

STUDY SESSION
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
Active Shooter Update & Bike Path Proposal
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Monday, August 8, 2022
5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held via videoconference on Monday, August 8, 2022, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.; Police Chief, Larry Hampton; Deputy Fire Chief, Fred Kramer; Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, Darren Dunkle; Resident, Mark Winer, Angelica Gutierrez, and Mark Vogel of Great Rivers Greenway.

Mayor Crow stated Council recognizes that a great travesty has occurred over the past weeks and would like to let everyone viewing this session know that he, the City Manager, and his colleagues will be making additional comments during the Regular Session.

2. CHANGES TO THE REGULAR AGENDA

Mr. Rose requested that Item J (1) be moved from the Consent Agenda to the City Manager's Report.

3. ACTIVE SHOOTER UPDATE

Mr. Rose stated pursuant to Council's request, staff will be presenting general information on the City's Active Shooter Program.

Chief Hampton stated since the inception of the City's Joint MACTAC (Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities) and Active Shooter Trainer Program in 2012, they have conducted dozens of sessions for schools, religious institutions, City employees, daycares, and even businesses throughout St. Charles and St. Louis County, on recommended responses for an Active Shooter incident.

- Program inception in 2012 for Schools and Religious Institutions
- At the time of our program's inception, we were one of the first departments in St. Louis City/County to utilize MACTAC techniques to benefit our educational institutions
- MACTAC - Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities Program was developed in California and brought to Saint Louis by the Saint Louis County Tactical Operations Unit in 2012
- The response to an Active Shooter Program was taught twice a year from 2012 through the present, to all University City Public Schools

- Each training/presentation is tailored to the school where the program is presented
- The program was modified in 2014 and presented to the staff of University City Library, University City Recreation Center staff, and City Hall employees
- The program was expanded in 2018 to include hands-on scenario training, which U City officers take yearly
- University City High School (2018), Brittany Woods Middle School (2019), and City of Lights Church (2021) have been utilized as operation grounds during department-wide training
- UCPD training is also provided to the Fire Department, Paramedics, and Dispatch, which includes the utilization of Drones and a Throw Bot (robot)
- This program is now MO-POST. Certified for L. E., using Department of Homeland Security and FBI standards

School Programs Include:

- Overview and definition of Active Shooter incidents
- The "*deadly hour*" definition, Run-Hide-Fight, and an Arsenal of Responses
- Lockdown protocol and door safety
- Identification of multiple geographically important collection points specific to each school
- Survival mindset and fight, Flight or Freeze response
- Response to dynamic entry by police

Religious Programs Include:

- All topics included in the School Program
- Identification, Preparation, and Execution of Emergency Plans
- Establishment of the usher program and necessary training
- Identification of important information from phone, email, and/or social media threats

City Staff Programs Include:

- All topics covered in the school and religious institution program
- MACTAC definition and application
- The 4 A's: most important and time-saving tips for first responders on an active scene

Hands-On Interactive Training and Scenarios

- 1-person, 2-person, 3-person, 4-person, and buddy team movement techniques of approach to an active shooter scene
- Proper building clearing techniques to include proper room entry and target acquisition
- Medical/first aid training
- Triage creation, paramedic escort techniques, multiple-threat assessments with UCFD
- Evidence collection and preservation

Drones

The use of drones by UCPD & UCFD includes planning tactical active shooter responses during emergencies, assisting with search and rescue operations, assessing the scope of a scene, documenting crime scenes, and providing aerial views during special circumstances.

Updated Presentations

The PowerPoint program has been modified to fit into one-hour training for schools and two-hour training for religious institutions. In addition to the PowerPoint program, these presentations are paired with:

- A security analysis of the facility and written report based on CPTED; Community Policing Through Environmental Design, principles
- A sample action plan approved by DHS/FEMA for facilities' operation teams
- DHS/FBI documentation and data for the development of security teams; (available to the public)

- How to request assistance from the Jewish Federation of St. Louis which offers grants and security
- How to request assistance from the State of Missouri/DHS with grants and security

Training

- As an organization, our goal is to continue to provide excellent service to our University City community in the most efficient manner possible.
- Every member of the UCPD and UCFD is vital to our organizational realization. We constantly reevaluate performances, training, and trends, to maximize our public safety efforts.
- Training is also conducted with St. Louis County PD and Washington University on an annual basis.
- During the calendar years 2019-2022 UCPD trainers conducted the following training seminars:
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 02-04-2019, Julia Goldstein Early Childhood
 - **UCPD DEPARTMENT WIDE TRAINING - 03-06-2019 - Brittany Woods Middle School**
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 03-11-2019, Brittany Woods Middle School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 04-01-2019, Lieberman Learning Center
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 04-01-2019, Pershing Elementary School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 04-29-2019, Jackson Park Elementary School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 05-13-2019 University City High School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 05-13-2019 Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School
 - Houses of Worship and Response to an Active Shooter - 06-03-2019 - 8124 Delmar Blvd.
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 08-19-2019 Epstein Hebrew Academy and Kadima High School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 10-21-2019 Lieberman Learning Center
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 10-28-2019 - Pershing Elementary
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 11-18-2019 Flynn Park
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 11-26-2019 Barbara C. Jordan Elementary
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 12-02-2019 - Jackson Park Elementary
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 02-24-2020 - Brittany Woods Middle School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 03-02-2020 - University City High School
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 08-26-2020 Epstein Hebrew Academy and Kadima High School
 - **UCPD DEPARTMENT WIDE TRAINING - 08-12-2021 - City Lights Church**
 - Response to An Active Shooter - 08-26-2021 Epstein Hebrew Academy and Kadima High School
 - Houses of Worship and Active Shooter Response - 12-13-2021 - 8124 Delmar Blvd.

Chief Hampton played a video of an actual MACTAC training session being conducted at Brittany Woods Middle School.

Councilmember Smotherson thanked staff for this presentation, which helps to reassure residents about its first-responders ability to address this critical issue that is now happening on a national level.

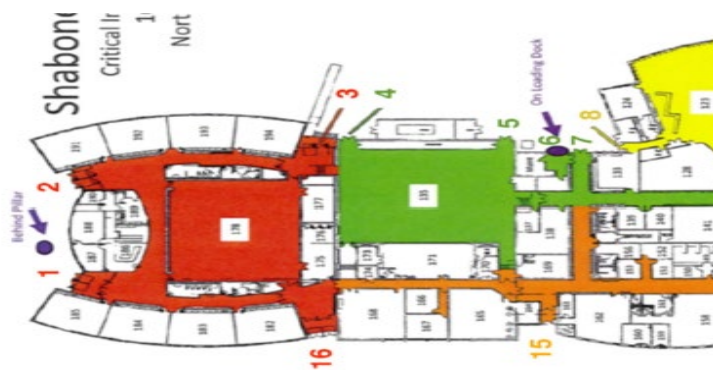
Mayor Crow asked Chief Hampton if the majority of the City's religious institutions had opted to receive this training? Chief Hampton stated although there are several programs available that can provide this same type of training, City staff has performed two-hour presentations and security assessments to the vast majority of the City's institutions.

Councilmember Cusick asked what age group of students participate in the presentations to schools? Chief Hampton stated their training starts with the middle school age group. Councilmember Cusick asked if training for elementary schools and daycares was only provided to faculty and staff? Chief Hampton stated that is correct, although some districts will utilize the Alice or DHS Active Shooter Response Programs.

Premises Identification For Rapid Deployment of Emergency Personnel

Deputy Fire Chief Kramer stated this system was developed by the Greater St. Louis County Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshals Associations to make navigating around schools easier for first responders. The premises identification uses a color-coded system with numbers where a stripe is painted at the bottom of walls along the corridor, classrooms, and entryways to signify what zone responders are in.

Sample Layout



Deputy Fire Chief Kramer stated while he has only talked to one school about repainting to implement this system, his coworkers have reported that it's somewhat of a mixed bag as to the interest of most U City schools. He stated an ordinance is required prior to implementation, however, before seeking the passage of an ordinance, their goal is to work with the schools, Fire Chief, and Council, to garner everyone's input. To date, several meetings have already been scheduled to meet with U City School officials. He noted that while St. Louis County has already passed such an ordinance, it is only applicable to unincorporated areas.

Councilmember Clay posed the following questions to Deputy Fire Chief Kramer:

Q. Is it correct that this system has not been implemented in U City Schools?

A. That is correct. A meeting has been scheduled for next week with the Superintendent of U City Schools, and his plan is to include the UCPD in this discussion. This system has been implemented in some areas, and other municipalities are simply trying to work with schools without the implementation of an ordinance.

Q. Do you know which districts have already implemented this system?

A. It has been implemented in Jefferson County and the unincorporated areas of St. Louis County.

Councilmember Clay stated he would be interested in finding out more information about schools that have already implemented this system.

Mayor Crow thanked Chief Hampton and Deputy Fire Chief Kramer for their presentation, and all of the long hours they've put in over the last couple of weeks.

4. BIKE PATH PROPOSAL

Mr. Dunkle stated Mr. Winer and his team from Great Rivers Greenway will make this presentation on a proposed East-West Connection Bike Path, running from Ackert Walkway to the Innerbelt.

Mr. Winer thanked Council for taking time this evening to listen to Great Rivers' Presentation. He stated he is a long-time U City resident and has served as a volunteer, chairing the Economic Development Commission, and as a member of the Pension Board. He stated that Angelica Gutierrez and Mark Vogel of Great Rivers Greenway would be assisting him with the presentation.

Mr. Winer stated during COVID he spent a great deal of time walking in parks primarily around U City. And what he realized is that U City already had two Greenway paths; one running from Wash U's campus to Vernon, and the other through Heman Park, ending at Purdue and Midland, with a final portion running along I-170 from the Ladue City Limits to Olive Blvd. So, while speaking with Mr. Dunkle about the possibility of connecting these segments he was provided with several proposals that had been prepared by Great Rivers Greenway in 2014. Mr. Winer stated he learned that there had been a lot of opposition to these alignments; (A & B), primarily from members of the community that would have to either grant an easement or allow the trail to be run through their property. As a result, the proposal was deemed unfeasible, however, this proposal offers another way of making those connections.

East West Connection to Centennial Greenway Trail

Who

- Stakeholders and potential beneficiaries
 - Residents, Visitors, Middle School, High School, and University Students and Staff, Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Persons with Disabilities
- Partners
 - City of University City, City Leadership including City Council, Parks and Traffic Commissions, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, and Public Works Department
 - School District of University City (2022 Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee)
 - Great River Greenways
 - Trail Net
 - St. Louis County
 - Metropolitan Sewer District
 - Major Employers in St. Louis Region
 - Owners of multi-unit communities, including Parkview Gardens, The District, and thousands of other apartment building residents in U. City
 - Commercial Destinations including The Loop, Olive Boulevard, and Markets on Olive

What & Why

- What:
 - A safe Great Rivers Greenway Trail for pedestrians, people with disabilities, and bikers connecting two existing Greenways (Centennial Greenway in Ackert Park to Centennial Greenway along I-170)
- Why:
 - Create healthy transportation and recreation options for all
 - Enhance sustainability in U. City
 - Connect destinations in U. City including eight U. City Parks, U. City High School, Brittany Woods Middle School, Washington University, and commercial and employment centers
 - Connect U. City residents and visitors to destinations throughout the St. Louis Region with existing and proposed Great Rivers Greenway Trails

Mr. Winer stated Great Rivers Greenway (GRG) is looking for communities they can work with and believes this is a good time to complete its vision. One of the very first trails initiated was the

Centennial Greenway Trail, and the vision has always been to create a safe, accessible greenway by connecting this trail to Forest Park and Creve Coeur Lake.

Mr. Vogel stated a map illustrating the main thoroughfares within U City depicts where the proposed trail would run and how it forgoes the need to utilize anyone's property.

Where

- Using the existing public right-of-ways and best practices for safe urban trails from:
 - Ackert Park to Heman Park along Vernon with a “road diet” for vehicles and a Greenway for pedestrians and bicycles separated from the road with curbs
 - ✓ Vernon is an area that has been impacted by flooding, and St. Louis County has received approval and funding to repave this section. Collaborations between St. Louis County and GRG could lead to some alternatives that would allow for a separate greenway along this road.
 - Existing Heman Park Greenway from the U. City Community Center to Midland and Purdue
 - Midland and Wilson to Shaftesbury adjacent to U. City High School with a “road diet” for vehicles and a Greenway for pedestrians and bicycles separated from the road with curbs
 - Shaftesbury to Kaufman Park with a “road diet” for vehicles and a Greenway for pedestrians and bicycles separated from the road with curbs CROSSING Mona Trail
 - Groby Road from Kaufman Park to Ruth Park with a “road diet” for vehicles and a Greenway for pedestrians and bicycles separated from the road with curbs
 - Two alternatives for the final segment:
 - ✓ Alternative A- Along the East and North sides of Ruth Park (possibly through Ruth Park Woods) and The Market at Olive to Centennial Greenway at I-170 and Olive
 - ✓ Alternative B-Along the South Side of Ruth Park on Groby Road and Old Bonhomme, continuing on Old Bonhomme to the Centennial Greenway Trail along I-170 with a “road diet” for vehicles and a Greenway for pedestrians and bicycles separated from the road with curbs

Mr. Vogel stated he believes it would be more feasible to use Alternative B since there is an existing connection on Old Bonhomme.

How

- Reduce cost and impact on residents by establishing Greenway using U. City parks and streets
- Provide clear signage, curbs, and select streets, whenever possible, that are wide, have relatively little traffic, and few residences on at least one side of the street to minimize the impact on residential parking.
- Work with residents and other stakeholders to plan and advocate for Greenway
- Leadership to Support Feasibility Study with Great Rivers Greenway

Mr. Vogel asked Council to consider taking the following actions:

- Moving forward with this proposal by exploring its feasibility with Great Rivers Greenway, and
- Advocating for St. Louis County to use their resources currently available for redesigning streets in conjunction with GRG's proposal

Mr. Winer stated GRG places a huge value on community engagement and has a solid process for conducting alignment studies to make sure that concerns are heard and addressed. Once this project has been studied and community support has been achieved, GRG's long-term vision is to connect Forest Park with Creve Coeur Park and Centennial Trails, as well as St. Charles County, all the way to 370 Lakeside Park.

Ms. Gutierrez stated they value all of the work that has been done, and while GRG believes this proposal is feasible, it will take some time to make sure all of the partners are aligned.

Councilmember Smotherson asked if any consideration had been given to making the connection at the end of Ackert Park, to Vernon, Hanley, and Blackberry, which immediately connects to Old Bonhomme? Mr. Vogel stated while he has not studied this route, these kinds of considerations would be a part of GRG's typical process when looking at alternative routes to determine the pros and cons before formulating the preferred plan.

Ms. Gutierrez stated during the 2014 plan St. Louis County was very restrictive about coordinating activities on their right-of-ways. And ultimately, the City decided to avoid all County roads. So that is another element that will have to be taken into account when developing routes.

Mr. Winer stated one standard he was trying to achieve was eliminating the need to take away anyone's parking spot. There is parking in the middle of the street near the duplexes and homes from Midland to the high school, so he is not sure how you could create a separate trail without impacting that parking. And that may also be true as you go west on Blackberry.

Councilmember Hales asked the team if they had a rough estimate for how long this process might take? Mr. Vogel stated while they would not be starting completely from scratch, typically it is a nine to twelve-month process to conduct the planning study. The next steps would be to obtain engineered drawings and grant opportunities. So, it takes several years from the time GRG starts an engagement to the first round of construction.

Councilmember Klein stated she thinks this is a great time to be having this discussion because it meets a lot of the objectives identified in the City's 2040 Visioning Plan. She then asked if there was a precedent for utilizing feeder trails to gain access to the main trail so that every section of the community could feel included? Ms. Gutierrez stated consideration will be given to connectivity, and in fact, the 2014 Master Plan was great in that respect, with several networks that can be viewed online. Of course, revisions will be necessary, but it contained many north and south connections from Clayton, Page, 82nd Street, and Pennsylvania.

Mayor Crow asked the team if they could describe what a "road diet" looks like in these plans? Ms. Gutierrez said try to imagine a road like Shaftsbury where you create a wide sidewalk with a buffer in between the greenway and the street. She stated the idea is to shift the geometry of the street to separate traffic from the greenway while maintaining parking and allowing for two-way traffic. Mayor Crow asked if this was similar to the sidewalk and bike path along Forsyth and the Danforth Campus? Ms. Gutierrez stated that it was.

Mr. Winer asked if someone could provide him with a brief summary of the City's 2040 Vision Plan? Mr. Rose stated the intent of the plan was to create a clear vision for the City that was created and developed by residents, addressing parks, recreation, education, transportation, etc. The component that Councilmember Klein referred to was a stated goal about the need for connectivity within U City. Mr. Rose stated staff would be happy to share this document with him after it has been adopted and approved by Council.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their presentations and adjourned the Study Session at 6:28 p.m.

LaRette Reese,
City Clerk, MRCC

