



**Village of El Portal
Public Safety Committee Meeting
Date: 3/3/20
Meeting Start: 6:36 PM
Meeting End: 7:15 PM
Meeting Length: 38:39**

Mayor Cubillos: Good evening, everybody. We will start the Public Safety Committee meeting. Today is Tuesday, March 3rd, and it is 6:36 PM. If I can please have a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to my Flag of United States of America and the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Cubillos: Madam Clerk, please have roll call.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call; Chairperson Cubillos.

Mayor Cubillos: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice-chair Nickerson.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Member Roman.

Councilwoman Roman: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Also present for the record, Jenice Jacobi, Village Clerk; Christia Alou, Village Managr; Interim Village Attorney, Norman Powell; and Chief Magnusson.

Mayor Cubillos: At this time, can I get a motion for approval of the agenda as is, or are there any additions or deletions?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'll make a motion to approve the agenda, Madam Mayor.

Mayor Cubillos: A motion has been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Is there a second?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, I'll second.

Mayor Cubillos: Second by Councilperson Roman. Any nays?

[silence]

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Mayor Cubillos: Hearing none, all in favor signal by saying "aye".

Members: Aye.

Mayor Cubillos: Aye. Any nays?

[silence]

Mayor Cubillos: Hearing none, the agenda for tonight's meeting does pass. Have you all had the opportunity to review the minutes for the January 7th Public Safety Committee meeting? If so to have a motion for approval of the minutes of January 7th.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: A motion to approve the minutes of January 7th.

Mayor Cubillos: The motion's been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson, is there a second?

Councilwoman Roman: I'll second.

Mayor Cubillos: All in favor signal by saying "aye".

Members: Aye.

Mayor Cubillos: The minutes for the January 7th Public Safety Committee meeting have passed and they'll be posted on the website. At this time, anybody Good and Welfare would like to come up and address your name and address for the record?

[silence]

Mayor Cubillos: All right, hearing none, we're going to go right into the agenda items. I'm going to ask the Police Chief to please come up and give us a department update, and then we'll briefly go through the track and report.

Police Chief: Good evening.

Village Manager Alou: Good evening to you.

Police Chief: There's a number of things I want to report to in this meeting. I'll go down the list and then whatever questions you all have for me by all means. Couple months ago, we

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were fortunate enough to get the piece of equipment that measure speed, measures cars, both equally important wherever we put it. It's removable.

We started doing our initial assessments on 87th Street. During the breakdown, we were able to see how many cars go in each direction, what the peak speeds were. Now, on 87th, we didn't find a major speeding problem on 87th Street thus far with the studies we've done. There's been a couple peak speeds in both directions, the highest one was 46 miles an hour, which is fast, but we saw there was a certain percentage of cars going over the speed limit, but they were measuring from 30.

When we updated and changed it to 35 miles an hour, let's give a 5 mile an hour leeway and see where the speeding took place, it dropped significantly, which tells us that on our original study, the vast amount of people that were dubbed as speeders were falling within that 5 mile an hour range, and we're not going to write anybody from 30 to 34 in a 30 mile an hour zone.

We're pretty happy with the analysis done, as well as the cars almost as important, where the peak times were, where we're getting the most cars and it was pretty consistent especially westbound. Now, on one of the cases, when we had the machine out - and we take it down each time, we don't leave it there for obvious reasons - there was one car that did peak out on a certain day at 42, 43 miles an hour. That was a police car en route to emergency call at the time.

I'm not certain, but at that time is when we had to go, we had to step on. Obviously, we have to slow down at the light, I don't believe we had to-- Well, I can't say we had the green or not, but that's when we're having an emergency call. It doesn't differentiate between civilian car or police car in the westbound traffic. Eastbound, fortunately, we don't have to fly that quickly on calls, they usually go out west from here.

Now, in addition to that, I heard that some of the concerns in the past about speeders, where they are and what they're doing. I went back, I know we had the discussion, I went back and looked at our tickets over the last two years and we write a robust amount of tickets, but there was 10 speeding tickets. Per se, it's 10 for speeders in 18 and 13, 2019. In other words, there were tickets written that you can say if speed's too safe or reckless what-have-you, but specifically for speeding, you had what I said was the 13 last year.

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This year already, we've already written 10 speeding tickets and the majority of them are Northeast 2nd Avenue. We do have two that were on 87th Street as well. That's the hub. Northeast 2nd Avenue for sure is the main speeding drag we're catching on to.

We wrote the tickets, I was asked earlier too, what was the breakdown on the speeding tickets for the residents. None of them were residents thus far, but none of the speeders were non-residents. I'm guessing traversing down Northeast 2nd to get past 79th Street or go up the other way towards 95th.

We are working on that. We are going to move the speeder around, we're looking now at North. Once we get this done and finished with 87th, we're going to head over to Northwest 3rd around the school and check that out for the speeders there and see what we can come up with.

The Peacock Express article that I wrote addresses this in more detail for the citizens or residents to take a look at how we did it, what we did, and more specific numbers. Also dealing with driving, I shift over to Northwest 5th Avenue 90th Street where we got numerous calls, not so much about speeders, but reckless drivers. The donuts that extended into the county too, on 5th Avenue, not just on 90th Street, but 91st, 92nd. You could see them all the way up there because they don't fade out that quickly.

We've written a few well-placed tickets, we've also had a few well-placed arrests, and we shared the info with the county for assistance out of our jurisdiction so they can come on by there and unlock cars or what-have-you, just to let them be known that they're out there.

We haven't had Knockwood any complaints recently, which is good because we also reached out to members in Miami Shores and talked to them. Some of them let us do surveillances from their yard just to take a look at what we saw and we did. We went over and we dealt with it. That's a work in progress, we continue along with that, but that has been addressed, it's continuing to be addressed, the reckless drivers up there. I think maybe they get the idea, if we have to tow another car and write tickets or take somebody to jail for reckless or suspended DL, we'll do that too, but they're getting the point, I think and I hope.

Another thing to report was a fraudulent activity at the cottages about two weeks ago. The gentleman there that runs it, he was basically bamboozled back in September by a fraudulent purchase of the space there while they stayed there. It turned out that the card wasn't the person and the real person didn't want to pay the charges and he got left holding the bag.

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Well, lo and behold, this same guy came back and wanted to do it again. Over the course of a weekend, we put everybody on notice. We passed down the information from person to person starting with Officer Battaglia, Officer Riveron at night, and then Officer Lopez starting Monday. It was under Lopez's watch where, lo and behold, they were able to reach out to this person because he was staying there at night and then working during the day downtown something, some event.

We were able to get half the money back for the owner and the owner was good with that until Officer Lopez basically said no, you couldn't get all your money back. The guy went, got ahold of his father, who wired him the rest of the money, end of story, the owner didn't want to press charges now, fine, but he got all his money back, going back from September.

He was very happy, we were very happy and this guy is not coming back anywhere to help or tell anymore. I passed the info out in one of the Intel meetings with the county because my thoughts are and to the other agencies other there that this guy will come back down to South Florida he'll probably stay somewhere else and pull the same nonsense, foolishness with them. They got this guy's picture and where he's from, and everything to do, so we passed that information on.

During the past couple of months too, Officer Battaglia is now officially our senior coordinator. The officers do make contact with the seniors but he's overseeing that portion. If there's any issues or anything, he can follow up on and that's what he's been doing with that, so he's officially the coordinator. The property room is still a work in progress, Officer Owen is still working on that, but as per the McGrath report and following up on things that they were suggested also by FDLE, we did purchase a safe for any expensive equipment that may come in and need to be put away properly, and a small ice bottle- well, I call it ice bottle - refrigerator, in case we come across any DNA before we transport it to the county, obviously, we want to keep it freshly stored so there's no issues with any defense motions or anything. We have that in place, so we're coming along well with that.

Met with the US Attorney a couple of weeks ago, it was a meet and greet with all the chiefs, state and local authorities and federal authorities in this area. I also was at the swearing in for the new Miami-Dade director, Freddy Ramirez, was there a couple weeks ago. I had a meeting with school officials, principals at Horace Mann on the 24th from the district. Got to go over a number of items, it was a very good meeting. I know Mr. Lawrence was very happy. He was very happy I was there, and it was a pleasure to be there and honor to be there.

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I got a hold of Mr. Lawrence too, he is going to get me the [unintelligible 00:11:02] dates I told him I want to be the go-to person for that so he will get in touch with me with that.

Sergeant Burrell is in supervision class for the next two weeks and that's good class for him. Officer Riveron is in the hospital recovering from an accident the other day, a dog attacked him off-duty. They'll be coming around. As soon as I get any updates, I'll be happy to share with all you.

Evaluations, they have been completed, they have been done on all personnel. I know a couple months half a year ago, I did self evaluations on the full timers. Next year coming around, I'm going to do it on everybody including the part-time non-compensatory officers that we have that make up the entire department. Everybody in the department now has the evaluations done, and we're good for now, until the end of this year when we will do it again.

The only other issue that I see standing out is a car related fleet issue that we're working to improve on. The 2017s are good, some of the other cars are not quite as good, we're just doing a juggling act now to get them all up to speed. We've removed the decoy vehicles that do run, bring them back here now as pool cars as we need them. Fortunately, the issues that we would need decoy cars for, by and large, with the thefts or burglaries, that hasn't been a problem. February was a very, very slow month, so it worked out fine that we couldn't use the decoy.

If we have to bring out a car and this is why I'm hesitant to do it. We're going to have to tow it out there and leave it, and that's comes with a cost. Now, if it keeps our crime down, obviously, we'll do it. We're just not going to be able to move it right there till we stabilize this fleet. Once we can free up one car that works, we'll put it back out in the decoy pool.

That's basically my report in a nutshell right now. but I'll be happy to entertain any questions.

Mayor Cubillos: Thank you, Chief. I have a couple of questions. The reviews, what date were they done? What month?

Police Chief: The evaluations? January to cover the full year January to December.

Mayor Cubillos: All right ,so they were done January 2020.

Police Chief: Yes.

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Mayor Cubillos: All right. The senior watch, I sent you all the list and I know, unfortunately, there's a few that have passed. I've asked that when it's updated, if I can get a copy. Can I get a copy of that?

Police Chief: Officer Patergly will get--

Mayor Cubillos: Because there's few seniors that have passed, I'd like an updated copy of the senior list.

Police Chief: Okay, we'll get that done. We'll get up to date on it.

Mayor Cubillos: The speed tracker that was recommended by Councilperson Roman that's on 87th Street is movable.

Police Chief: Yes, we did [unintelligible 00:13:54].

Mayor Cubillos: Okay perfect. When I drive by there, I don't see my speed.

Police Chief: A couple of times, we did it, what we called it, in the dark.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay.

Police Chief: We wanted get a genuine speed, of what people are doing. Once you put that thing on, they're slowing down. We want to see where the problem is and so we did it both ways and there really wasn't that much of a difference, the only difference came when we moved up the speed limit to 35 to give that little leeway to see really how many people are speeding the 5 mile an hour window, I think was sufficient.

Mayor Cubillos: I also wanted it to be clear because it could be taking the wrong way. Officer Riveron was not working an off-duty, he was just off-duty.

Police Chief: Off duty, right. Correct.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay, so when you said off-duty, he wasn't working an off-duty and got injured.

Police Chief: He was home.

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Mayor Cubillos: He was at home.

Police Chief: Correct.

Mayor Cubillos: I want to just put that for the record.

Police Chief: Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Then the other thing is what's left in the forfeiture fund in terms of dollars?

Police Chief: I'm not sure right now. I'd have to get it. It would be the same balance after we did-- I don't have that figure, I can get that to you.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay, I'd like to know how much was left in there. Then Operation Villagewide Cleanup. I received an article from Councilperson Roman and she's recommending to do-- We've done it annually generally in April and we didn't do it last year. Her recommendation, and I just wanted to see the availability because usually it's done in conjunction with the police department, this year, Arbor Day's 50th anniversary, and I believe the date is April--

City Attorney Powell: 24th.

Mayor Cubillos: 13th, is the date you recommended? I don't remember.

Councilwoman Roman: This year is the 50th anniversary for Earth Day. Earth Day falls on April 22nd, that's the official Earth Day. What I'd like to propose is something for us to celebrate it and do a cleanup of sort, Saturday April 18th from 8:00 to 10:00.

Mayor Cubillos: Again, last year was the first year that we didn't do it at all. It used to be done in October and then I moved it up to April. We just didn't do it last year. Just check your calendar and you can let us know because the newsletter articles will go out probably by like Friday or Monday. I'm okay with that date, I just want to make sure that you and the Manager and your department will be working with us, because how it works as we do in conjunction with Horace Mann.

Police Chief: April 18th [unintelligible 00:16:39]

Mayor Cubillos: 18th is a Saturday.

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Police Chief: We'll make it work.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay.

Police Chief: That won't be a problem.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay.

Councilwoman Roman: Then is it eight o'clock that we start? I can't remember.

Mayor Cubillos: 7:00.

Councilwoman Roman: 7:00?

Mayor Cubillos: 7:00, 7:30, yes. Because although it's not really hot, it's good to start getting warm, so like 7:00.

Police Chief: Then we have the Arbor Day the following Saturday.

Councilwoman Roman: April's a busy month.

Police Chief: Okay, that's fine.

Mayor Cubillos: Let's see what else that I have in here. Okay, disaster and emergency preparedness plan, a couple years ago, after AMA we had a townhall just to brush up, remind everybody the season is right around the corner, tips as far as start things that you can start looking into or saving or collecting, so I'd like to prepare some a townhall whether it's probably May. Hurricane season starts literally right around the corner after that, so I thought it would be a good time to put something together. We had one last May or June I believe.

Police Chief: That's right, yes.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay.

Village Manager Alou: If I may, Mayor, too? We have even enhanced the emergency preparedness guide, more so, Chief Magnusson was working on it with some suggestions from our consultant to enhance the plan as well, so that will be ready **[unintelligible 00:17:49]**

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Mayor Cubillos: Not only an external meeting with the residents, but an internal meeting to have a run-through of it, okay.

Village Manager Alou: Absolutely.

Mayor Cubillos: So if we can plan that for me would be great. Community Policing, anything in particular that they're doing differently on foot or anything like that?

Police Chief: Just still with the parking lot, they lock that down each time.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay. I'll ask the committee if they have anything else that they want from the track and report, pretty much covered most of that. FDL inspections, you didn't bring it up, but I know we've been following in compliance. I think Sergeant Burrell is working on that with you. Traffic calming, the rotunda, that's in legislative, so we'll see if we get any money there.

What I wanted to briefly touch is two things. You mentioned the fleet and today, the Manager and I had a meeting, and then thereafter, we sat down and we went over a few things and we talked about the fleet a little bit. I asked her to get that final number, so if Enterprise is willing to come in and give us dollars for whatever vehicles we have here, whether is 5, 4, 7, or 10, they're each going to be valued differently what they would give us.

If we can get a breakdown of what they would give us for each vehicle what the cost would be that we'd have to put down per vehicle, how many vehicles we actually need as opposed to what we can actually probably afford this year for this budget or for the next one. Then what the annual lease fee would be. I think if we have that number, we can have more of a conversation with regards to how realistic is it that we can get the police cars because it's not just police cars, it's Code Enforcement and it's Public Works.

If we're going into an agreement with Enterprise, which they work with all of the cities of Miami-dade County, they do a great service as far as the lease program because it includes two, three-year lease and it's all the maintenance and tires and all of that. I also need to know if the fee includes the striping or not, does it come prepared in the inside and all that good stuff. If you can get that for the committee, or even in an email and let us know, I'd like to know what that actual costs, raw cost is going to be factoring in the vehicles that we like to sell to them and they're willing to buy.

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Police Chief: Okay. Very good.

Mayor Cubillos: As much as I don't entertain social media, I have some amazing neighbors that love to send me whatever comes out, as I'm a believer that if there is an issue that the resident has, they should call a council member, they should call the Mayor, they should call the Chief, they should call the Manager, they should call the Clerk, they should call the attorney, they should call someone.

Again, I have a resident who loves to send me everything so and I shared it with both of you and the recent-- So next-door post that came up was the traffic that we see on 87th Street, that's one. The speeding, which I think is going to always be an issue because, unfortunately, we can't be everywhere, and I get that.

The one that I want to talk a little bit about is that they don't see the police officers around and they don't drive around. My question to you is, how is that managed? How is it not managed? What does that look like as far as what I think I shared with both of you. Again, I'm a believer of not entertaining what comes out on social media, but I'd just like to hear from your perspective so that they can hear what we have or what is your perspective as far as the police officers driving around and not driving around and did they really do it a year ago, now they're not doing it? Is it because the cars don't have GPS's now? They used to. There's just variables that I would just like to hear about.

Police Chief: I think overall there's less officers, so when you combined-- You had a great pretty large robust reserve unit, but we just brought on [unintelligible 00:22:08] now, he's in training. The officers are patrol, and they're also for a while stopping and walking around the parking lots. The car is not being seen. I can tell you, also, I go up and down blocks and people would swear, no, I don't. It's because my car's not marked.

If I see them, I wave, but I go down and make sure everything's all right. I'll follow people if it looks like they could be up to no good. Just keep an eye out from afar, not to stop them or anything.

The officers do that too. They get reports to write, so they'll pull off somewhere and write the reports. There's no doubt in my mind, they're patrolling, they're up and down blocks. I think that's just a matter, sadly that keyboard commandos that take to the computers and launch attacks rather than come to me and let me debate back and forth with you. You may very well be right, you may very well be wrong, but when you just throw it out there to the universe,

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then you get a bunch of other people that jump on it, and that happens to be the gospel. I don't subscribe to that.

I'm very accessible, I will give updates. A certain gentleman the other day gave updates back and forth on the traffic, and I think that's the way to do. I can't always give you the answer you want, but I do promise you, you'll get a response from me. If something needs to get addressed, it will be addressed. Nonetheless, the officers are out there patrolling. I think they're doing a good job of doing so.

I'll say this in the sense that up and down the blocks, this isn't scientific, but Miami shores last month and parts of the county which is right up against the shores on the east side of the boulevard, they were getting a lot of car breakings.

Well, we had a couple in January and we made a big arrest. Officer Patergly was part of it when we got ahold of the county undercover auto theft task force and all. It seemed to stop, but the officers being up and down blocks being there, the night officer, especially after the sun goes down, being up, with the lights off, going up, checking around, word gets out.

If we do have a problem, listen, there's going to be times we're going to have crime trends. It's how fast we jump on it, and the officers do a very good job. If I didn't think they did, I would address it. They're up and down the blocks and they're getting the job done. I see the reports, it was a slow month last year as well for crime, and I'm not complaining about it. They're out there, they are all over up and down the avenues, the streets on the west side, here on the east, they do it. I know I ride through Sherwood constantly. I would say that somebody may be a little mistaken or just running with some information that is not really factual.

Mayor Cubillos: I will say, I live in the west side and I'm actually going to ask the committee to chime in a little bit as we all live on different streets. I can't say on the west side, I see them regularly, and I always love seeing them regularly, whether I see the lights drive by my house, or I just see them generally around, and I've been walking a lot lately. I see them just about everywhere.

Again, I wanted to bring that out there because I think, more importantly, so you let them know that if there really is a concern, to just call you and the manager so that you can actually address it if it is an issue, but if it's not, then, hopefully, you'll be able to satisfy them by the answer that you would give them.

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I'm going to ask the committee what is their input because I know everybody here lives in different blocks. Then if there's something that we did not cover from the track and report that you'll like the Chief or the Manager to give you an update on.

Councilwoman Roman: May I go?

Mayor Cubillos: Yes.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay. Regarding the driving around, I do see the police officers. Especially at night, I see the lights coming to the house. The once a month as part of the home of the month committee, I drive around the entire village, and the last time I did it I can't remember when it was, it was maybe last month or the month before, I drove literally every single block of the village, and it took a while before I saw the officer, but when I went to the schedule, there was only one officer on duty which then that makes sense, and eventually, I did run into the police officer.

That could possibly be where the concerns come in. When we only have one officer on duty, it's impossible for that person to be all over the place. That's that. I have a question that's not related to that, but if Nickerson wants to go and speak to that first.

Police Chief: It's up to him if he may.

Mayor Cubillos: Great. All right.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: You guys know I live on the Northeast 2nd right on 89th Street in the cottages. I see them all the time, you guys know I walk at nighttime. I'm always up and out at nighttime and I see them all the time over there on a pretty consistent basis.

Police Chief: That's the feeling I'm getting. They're not going to hit every block. It's just not going to happen, but I've also told them, "Listen, you can't hit every block, but keep an ear and eye off of the blocks you don't hit. Next time just go down the blocks. It's good to be seen."

I know what they're doing with the lights too, that's so people see them, because if they just drive by, "I didn't see an officer." Now they understand because the first, I was getting a couple of calls, "Did something happen?" "Oh, no, we're just letting you know we're here."

Mayor Cubillos: No, I personally like lights at nighttime. The other question I have, and it's just something that was triggered once you were talking about the arrest and such. In the past,

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and I'm talking about maybe last year, before your time, we were told that our police were not able to do fingerprints if there was a breaking. Is that still the case?

Police Chief: They do fingerprints.

Mayor Cubillos: They do fingerprints.

Police Chief: They process the scenes, yes.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay, that was just something we didn't do before.

Police Chief: If it's something really major, we'll have the county come out. If it's a really major crime, I'll put a call in for the county, but otherwise, they're well-versed on doing fingerprints and lifting prints. We've gotten some results back not recently, but a couple of months ago we've gotten some results back on fingerprints that we submit.

Mayor Cubillos: That's great to hear.

Police Chief: No, they're doing it, and we also offer that if somebody didn't know how to do it, well, we can also send them to the training, but they all seem to know how to do it. The only caveat, like I said, if it's a major crime, the county's going to come in anyway, but if it's something that we think or forbid or a shooting type of scene, nobody hit, but let's just say, and I'm just putting it out there, we would have the county come in and do fingerprints off the casings and stuff like that. I would feel more comfortable on that because you have ID techs that that's all they do.

Mayor Cubillos: Is there a specific time that is done or is it for any burglary?

Police Chief: If there's a scene conducive for prints, yes. If we have a lifted window or something, we'll print or if there was a, say jewelry box turned over, well, you know they had to touch it, they probably had gloves on, but yes, you would dust for prints and things like that. If it was a bicycle, let's say sitting in the curtilage that they took, no, probably not because we don't know what they touch, and it's outside exterior anyway, that would be a little bit more difficult.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that.

Police Chief: You're welcome.

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Mayor Cubillos: Vice Mayor Nickerson, anything else on the track and record report?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, one more thing, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Madam Mayor. I just want to say, first of all, I want to say thank you for everything that you've been doing with the police force. As far as the McGrath report goes, it's an ongoing thing we're continuously working on it. I just wanted to know what's the next thing we're going to be working on, or like is there anything major like from the McGrath report that we have to work on like the next big thing we have to focus on. If so, is there anything that you need any help or assistance that you need from the committee or anything like that?

Police Chief: Everything with the McGrath report, the property rule is still a work-in-progress, it's getting there. We've done all the other things on the little subsections under to fix it up with the safe, with the refrigerator. Mostly everything is done or it's just been almost completed.

The training was done, the FDLE stuff was done, it's all up to speed. There's always room for improvement, and I still go through it with a fine-tooth comb. There's a couple of things we need to do. We just completed the UCR today that was due for the end of 19th, so that's done, it was in on time. With FDLE, we worked on that and got all the numbers there that they wanted, so that's done.

There's nothing really major left. The threes and twos were done. A couple of the twos they were talking about were scheduling things. I think I got a handle on that, so there was nothing I felt, at this point, that needed to be adjusted. Those are just suggestions, but the real high ticket items, they were taken care of right off the bat. FDLE training, I just did two officers that will come in June 30th. Keeping up the certification, I know it was an issue. I don't want to wait till May. We knocked out [unintelligible 00:31:51] paying out. Got that part of the 8-hour deadly force class. We knocked that out.

The other three that were due June. they're already been knocked out with that. Now, it's just the classes they have to take, but that important part, which is probably the most important part aside from the qualification that we did last year, so we're good for this year is a deadly force class so that's been taken care of. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Now, with the traffic that we have in 87th street, it's deriving from the construction on 79th street. I think your Lieutenant Mendez reached out to them, I don't

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remember right now. One of the things that we did a year ago with the Manager, I think it might have been before you got here or maybe when you got here, is I requested a meeting with all the surrounding agencies so that we have that report so that we work together. I think from there you all go to Intel meetings which is great, but what can we do to ensure that they communicate when things that are going to happen in our surrounding area that's going to impact us?

While it's great that we were reactive because we didn't expect this, but there needs to be a meeting or a conversation so that this doesn't happen again because it's going to happen if it happens, but it's much better if we just let everybody know. That way, like you all did, the minute we all woke up and this was going on, you or Lieutenant Mendez got an email and a call and then this morning, it was handled much better. While it's still going to cause traffic, it's just manageable and it's safer.

There's three accidents in front of my school yesterday. Literally, three accidents in front of my school because no one expected this. Most people are used to just flying by 87th in the morning or it being relatively of low impact than low volume. They didn't expect to have 50 cars in the street that were not moving. Is there an opportunity to really have a meeting with them whether it's the Bright Line, whether it's FPC, whether it's FDOT, just to let them know that, "Hey, we're not City Miami. You may have notified City Miami. We are not City Miami. We're not Miami Shores, we're El Portal, and you're going to impact 87th street, which as many people may not like that it's called, but people use it as a [unintelligible 00:34:05] although I don't agree with it. As a result of that, because when it comes off at Biscayne Boulevard, it's a main artery in our little town, we got to have a dialogue.

Police Chief: I agree. The company that did it, they basically said over 79th they didn't think it was going to impact and they are probably right. They didn't think it was going to impact. I can put out something and get with the city anything that happens on 79th street or points north of that, we need to know about it. The shores do the same thing, anything around there, let us know or anything up on the boulevard, let us know.

The railroads, they're still going to ride on through. We have 13 trains this morning during the rush hour time. Two or three of them were freight trains. That only added to it, there was a large amount of trains today for whatever reason.

Mayor Cubillos: The Brightlines are fast. Usual or things that are just routine is fine, but it's more if they're going to work on the railroad tracks and they decide to do it at eight o'clock in

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the morning, it's probably not the brightest thing, but if they're going to do that, it might be really good idea to let us know.

Police Chief: Yes. I can make some official contacts to say, "Listen, this is what we need to do to avoid this in the future." To be fair, the company and FDOT were very helpful. They would have been just as helpful had we known about it and we came up with a plan a couple of days earlier granted.

Mayor Cubillos: Then with something like that, when you all can put it on social media, the clerk can email blasts it to the residents and then it just mitigates frustration.

Police Chief: Yes. I will take of that. We'll just say, "Moving forward, please let us know, and we'll make the proper contacts so we can set up for any traffic woes that are going to come." Fortunately, Channel 10 today were saying take 71st street as a cut across. That helped out. The early warner helped out quite a bit. Basically, saying maybe you want to get off on 95th street. It helped out.

Again, having the PSAs with the traffic, because that to me was the biggest issue with the light taking so long on the boulevard and 87. Make that light a little longer, you can get a lot more cars coming out. That worked out greatly, and they were helpful. Moving forward, that's what we'll do.

Mayor Cubillos: Do we have enough safety vests for all of the police officers?

Police Chief: I believe we do.

Mayor Cubillos: Like the fluorescent orange or yellow.

Police Chief: They're supposed to have and I believe they have.

Mayor Cubillos: If they don't, maybe we need to get one because I walked home from the gym this morning and I might have seen a police officer without a safety vest and I asked if they had a safety vest. One of them had and one didn't, so they all should have it because they're going to be out there. That's it for me. Is there anything from the manager or from the committee? Anything else we need to know?

Village Manager Alou: Yes. I'll make mention of the fact that I know that some of the council members have seen that they now have a badge and ID. As an effort to increase our standing

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with FDLE, we are wearing the ID badges when we're in the offices. When you come visit, please bring your ID badge. Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Okay. Chief?

Police Chief: That's it.

Mayor Cubillos: Happy birthday.

Police Chief: Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Hope you enjoyed your birthday yesterday?

Police Chief: I did. Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Anything else from the committee?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Thank you. No.

Mayor Cubillos: From the Attorney? All right. Hearing none, Good and Welfare. Time to state your name and address for the record, please. Either one. They're both on, right?

Jay Ribeiro: Hi. Jay Ribeiro, 225 Northeast 86th Street. Chief, I'm the guilty one writing you the emails. [chuckles] We got into traffic. Thank you very much for your professionalism in activating the force and activating the traffic light here on 87th Avenue. Too bad we didn't know that the work that started on Friday, nobody notified any of us, but during the weekend we had a big mess. Security was an issue, I waited until Monday to write you the email. Thank you again.

Jay Ribeiro: You're welcome. Thank you.

Mayor Cubillos: Anybody else from the audience? State your name and address for the record. All right. Committee? You're all good. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Councilwoman Roman: A motion to adjourn.

Mayor Cubillos: The public safety committee meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd adjourns at 7:15 P.M. Thank you.

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Councilwoman Roman: Thank you.

[00:38:39] [END OF AUDIO]

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