

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 7th March 2011
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

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| Lord Mayor, Councillor Gerry Breen (Chair) | Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Edie Wynne |
| Councillor Mannix Flynn | Councillor Brid Smith |
| Councillor John Gallagher | Councillor John Redmond |
| Councillor Criona Ní Dhálaigh | Councillor Marie Metcalfe |
| Councillor Cieran Perry | |
| Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan | Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh |
| Asst. Commissioner Mick Feehan | Inspector Gerry Murphy |
| Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City) | |
| Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.) | |
| Mr. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Service Department | |
| Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager | |
| Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department | |

Apologies: John Tierney (City Manager), the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Venerable David Pierpoint, Councillor Larry O'Toole

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 24th January 2011

Order: Minutes agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Order: Noted.

3. Manager's report

Order: Report noted.

The Deputy City Manager acknowledged the concerted effort made by An Garda Síochána to combat the anti-social/aggressive begging situations on the boardwalk and vicinity. He reported no incidences of antisocial behaviour on a recent walk of the area in question.

4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Order: Report noted.

See Item 6. A.O.B. for reports requested for next meeting.

5. Copies of correspondence received from:

- (i) Cabra Community Policing Forum
 - (ii) S.A.F.E.R. Ballymun Community Safety Forum
- Reports from Cabra Community Policing Forum and S.A.F.E.R. Ballymun Community Safety Forum welcomed.

Members expressed dissatisfaction that North Inner City Community Policing Forum declined to make a report available.

Action: Manager to contact Forum and Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs seeking the information requested by Members.

Order: Correspondence noted.

6. A.O.B.

(a) Annual Report to Council

Order: An Annual Report, summarising the activities of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee and the 5 Joint Policing Subcommittees during 2010 is being brought to the March City Council meeting (taking place tonight).

(b) Items for future meetings

Order: The following items are to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Presentation by a recognised N.G.O. working with migrants on incidences of racist-motivated crime to be requested.
- Report on management and housing of Sex Offenders in DCC complexes requested
- Report from C.R. A. Department on the Horse Fair in Smithfield
- Assistant Commissioner's report to include:
 - Reference to statistics available for reported incidences of racism, having regard to legislation in other constituencies
 - Impact of the volume of taxis in the City Centre i.e. illegal parking etc.

7. Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting a week later than originally scheduled on **Monday 30th May at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

Manager's Report to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)

7/03/2011

Boardwalk

As reported by Gardaí to the last meeting, special attention is being given to incidences of public drinking, drug-taking and begging on the boardwalk. This is a particularly welcome development and a recent inspection of the boardwalk by me showed no such activity between the campshires from the Jeanie Johnston to Capel Street Bridge. The effect of the Garda operation is acknowledged and appreciated.

Annual Report

The Joint Policing Committee Act requires that an Annual Report on the activities of the Joint Policing Committees be circulated not later than three months after the end of the year. This has been drafted and is up for consideration by the City Council at its meeting on March 7th.

White paper on Crime – Report on Consultation Session with Older Citizens on the Issue of Crime

This is available for viewing at the following link:

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/older_citizens_doc

Philip Maquire
Deputy City Manager

**Joint Policing Committee
Monday 7th March 2011**

Report of Assistant Commissioner Michael Feehan, Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this second meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2011 I intend to concentrate on the developments in the first two months of 2011, developments regarding St. Patrick's Festival, Begging and I will briefly comment on the crime and traffic statistics for 2011.

Crime

For the first two months of 2011 overall Property Crime has increased. However, Burglaries and Robberies from the person have shown a decreasing trend for the last three months.

In particular during the month of February 2011 we have had a number of successful operations in identifying and bringing before the courts a number of prolific Burglars.

The initiatives across the city to target organised and armed crime are continuing. These initiatives are intelligence driven and continue to be seen locally as having an effect on the activities of persons involved in organised crime. This continues to be a priority for An Garda Síochána right across the city.

In addition to the policing operations in place I have also been rolling out Garda Youth Case Management within the D.M.R during 2010. For those of you who are not familiar with the process, Garda Youth Crime Case Management is a co-coordinated and consistent management process which places one Garda as a Case Manager for each individual young person who is charged and before the courts. The appointed Garda is responsible for leading, coordinating and managing the young person's charges.

The main objective is to assist in the co-ordination of appropriate interventions and services necessary to meet the needs of these children, with a view to engineering them out of the criminal justice system. This process is an integral part of our overall crime management structure within the D.M.R. and has resulted in very significant reductions in recidivism amongst the initial group of offenders being managed.

Traffic

The number of people killed on the roads for the first two months is 5, this compares to 3 deaths for 2010. I am aware of the effect each death has on the families and I have requested my Regional Traffic Chief Superintendent to carry out a review of each collision to determine if there were any common factors associated with the fatalities. In addition I have also directed each of my Chief Superintendents to re-visit their Divisional Causality Reduction Plan with a view to maximising its effectiveness.

Upcoming Events

At the time of writing this report plans are in place for the policing of St. Patrick's Day Festival, Europa Cup Final and the Carling League.

Throughout the Region plans are in place to ensure that there are sufficient resources deployed in the city centre and the suburbs to avoid disturbances and anti-social behaviour for all events.

In regard to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Superintendents in the city have communicated with each Off Licence within the City Centre as with previous years requesting their support to keep their premises closed until 4pm. Meetings have also taken place with Dublin City Council regarding their cooperation with the policing of the event. On the day liaison officers are in place between both organisations to coordinate the removal of bottles or any other potentially harmful objects

Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 2011(Begging)

The Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 2011 became law on the 2nd February 2011. In summary, under this new legislation, a person who begs in an aggressive, intimidating or threatening manner will be guilty of an offence. New powers enable An Garda Síochána to direct anyone begging near ATMs, night safes, shop entrances, etc. to leave the area.

The Act creates new offences for begging when accompanied by harassment, intimidation, assault, threats to any person or the obstruction of the passage of persons or vehicles.

It also creates offences of organising and directing begging and of living off the proceeds, which carry penalties of up to five years imprisonment or a fine of €200,000 or both.

Arising from this new legislation I directed that operations were to be put in place to address the begging problem across the city. That operation has involved Gardaí directing people to desist from begging and in making arrests in appropriate cases. Significant cautions and arrests have taken place to date and reports from the community have indicated that the level of begging has reduced considerably. The operation will continue for the foreseeable future.

THANK YOU