

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

The Haines Borough (HB) Public Safety Commission (PSC) operates under Haines Borough Code 2.54. The PSC operates to promote positive public relations with the Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Departments and any Public Safety issues.

The HB PSC began meeting again in January of 2007, following the appointment of enough PSC members to achieve a quorum.

The members of the PSC are:

Laverne Bryant
Jan Hotze
Arthur Jess
Paul Nelson
David Voth

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Clerk's Office

The PSC elected new officers for 2007 as follows:

Chairman:	Paul Nelson
Vice Chairman:	David Voth
Secretary:	Jan Hotze

The dates, time and place for the PSC quarterly meetings are set as follows:

April 2, 2007, 5:00 pm at HB Assembly Chambers-done
July 9th, 2007, 5:00 pm at HB Assembly Chambers-done
October 1, 2007, 5:00 pm at HB Assembly Chambers
January 7, 2008, 5:00 pm at HB Assembly Chambers

PSC set the quarterly meeting dates to assist members of the Public who wish to testify. During the first and second quarter of 2007 PSC met to take public testimony, review testimony with officers of the HB Police Department (HBPD), communicate public concerns to Chief Goodman and the Haines Borough Assembly, review and make recommendations on the HBPD Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM).

The PSC also is reviewing the most recently issued “EMERGENCY OPERATIONS GUIDE” for the Haines Borough (HB). This is an ongoing review. PSC recommends that a copy be available for public review at the Haines Borough Police Dept. (HBPD), HB Library and the HB office. PSC recommends the guide be reviewed and corrected annually. PSC requests a copy of the revised guide be provided to PSC annually.

The PSC continues review of the HBPD “POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL” (PPM). The sections, listed as Rules and Regulations (RR) numbers 1 thru 24, have been reviewed by PSC. PSC suggests changes to Sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23 and 24 be made by the HBPD and resubmitted to PSC. To date no revisions have been submitted to PSC. The PSC review of “GENERAL ORDERS” 1 thru 4 and “JAIL POLICY AND PROCEDURE” is ongoing

PSC recommends that a copy of the HBPD PPM (with section 12 B. deleted) and be available to the public at the library, HB office and Police Department dispatch window.

Some of the Issues that have come to the attention of the PSC during the review of the HBPD PPM are:

1. What is happening with the HBPD drug and alcohol testing program? The current HBPD drug and alcohol testing program does not appear to comply with PPM or Alaska State Law.
2. Polygraph testing is used internally in the HBPD despite the fact that it cannot be used in a court of criminal law.

CONCERNS REPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Concerns reported by members of the community to the PSC regarding problems encountered with the HB Police Department are listed below. Based upon testimony by members of the community, PSC brings the following issues to the attention of the HB Assembly:

1. HB Police Department failed to respond to complaints and failed to communicate with person making the complaint. IE, no action taken upon complaints made to the HB Police Department.
2. Warrant less searches of property allegedly have taken place in the HB by outside agencies.

3. Automotive traffic in Haines consistently fails to obey stop signs. HB Police Department is not enforcing the stop sign law.
4. Street markings for designated crosswalks (white stripes at school crossings and other locations) are badly worn and cannot be seen by motorists or pedestrians.
5. Cross walk marking is needed where there is pedestrian traffic and cross walks are not marked.
6. Police officer questioned about crosswalk right away admitted they did not know who had the right away at cross walk.
6. High risk dogs are running loose. Specific breeds that are prone to attack are in Haines and are not being monitored.
7. Request that all police hires be reviewed by PSC.

SUMMARY OF ASSEMBLY ACTION NEEDED, RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION.

1. Paint Crosswalks as needed ASAP.
2. Get a review of the HBPD drug and alcohol testing program from a legal expert.
3. Require the HBPD to respond to the recommendations made by PSC in the review of PPM.
4. Begin driver and pedestrian awareness program on all safety issues.
5. Require HBPD officers to know basic traffic laws.
6. Require all police officer hires to be reviewed by PSC.
7. Provide "EMERGENCY OPERATIONS GUIDE and HBPD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL" (with deletion of PPM, section 12 b.) to the public, at the library, Borough office and Police dispatch office window.



Paul A. L. Nelson Chairman

HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

July 25, 2007

PSC June 18, 2007

Present Art Jess, La Verne Bryant, David Voth, Jan Hotze, Paul Nelson

Meeting opened at 5:10 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of June 4, 11 were reviewed and accepted as written.

Old Business:

1. Final corrected copy of letter to Chief and CC to Manager and Mayor approved.
2. Stop sign education and cross walk painting issues were discussed. Decided to look into how the public might be educated on this issue.
3. LaVerne Bryant suggested that an email contact for the PC might be placed on the Borough Web site. Paul will follow up.

New Business

1. Letter from Chief Goodman discussed. No response was considered the wisest course.
2. Discussion of Annual Report to Borough Assembly.

P+P

RR #22 p. 4, #2b State of Ak Director of Public Safety / correction

MSP send back with following question: How does this regulations fit with recent passage by HB Assembly of resolution concerning compliance with Patriot act, and typo change.

Meeting adjourned, next meeting July 7, 2007

07/07/07 Haines PSC

Present: Paul Nelson, Dave Voth, Art Jess, Jan Hotze

Absent: LaVerne Bryant, excused

The meeting opened at 5:10 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

Correspondence about drug testing: it appears that the Mayor and Chief may be confused about our concerns re Drug testing policy: we are addressing drug test administration, not the issue of random drug testing itself. The issues as we see them are as follows:

1. Does our drug testing program(not random, but with reasonable suspicion) meet the federal and state guidelines?
2. Is it actually being used? Previous statement to the PSC was that no drug testing was being done. This may have been a statement about random testing, however we don't know now.

New Buisness:

Review of the Annual Report: report was discussed with several changes noted.
The Commission will review changes next week.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm after agreeing that the next meeting will be on 07/16/07

Jan Hotze,
Secretarty

PSC July 16, 2007

Present: Paul Nelson, David Voth, Jan Hotze

Absent: Art Jess (excused), LaVerne Bryant (excused)

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance at 5:15pm

Review of minutes of June 18, 2007. Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Old Business:

1. Annual Report to the Assembly was discussed and finalized and accepted with minor changes.
2. David Voth reported that he has been working on a PSA for the Stop Sign education.
3. Paul Nelson reported that he is still looking into the Crosswalk/right of way question.

New Business:

Paul Nelson reported on conversation with a citizen who didn't know about the PSC. Paul reported that this citizen told him of his concern over a DV incident to which the police did not respond. The citizen may bring this concern to the PSC, but until then there is little that the PSC can do.

Policy and Procedures Review

RR-23 OSHA Regulations

M/S/P: that the section RR-23 OSHA Regulations be returned to HPD to address the following questions:

1. Who is the Health and Safety Manager---PD or Borough Officer?
2. Is this part of regular Safety Meetings (RR-17)?
3. Section III and Section IV both have two C bullets (typos)
4. Are books referred to in Section II-C page 3 and poster referred to in IV C still in Hallway or are they elsewhere, if so needs to be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm

Next Meeting August 6, 2007

Jan Hotze
Secretary