



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**July 15, 2025**

**Sam King Room**

**2:00 PM**

### **Committee Members Present**

Commissioner Harry Brock

### **Also in Attendance**

Sammy Rich, City Manager  
Director Katy Walters, PAWS  
Division Chief Clete Bonney, Fire  
Chief Denise Downer-McKinney, Police  
Major Mark Tison, Police  
Doug Walker, Public Information Officer

Joe Smith, City Clerk  
Chief Troy Brock, Fire  
Division Chief Jamie Stone, Fire  
Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey, Police  
Major Rusty Blair, Police

### **Absent**

Commissioner Elaina Beeman  
Commissioner Bill Collins

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order.

### **Animal Control/PAWS**

A written report on activities at Public Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) was distributed to the committee for review.

Director Katy Walters reported an increase in the number of intakes this summer with 92 animals already being picked up this month and over 300 animals picked up in June. There is also a slight increase in the number of animal cruelty charges this year. She also noted the department continues to offer low cost spay/neuter services.

Chairman Harry Brock asked if there is assistance available through PAWS for the homeless. Director Walters informed Chairman Brock they can provide spay/neuter services and up-to-date shots, but PAWS can't actively "go out" and pick up the animal. The owner must bring the animal into the shelter to be altered and/or to receive shots.

### **Emergency Management**

A written report on activities at Emergency Management was distributed to the committee for review.

### **E911**

A written report on activities at E911 was distributed to the committee for review.

## **Fire**

A written report on activities at the Fire Department was distributed to the committee.

Division Chief Stone reported 583 calls for service during the month of May, 304 in the city and 278 in the county. There were 280 inspections conducted and 16 educational classes. In June there was a total of 567 calls for service, 285 in the city and 281 in the county. There were 251 inspections, and 13 educational classes were conducted.

Division Chief Bonney informed the committee the construction bid had been awarded for renovation of station 2. The work is scheduled to begin on August 4<sup>th</sup> with a projected completion date of 120-days. He added that the crew from station 2 will temporarily move to the new shop.

Division Chief Stone reported the department conducted Water Mapping Drills in May and Defensive Driving Courses in June.

Brent Whatley was recently promoted to the new Deputy Fire Marshall position and a new fire inspector will be hired from internal applicants. A hiring process is currently being conducted for eight (8) fire fighter positions. As of this date, 95 applicants have been received.

Chief Troy Brock stated the department will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fire Prevention and Education Program on October 24, 2026. The department has already started planning and will work with the Downtown Development Authority to make this a festive event with community involvement.

## **Police**

A written report on activities at the Police Department was distributed to the committee.

Major Blair reported a decrease of some 13% in total crimes against persons aggravated assaults. There was also a decrease in total crimes against property with an 11% reduction in robberies, a 19% reduction in burglaries and a 42% decrease in the number of shoplifting cases. There was an 11% increase in the number of citations and the number of warnings increased by 15%. The number of calls for service also had a slight increase YTD.

Major Tison reported that YTD the Rome Floyd Metro Task Force has executed 35 search warrants, seized 28 firearms, \$105,000 in US currency, an array of drugs to include 22 pounds of meth and have made 122 arrests.

The training division trained 39 officers for a total of 2112 hours in June. The Training Division conducted numerous community relations programs YTD with some 3,000 in attendance.

The Criminal Investigation Division assigned some 300 cases YTD and issued 68 search warrants.

Chief Downer-McKinney stated the department completed the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) review. The response from the assessor has been very positive and from his report we had an excellent review. We will formally receive our recertification when we go before the CALEA Commission in November.

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey stated the department currently has nine vacancies and about 24 applicants.

Assistant Chief Bailey also told committee members that the department's fleet maintenance had been moved from the former law enforcement complex to the public works garage. The indoor firing range located at the training division will be renovated to house evidence. Once renovations are completed, evidence will be moved to the new Evidence Room location at the Training Center on Callier Springs Road.

The equipment for the Ambassador Program is in and ready. The department has three applicants in the background process and one candidate in the application stage.

Chairman Brock asked what the primary focus of the ambassador would be.

Assistant Chief Bailey explained the ambassadors mail focus is to be seen downtown. They are to be involved in assisting people who need assistance downtown, whether it be downtown merchants, visitors, homeless, etc. They will be riding the streets and the trails to be the eyes and ears to help serve others.

Chairman Brock expressed his desire to set up a meeting with the Ambassadors and those who have dealings with the downtown area as well as the trails.

Assistant Chief Bailey told Chairman Brock the Ambassadors will attend a strenuous training course and a meeting of this type has been incorporated in this training.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Stone".

Kim Stone, Secretary