy Chief Kurt Bluder, Police

Deputy Chief Pam Church, Police  
Chief Phil Ruscetti, Fire  
Deputy Chief Jim Jackson, Fire

Howard Hoffman, Div. Chief, FPB

Commissioner McConnell stated that she would like to discuss the Mission Statement for the Public Safety Committee. This statement should reflect what the committee is about. After some discussion, the committee decided to take the word "sub" out before the word "committee", and to add "which is" before the word "established". Enza Petrarca stated she would make the necessary changes. The Mission Statement shall read as follows:

"The Public Safety Committee, which is established by authority of the Village Council of Downers Grove, is committed to assisting the public safety agencies of the Village, by providing guidance and support in their efforts to protect the lives, property and individual rights of all citizens."

Commissioner McConnell said she would like to discuss trends and types of calls the Fire and Police Departments have been experiencing.

Chief Ruscetti said that the Fire Department is working services for the elderly. He has been working with Healthy DuPage on receiving grant money. The Chief stated that a majority of their ambulance calls are for the elderly. He also stated that the community is becoming older. He would like to see programs set up county-wide for the elderly. Healthy DuPage would be writing the grants and the Chief has asked County if they would help with legal issues. This is an ongoing objective.

Chief Ruscetti said that Fire Prevention is another area in which he would like to improve. He would like to bring up the fire codes in the Village. The Fire Chief introduced Howard Hoffman, who has been named as the New Division Chief of Fire Prevention. Mr. Hoffman stated that he also wants to make sure that all buildings in Downers Grove are up to, or brought up to code. There was a short discussion on the Masonic Temple and the use of the building.

Chief Porter stated that the Police Department is also working on programs for the elderly. There are six Elderly Service Officers in the department. These officers are very busy. The senior cell program has been very successful. The department would like to re-implement the Senior Citizen Police Academy.

Chief Porter said that the department would be hiring two new officers shortly. One position will be unfrozen and one of the current officers is leaving the middle of August. The Chief would like to get up to full strength. Deputy Chief Church said that one current issue is the lack of space for parking forfeited vehicles. These vehicles have to be locked in a fenced area.

One important issue is the development in the downtown area and what the needs will be and what impact there will be on the Police Department in calls for service. Officers are spending a great deal of time in the downtown area. Calls for service are up in this area.

Sue McConnell said that the domestic violence issue is also very important. The COP officers follow up on all cases and Social Services also follows up. Family Shelter is looking at Downers Grove as a potential site for a facility.

There being nothing further to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The committee will meet on September 2, 2003, at 5:30 p.m. with the Fire Department. The committee will meet alternately with the Fire and Police Departments every month.