

August 5, 2016

Village of Shorewood Hills
Public Health & Safety Committee

Ann Zanzig
AZ Consultants, LLC

Re: Police Department Response to Community Listening Session May 15, 2016

The Shorewood Hills Police Department was proud to attend and present information to residents who attended the May 2016 Community Listening Session. We are now grateful to have this opportunity to provide feedback to the consultant's draft report. This response is the department's initial response as we have not yet received a final report. The Department offered to attend the entire listening session to provide immediate response and feedback, and would encourage this in any future listening sessions to provide a more open dialogue.

1. Officers should participate in extensive Community Policing training perhaps with UW-Madison as trainers, as they deal with young people in various situations daily. This entails, among other things, learning how to better act informally with people in the community through building relationships and getting to know residents as individuals as much as possible. It is developing those relationships through outreach and interaction, leading to mutual respect.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department has participated in all training with the UW Police Department (UWPD), including Community Policing. UWPD is, in fact, our training partner. In collaboration with UWPD, Shorewood Hills Police Department holds a Bike Rodeo, safety programs in the Shorewood Hills Elementary School, Four Corners programs and at the Shorewood Hills swimming pool. Shorewood Hills Police Department will continue to train on a regular basis with UWPD. It should be noted that Shorewood Hills Police Department has several officers who are certified instructors/trainers in such areas of expertise as firearms, OWI, drug recognition expert, crisis intervention, radioactivity detection and field training officers.

Shorewood Hills Police Department met with a UWPD representative to gather information regarding their policies and practices with incoming college students and enforcement of alcohol and drug-related issues. There are considerable differences between enforcement of underage alcohol and drug offenses on college campuses versus the Village. Example: Students attend an orientation where rules and regulations are outlined with an initial period (45 days) of strict enforcement, alcohol interdictions at liquor stores and enforcement in dormitories and common

areas; UWPD has more officers (5 to 9 officers per night) to cover campus instead of one officer patrolling the Village; students live in dormitories versus homes, and there are more complaints on campus versus the village. Anecdotally, the Shorewood Hills Police Department has responded to a handful of underage drinking parties in the last six years. (Two of those calls for service were at the same residence.)

Law enforcement training courses specifically related to community policing are offered occasionally through WILENET. Shorewood Hills Police Department will monitor for class offerings and research the costs of the class, travel expenses, and covering officer's shifts while attending the class.

2. Create a Task Force consisting of officers and residents (including youth) on improving youth relations in the Village.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department would like to offer a Parent and Youth Mini Citizen's Academy to educate the public on what we do as police. This academy may include guest speakers, to include Judge Marilyn Townsend, presenting on topics such as effects of underage drug and alcohol use. Other topics may include OWI laws, how to respond when contacted by law enforcement which was put out by the Dane County Chief's Association, an overview of squad car and equipment, and possibly a K9 appearance. Shorewood Hills Police Department also offers ride-along programs upon request.

3. Research "best practices" of other like departments in the country, especially as it relates to interpersonal communication with this type of community.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department currently trains on the best practices and will continue to do so. However, Shorewood Hills Police Department is open to learning new methods and seeks out training opportunities as they are offered. Recent trainings include: Three officers have recently attended 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training and two officers attended Alarm Response Training Program conducted at the D-12 National Security Complex offered by the National Nuclear Security Administration.

4. Training for officers on effective communication skills, especially in regard to interacting on an informal basis with residents and the ability to converse without intimidating etc.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department currently has two Professional Communication Skills Instructors. (Lt. Martens and Det. Sgt. Denzer.) They attended the instructor course which was taught by the Wisconsin Department of Justice Law Enforcement Standards Board. Lt. Martens and Det. Sgt. Denzer are now qualified to teach the 720-hour academy class on professional communications.

5. Create greater transparency of policy and procedures.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department has a set of policies on file and available to view upon request. Each officer has a set of written policies to assist them on what they can or cannot do. These serve as strict guidelines on how to react to different situations that may arise during their time working for Shorewood Hills Police Department.

Shorewood Hills Police Department has had a policy in place for filing a complaint regarding an officer's or department's actions. The Chief and this Department will not tolerate inappropriate behavior by any officer employed by the Shorewood Hills Police Department. The Shorewood Hills Police Department would thoroughly investigate all valid complaints. The Public Health and Safety Committee has chosen to review all polices going forward.

6. Hold annual Open Forums for residents including all departments.

Response: The Shorewood Hills Police Department agrees and supports the idea that each department should have an open forum regarding what they contribute, how they benefit the Village and Department policies and procedures should be discussed and reviewed. The Shorewood Hills Police Department would strongly suggest that any future forums include all businesses in the Village. The Village businesses were not included in the May 2016 Community Listening Session.

7. Add to current newsletters and Village Bulletin more information on crime statistics, policing information, new statutes, etc.

Response: Shorewood Hills Police Department will continue producing informational news blasts and articles for the Bulletin to include helpful hints to protect your home from burglaries, current phone scams, and new or amended statutes you might be interested in. The Public Health and Safety Committee also receives monthly incident summaries and call lists, which could be published in the Village Bulletin.

8. Review budget expenditures for police equipment. Are they comparable to other like departments? Create a budget process which ensures that the requests meet the actual needs of the department's activities.

Response: Currently, all budget expenditures are reviewed by the Village Administrator, Public Health and Safety Committee and the Board of Trustees for final approval. A squad car is the largest piece of equipment that Shorewood Hills Police Department purchases, which is purchased on a three-year rotation. It should be noted that the Shorewood Hills Police Department has never exceeded its operational budget.

Shorewood Hills Police Department does not have ballistic shields, TAC vests, gas masks, helmets, road spikes, body cameras, etc. and is below standards when it comes to protective equipment for the officers when compared to other similar departments. We also have aging AED's (defibrillators) in our squad cars.

It should be noted that Shorewood Hills Police Department assists outside agencies on high-risk traffic stops, domestic disturbances, calls involving persons with weapons, demonstrations downtown, political campaigns and crowd control, VA Hospital calls for backup when patients have outstanding warrants, Detox conveyances or mental health crises. Shorewood Hills Police Department has also responded to Village residents who have reported being threatened because of their professional work. The equipment requested by the police department protects the lives of officers and individuals involved in police contacts.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultant's suggestions based on the listening session.

Chief Dennis A. Pine
Shorewood Hills Police Department