

SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 13, 2009
5:00 P.M.

Councilwoman Gaines, Chairman, called the meeting of the Safety Committee to order, with Councilpersons Berz, Benson, Rico, Bennett, Robinson, Gilbert and Pierce present. City Attorneys Mike McMahan and Phil Noblett and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Richard Beeland, Dan Johnson, Donna Kelley and Daisy Madison.

Chairman Gaines noted that we were supposed to discuss two items today; that the meeting was previously scheduled for January 20th but had been moved to today. One of the items was Chattanooga Endeavors and Donna Kelley was working to put something together on this and would have it ready in February.

The next item concerned the Brainerd community and Chairman Gaines stated that she had conversations with this community and had tried to contact citizens.

Councilwoman Bennett mentioned a problem in the Highway 58 area where they were talking about a rash of burglaries; that Pam Ladd was here earlier and was interested in this; that she was really serious about this and wanted to try to get the word out to this community.

Councilman Gilbert stated that in his area they only had one policeman for the Highway 58 area, and it was impossible for one person—that one person could not cover these many areas; that there are other areas with police precincts; that crime is going on in Brainerd and they are just talking about the noise; that in his district they were breaking into houses and people were getting killed.

Councilman Rico stated that he had the same problems in East Lake.

Chairman Gaines thanked them for bringing these issues up.

Councilman Benson asked how many police we have on the street? He wanted to know if we were understaffed and were short on the street?

Chairman Gaines stated that she thought the formula was five to one; that she would have someone from the Police Dept. at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Councilman Pierce questioned the 5 to 1 ratio.

Councilman Benson stated he had heard it was one administrator to ten men on the street.

Councilman Pierce stated that he did not know how it was broken down.

Chairman Gaines stated that she had gotten an e-mail on the Highway 58 area and would share the e-mail she had received and there was to be one neighborhood association meeting tonight, and she would have a copy to share with them.

Councilman Benson stated that he had heard we had 450 policemen. Councilman Pierce stated that he thought it was 475 sworn officers but all of the positions were not filled. Councilman Benson stated that would be 25 short. Councilman Pierce stated that we were having an Academy going on.

Chairman Gaines stated that she would have someone from the Department come in and brief us on the number of police in communities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.