

**STUDY SESSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY COUNCIL**

5th Floor of City Hall

6801 Delmar

May 13, 2019

AGENDA

Requested by the City Manager

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The City Council Study Session was held in Council Chambers on the fifth floor of City Hall, on Monday, May 13, 2019. In Mayor Crow's absence, Mayor Pro Tem, Paulette Carr called the Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Mayor Pro Tem, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance was City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan Jr.; Director of Economic Development, Libbey Tucker, and Chief of Police, Larry Hampton.

2. CHANGES TO REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA

Mr. Rose requested that the City Manager's Report (K) be moved up on the agenda to after section G.

3. EDRST GRANT GUIDELINES

Mr. Rose stated this first item, which will address some of the work that staff has accomplished with the EDRST Board, is being presented to Council by the Economic Director, Libbey Tucker.

Ms. Tucker stated the EDRST Board met in March and April. At the March meeting, the Board agreed that the guidelines established in 2013 adequately outlined the criteria needed for evaluating funding requests, and made the following changes to the Funding Matrix; a scoring system used to consistently evaluate applications:

- Addition of a subcategory to identify which category within the State Statute the funding request is addressing to ensure that we are meeting the requirements
- Addition of a category to determine whether the applicant has received previous funding
- Addition of a category that identifies the number of full and part-time jobs the project would create, and the salary range

Mayor Pro Tem Carr asked when the Board would start receiving applications and when she anticipated they would render their recommendations to Council? Ms. Tucker stated applications are due on May 31st. She is working to do more outreach to the community to broaden the application base.

Thereafter, they will be reviewed by staff through June 14th and they will be presented to the Board at their June 18th meeting, where each applicant will be asked to make a presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Carr asked if the applications would be brought to Council for budgeting purposes?

Mr. Rose stated one of the good things about Missouri is that municipalities can amend their budgets at any time. So the intent is to ask for an amendment after staff has had an opportunity to review the applications and exercised sound judgment about the projects that might be approved by Council.

Councilmember Clay stated if his memory serves him correctly, for many years there have been dollars within the EDRST budget dedicated to Olive that for various reasons have never been utilized. Were there any conversations about that aspect of the funding? Ms. Tucker stated she was able to determine from the minutes that approximately \$350,000 had been dedicated to Olive.

Mr. Rose stated an issue of concern is the ability to do a better job of ensuring that once a project is approved, those funds get carried forward. Because if funds are not transferred within the budget year they are approved in, that money reverts back to the fund balance. Last year staff created a list of projects where the balances needed to be carried forward, and if the Olive Corridor Project falls within this category he suspects that staff will make a new request for the EDRST Board's recommendation and Council's approval.

Councilmember Smotherson asked if there were any specific projects that the Board wanted to maintain? Ms. Tucker stated that the Board is basically starting over from scratch this year with new applications, and as a result, she has conducted a lot of community outreach to help broaden the scope of applicants. She stated members of the School Board identified the need to focus on workforce development type projects and the EDRST Board agreed to increase their efforts in that regard.

Councilmember Cusick posed the following questions:

Q. When did the Board start accepting applications?

Ms. Tucker stated the application process commenced on April 22nd.

Q. Has a timeline been established for when the Board's recommendations will be submitted to Council?

Mr. Rose stated the first step is to obtain a consensus from Council regarding their acceptance of the EDRST guidelines that have been established. And then, once staff has evaluated the applications and submitted them to the Board they will have a better sense of what the timeline is going to look like.

Ms. Tucker stated since Council will only have one meeting in July and August, it will probably be August before these projects are submitted to Council.

Q. To date, how many applications have been received?

Ms. Tucker stated although she has had meetings with several applicants regarding the requirements, she has not received any applications.

Q. If this round of applications are approved and funds are still available, is there an opportunity to conduct a second application process perhaps in the fall, to attract more applicants?

Mr. Rose stated his belief is that once the guidelines are in place and if funding is still available, the Board can conduct a reapplication process as often as they would like.

Ms. Tucker noted that the Board has had discussions about conducting a second round of applications starting in the fall.

Q. The guidelines states that *"At least 25 percent of the revenue shall be used annually for administrative purposes"*. Is staff performing those administrative duties, and if so, what do they consist of?

Mr. Rose stated even though the total 25 percent is not utilized, a majority of those administrative costs are used to supplement the salary, benefits, recruitment efforts, travel, and participation fees, specific to the Director of Economic Development. A major conference Ms. Tucker will be attending this year in Las Vegas is the ICSC Conference; International Council of Shopping Centers, which is essential to economic development. Mr. Rose stated he typically attends this conference every other year.

Councilmember Smotherson stated most of us are aware that the City has started losing some of its businesses, especially on Olive. So have any strategies been developed to help retain the City's existing businesses? Ms. Tucker stated something staff is working on in conjunction with the applications for EDRST funds, is to reinstate the Facade Improvement and Small Business Lending Programs. The hope is that these programs will assist in closing some of the gaps businesses might face and help them continue their operations. And as a part of her outreach program, she has had the opportunity to meet with businesses and establish relationships that ultimately, will lead to better communication and advanced knowledge about the types of resources they might be in need of.

Mr. Rose stated another project underway is the development of an Economic Development Strategy. And as a part of that strategy Council will be asked to determine the types of businesses they would like to see staff focus their recruitment efforts on, as well as any existing business this body believes, has the potential to expand, and should be nurtured.

Councilmember McMahon questioned whether Council would be given all of the applications to review or only the applications that staff and the EDRST Board have agreed on? Mr. Rose stated the intent is to provide Council with every application, along with the recommendations of the EDRST Board and staff; which he hopes will all be on the same accord. Councilmember McMahon asked if that would also include applications that the Board and staff have deemed to be not in compliance with the statute? Mr. Rose stated based on his interpretation of the statute, it is pretty broad and tolerates a variety of projects. However, if Council feels that an application needs further evaluation to determine conformity, dependence will be placed on the City Attorney to render a legal opinion.

Councilmember Smotherson asked whether the Board and staff had given any consideration to projects that might include the dispensing of medical marijuana?

City Attorney, John Mulligan stated tonight's Council agenda includes a Zoning text amendment that deals with medical marijuana and designates the districts in which uses will be permitted. So while this is the first phase of the process, there may be some additional regulations at the municipal level because the State is still in the final stages of drafting regulations that will govern the issuance of licenses to dispensaries; the type of business to most likely be located in U City.

Mr. Mulligan stated there will be a certain amount of preemptions at the State level and the City won't have much control over the licensees, other than zoning or other controls to the extent they are not inconsistent with the Constitutional Amendment and State Statute. So if Council wanted to make this a part of their economic development process, the next step would be to identify businesses that have a license issued by the State and attempt to recruit them to conduct that business in U City; because at this stage of the game, U City is probably ahead of most municipalities in terms of identifying the districts where these businesses may be located.

Councilmember Clay stated he wanted to be clear that the goal is for staff to work with the EDRST Board and hopefully reach a consensus on the projects that warrant a recommendation? Mr. Rose stated it could become very problematic if Council were to receive two different sets of recommendations. So staff's objective should always be to work with the EDRST Board, or any of the City's Boards and Commissions, to reconcile any differences of opinion prior to coming before Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Carr asked Mr. Rose what he would like to receive from Council in terms of the funding guidelines established by the EDRST Board? Mr. Rose stated if Council is satisfied with the guidelines as presented, and have no changes, he would take that as a consensus from Council that they are in agreement with what has been presented.

Hearing no requests for changes to the guidelines, Mayor Pro Tem Carr noted Council's consensus.

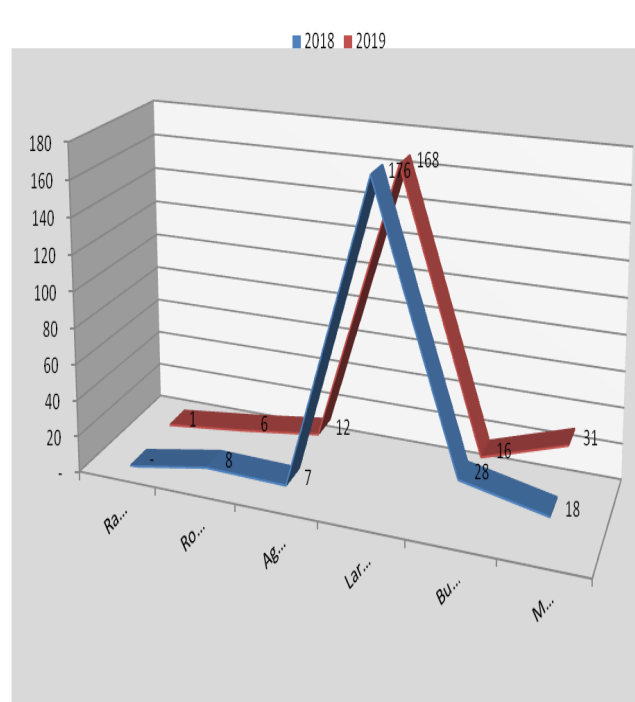
4. CRIME STATISTICS

Mr. Rose stated staff has routinely been asked to keep Council abreast of the City's crime statistics, and that data will be presented by Chief Hampton.

2018/2019 - 1st Quarter Crime Comparison *(January of 2018 through March of 2019)*

Part 1 Crimes by Incident Type

Part 1 Crimes consist of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary, and vehicle thief's.



Part 1 Crimes by Incident Type

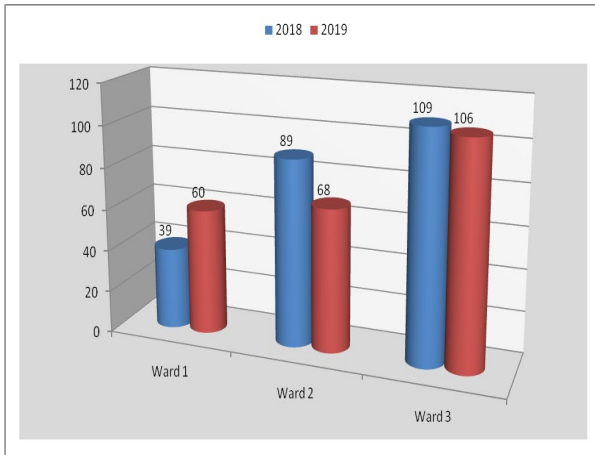
- In 2017 Part 1 Crime decreased by 14 percent
- In 2018 Part 1 Crime decreased by 11 percent
- Two contributing factors for the increase in vehicle thefts are unlocked cars and keys left in the vehicle
- The Department recently purchased steering wheel column clubs that will be distributed to residents of U City; specifically, those individuals who were a victim of auto theft in 2019.

Incident Type	2018	2019
Rape	-	1
Robbery	8	6
Aggravated Assault	7	12
Larceny	176	168
Burglary	28	16
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	31
Grand Total	237	234

Part 1 Crimes by Ward

- With the exception of Ward 1, there has been a slight decrease in Park 1 Crimes
- Ward 1 experienced an increase in larcenies and auto thefts

- Statistics are based on intent, which means that even if nothing is taken in the act it must be reported
- The Department's ability to reduce crime is dependent upon having a proactive approach, a decentralized policing approach, and effective community outreach



Ward	2018	2019
Ward 1	39	60
Ward 2	89	68
Ward 3	109	106
Grand Total	237	234

Drug Violations by Incident Type

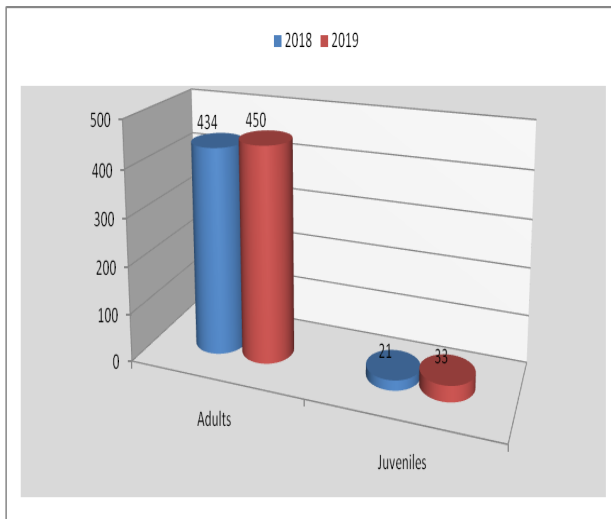
- The possession of drug paraphernalia is considered a Part II Crime
- Medical Marijuana has resulted in decreased violations
- Fentanyl is considered a synthetic narcotic and poses a danger to anyone who comes in contact with it

Incident Type	2018	2019
Sale/Manufacturing		
Marijuana	1	-
Synthetic Narcotics	-	1
Possession		
Cocaine and Derivatives	2	3
Marijuana	18	14
Synthetic Narcotics	2	3
Non-Narcotic Drugs	1	2
Grand Total	24	23

Mayor Pro Tem Carr asked Chief Hampton if he could provide her with an explanation of what is considered to be a non-narcotic drug? Chief Hampton stated that the term was established by the DEA, however, off the top of his head he is unable to think of a specific example. He stated he would provide her with an example and a definition as soon as possible.

Arrest Totals

Arrest	2018	2019
Adults	434	450
Juveniles	21	33
Grand Total	455	483



Delmar Loop Manpower

As crime trends are monitored in the region and areas surrounding the Delmar Loop in University City, UCPD continues to dedicate resources and strategic patrolling efforts for business districts like the Delmar Loop in their continuous efforts to keep this community safe.

- 2016 – \$44,672.90 {1,000.7500 overtime hours}
- 2017 – \$54,406.97 {1,231.2500 overtime hours}
- 2018 – \$91,605.53 {2,023.5000 overtime hours}

Chief Hampton stated while it's unfortunate, his Department gets a lot of the blame for things that go on in the East Delmar Loop, which is outside of their jurisdiction.

Drones

Chief Hampton provided Council with footage from their drones in the Delmar Loop and around the City.

- Currently, the department has two drones and is in the process of purchasing a third one

Councilmember Clay thanked Chief Hampton for the inclusion of data on drug violations and stated he would like to get a better understanding of the drone as it relates to crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals.

Chief Hampton stated he views drones as a proactive tool that helps his officers conduct surveillance on highly frequented areas, monitor emergency scenes, and helps in the search of missing persons. He stated the drone is utilized twice a week and they are close to having four officers that have completed training.

Mr. Rose stated he would like to add the monitoring of special events to detect incidents or traffic management, as another important feature of drones. He stated the use of technology like dummy cars or GPS equipped cannons to assist in high-speed chases are the type of things the City plans to explore because they can make U City a safer place and minimize an officer's exposure to unsafe conditions.

Councilmember Clay asked whether the shot spotters had already been installed? Chief Hampton stated that an MOU between V-5, Region Power, and Ameren must be reached prior to implementation, so his expectation is that they will be in place within the next three to four weeks.

Councilmember Hales stated he was contacted by a neighbor who informed him that when the police noticed they had a Ring Doorbell, they knocked on their door to see if they could obtain any footage that might have captured a car theft. So he was curious to know if it was possible for the City to establish a camera registry and publish the formation and nature of that registry in *ROARS*, to enhance the public's awareness on how they assist the Police Department? Mr. Rose stated that creating a registry is certainly something staff can do, and publishing or highlighting things in *ROARS* that a resident can do to protect themselves, and their property, falls right in line with the City's initiative to do a better job of communicating with its residents.

Councilmember Cusick stated given that U City borders several communities with historically higher incidents of crime, are there any statistics available that compare U City's incident rate with other municipalities throughout St. Louis County and the City? Chief Hampton stated although he had not asked his crime analyst to prepare those statistics he could ask her to put something together for Council. However, one thing to keep in mind is that you can only get a true comparison when U City is compared with municipalities whose demographics are fairly similar.

Councilmember Smotherson stated there are a lot of residents from the 3rd Ward who use the Delmar Metro Station, and as a result, he receives a lot of calls about loitering, fights that often break out, and the smell of marijuana being smoked almost on a daily basis. These constant complaints have led to a number of questions that hopefully, he can get some answers to:

1. Why is loitering allowed to occur at this Metro Station?
2. How strong of a relationship does UCPD have with Metro and the St. Louis Police Department (SLPD), and
3. Are there statistics available that breaks down Part 1 Crimes by incident type and by Ward?

Chief Hampton stated his Department has a very strong relationship with the SLPD, and when they've been asked to run their stats for this particular area it doesn't even rank in their top ten lists of problem areas. On the other hand, Metro is implementing a new policing strategy aimed to prevent and reduce crime at all of their locations, so you should start to see enhanced patrols at the Delmar Station in the very near future.

Councilmember Hales asked whether events that occur on MetroLink get reported by the municipality that station is located in or St. Louis County? Chief Hampton stated although his Department will be notified of an event and assist as-needed, per the MOU signed by St. Clair County, the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, everything that occurs on or under a MetroLink platform falls under one of those jurisdictions. Councilmember Hales stated following the incident at the Forest Park Station there were several instances where he witnessed U City and Wash U officers stationed at Big Bend and Forsyth. Is that a continuing effort? Chief Hampton stated that it is. U City has a couple of locations they are responsible for shoring up because they represent quick exits and entries in and out of U City; the stations at Forsyth, Forest Park Expressway, Delmar, and Plymouth.

Councilmember Cusick stated when you look at the drug statistics they appear to be the same year-over-year. However, he has heard from residents in the 2nd and 3rd Wards who have expressed frustration over what they believe to be drug houses and continuous drug activities.

1. What is the police doing to combat this issue?
2. Is there a way to identify these problem properties and classify them as nuisance properties?
3. Does the City have an established policy for handling nuisance properties, and if so, what does it consist of?

Chief Hampton stated the Department's decentralized approach or Community Action Team is very proactive with respect to combating issues associated with drugs. This is a continuing collaboration with St. Louis County designed specifically to address drug activity, and when residents notify U City about a particular address, that address goes on a priority list that both his Department and the Action Team will investigate. Chief Hampton stated notifications can be anonymous and made either by a phone call to their hotline or via email. However, it is important to note that there is a difference between a drug house and a flophouse, where drugs are being sold by a resident of the house without the knowledge or consent of the owner.

Mr. Rose stated one thing the City has recognized is that Part 2 crimes for drug offenses are decreasing; not at the rate that might make everyone happy, but they are starting to go down. As all of you have previously been made aware, one method the police is utilizing to combat some of these issues is technology, and soon, they will be introducing cameras for use in hot spots.

Mr. Rose stated another important issue to recognize is that the ability to recruit people into the police profession has become a national problem. And of course, one reason for the adjustments in class and compensation was to make U City more competitive in the marketplace and have the ability to attract and retain good employees. So he thinks in the long-term this community will see an improvement in the City's ability to fully staff its Police Department.

With respect to nuisance properties, if and when the City is able to determine that a crime is occurring at a specific address, that property can be classified as a nuisance property. At that point, it becomes a legal issue that the City Attorney would be involved in, and it could possibly lead to forfeiture. He stated he thinks what happens in many of the drug crimes, is that they occur near a property rather than on the property, and that creates some challenges.

Mr. Mulligan concurred with Mr. Rose's statement about where the crime needs to occur, and noted that the City does have an Ordinance that has been on the books for a number of years that addresses this issue; 20.270.

That Ordinance weighs out the activity considered to be a nuisance and establishes a procedure for taking action against those responsible for the creation of that nuisance. And the remedies may include Municipal Court prosecution, as well as forfeiture. Mr. Mulligan stated he is fully aware of the Department's diligence to document criminal activity that has occurred at a property because several years ago, he was involved in closing down a number of drug houses in U City. So while calls for service that generate police reports can assist in the Police Department's ability to combat this issue, it also requires cooperation from the community.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Carr called for a voice vote to adjourn the Study Session, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk