

## *Safety Committee Meeting Minutes*

The Safety Committee (the "Committee") met on, Monday, February 6, 2017, in the conference room at the Lyndhurst Municipal Center. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Members Frey, Gambatese and Chairman LoPresti. Also present were Councilmen Schlessel, Price, Grushetsky and Marko, Chiefs Porrello and Carroll, Law Director Murphy, Finance Director Kovalchik and Mayor Ward. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Police Officer staffing issues, along with succession.

Chief Porrello informed the Committee that the environment in which we presently live has increased the types and number of challenges being faced by members of law enforcement, generally, and our Department, specifically. He reiterated his opinion that our staffing is below desired levels, which is particularly problematic because of recent Officer injuries and multiple anticipated retirements, which include command level positions. In light of the foregoing, and also considering the strained applicant pool, Mayor Ward suggested that we begin a process of recruiting and hiring in anticipation of vacancies, as opposed to in reaction to them. This would include an immediate hire, coupled with a half-year fund allocation this year; thereby allowing the Department to continue a recruiting/hiring process that addresses staffing needs in real time, as opposed to after a need arises.

Finance Director Kovalchik was asked by the Committee to compile information regarding the monetary considerations associated with half-year funding in 2017 for future Police Officer positions, should Council decide to entertain this option. Results of this inquiry will be disseminated during the budget process.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully,

Charles A. LoPresti  
*Safety Committee Chairman*