



Minutes

City of DeKalb Human Relations Commission April 5, 2022

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) held a regular meeting on April 5, 2022, in the Second Floor Training Room at the DeKalb Police Department.

A. Roll Call

In the absence of Chair Joe Gastiger, Staff Liaison Scott Zak called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The following members of the HRC were present: Nadine Franklin, Norden Gilbert, Lisa King and Andre Powell.

Other City officials/staff present:

- Mayor Cohen Barnes
- Fifth Ward Alderman Scott McAdams
- City Manager Bill Nicklas
- Chief of Police David Byrd
- Scott Zak, Management Analyst and Staff Liaison to the HRC

B. Approval of Agenda – Additions/Deletions

Mr. Zak asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was motioned by Mr. Gilbert and seconded by Mr. King. The agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. Appointment of temporary chair for the April 5, 2022, meeting

Mr. Zak asked for a motion to appoint a temporary chair to serve for the meeting. Ms. King motioned for Mr. Gilbert to serve as temporary chair, seconded by Ms. Franklin. Mr. Gilbert was appointed temporary chair by unanimous voice vote.

D. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

Mr. Gilbert asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. King motioned, seconded by Ms. Franklin. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

E. Public Participation –

Resident Mark Charvat raised a concern about the draft policy for the License Plate Reader (LPR) program allowing the LPRs to be used to stop a car with a registered owner whose license is revoked. He explained he knows someone with a revoked license whose son drives her to work and questioned whether the son will be pulled over. Mr. Charvat also raised a concern about the term “but are not limited to” in section II-D, which



provides reasons a vehicle can be put on the BOLO (Be On the Look Out) list, and questioned whether that could include speeding. Mr. Charvat said overall the policy looked pretty good.

Chief Byrd responded to Mr. Charvat's concerns. He said section II-D lists what the LPRs are able to do, not what the DeKalb Police Department will do with them. He said in DeKalb, the LPRs will be used to find those wanted for crimes, subjects of Amber and Silver alerts, felonious vehicles and vehicles involved in hit-and-runs. Regarding revoked licenses, Chief Byrd said an officer would not be able to stop the vehicle in the scenario described by Mr. Charvat. The officer would not have probable cause after noticing the driver was male while the owner with a revoked license is female. He said in some instances, such as a vehicle with tinted windows, there could be a traffic stop. Chief Byrd said the LPRs are a positive technology which will provide results quickly.

F. Old Business

1. Review draft License Plate Reader policy

Chief Byrd reviewed key points of the three-page Police Department policy for use of LPRs. He explained the LPRs look for vehicles on the BOLO list, which is based on entries by law enforcement agencies. When a license plate on the BOLO list passes an LPR, there is an alert and the LPR that sent the alert will show up as red on a monitor in the telecommunications center. Dispatchers will then retrieve the plate number, vehicle make and what the subject is wanted for and relay that information and the area in which the car is located to officers.

City Manager Bill Nicklas asked who enters the information that the LPRs search for. Chief Byrd responded the police department enters as much information about a vehicle as possible, so there is a human element to start the process.

Chief Byrd explained there are two types of alerts. For immediate alerts, officers will respond to the vehicle as soon as information is relayed from dispatchers. Non-encounter alerts are entered by law enforcement agencies that want to know the location of a vehicle but do not want other agencies to make contact with the subjects. Chief Byrd explained filters can be used to determine which type of BOLO will send an alert, such as outstanding warrants and Amber and Silver alerts.

Chief Byrd said had the LPRs already been in place, the Police Department would have made quicker arrests in some cases, including recent burglaries. He explained the equipment has been installed; however, an agreement with the Illinois State Police is still needed for the system to get leads from the BOLO databases. He hopes the leads access will come in the next week and said the Police Department will be tracking data, including arrests made with the aid of the LPRs, to report on the system's effectiveness.

Commissioner King asked what happens if the license plates on a wanted car are switched out with plates off another car. Chief Byrd said the LPRs would not be effective but that the car might still be stopped if an officer checks the plates and sees they do not match the make of the vehicle. Responding



to a comment on speeding, Chief Byrd explained the LPRs are not made for tracking speed and that red-light cameras need to be posted.

2. *My Story, Our Time* Upcoming Program

Commissioner Franklin shared that following the resignation of the chair of the Stage Coach Players' Diversity Committee, it is unknown if *My Story, Our Time* will be produced. Franklin said that while the production is currently not happening, she will investigate doing the show on her own.

G. New Business

No new business was presented.

H. Adjournment

Mr. Gilbert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. King made the motion, seconded by Mr. Powell. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2022.

Scott Zak, Management Liaison & HRC Liaison

Minutes approved by the Human Relations Commission on June 7, 2022.