MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, January 7, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Grover, Tendam, Holmes, Braithwaite, Fiske

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joseph McRae, Chief Richard Eddington, Nicola Whyte, Commander Diane Davis, Wally Bobkiewicz, Henry Ford, Karen Danczak-Lyons, Douglas Gaynor

Presiding Member: Ald. Braithwaite

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Braithwaite called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of December 3, 2012

Corrections: Matt Swentkofske name appeared twice, delete one, and add Henry Ford’s name to the attendees.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 3, 2012 meeting be approved with the corrections. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Citizen Comments
Carolyn Murphy
Spoke on the safety of the streets of Evanston
She recounted several gun incidents in which the police was notified; however, the police response time was lacking in promptness.

The status of the investigation of her son who was murdered November 29, 2012
She has given all the information about the events leading up to her son’s death and to her knowledge all her witness has come forward to assist the police with their investigation. She is still waiting on a phone call for an update.

Internal and public notices of criminal and gun related activity within the community
Her question to the committee and the Police Department is “what are the operational procedures for patrolling the streets”. Why isn’t the community notified when there is violence in the neighborhood. She gave the McDonalds shooting as an example, when that occurred a phone tree was activated and the community was informed.

Madelyn Ducre does not condone certain activities currently occurring within the community and encouraged embracing humanness and forgiveness. She urged the community and Committee to speak openly about race relations and the injustice that is happening in the City and the
country. The race talks should be an ongoing topic of conversation it is not just occurring in
Evanston. The violence must stop.

Pricilla Giles 1829 Ashland felt a portion of the community is being neglected; the access to the
Fleetwood Jourdain Center is cumbersome to those who require assistance walking or in a
wheelchair.

Justin Blake made an analogy of the current influx of violence within the Evanston community.
There is a perceived correlation between lack of sanitation and cockroach infestation and
currently the increase violence level is the City’s cockroaches. It is an indication that something
has to be done to make our community safe (clean) again. He urged the community to join him
in his efforts to bring peace back to the community.

John Bamburg voiced his concerns on several issues;
- He does not appreciate the conversation by the police about him
- He has not threatened anyone and has no involvement with conspiracies; he doesn’t run
  around with young men promoting violence.
- He would like the correct car key that was in his son’s procession, the copy he received
  from the police doesn’t work.
- His family is highly offended by the “Hatfield and McCoys” and gang reference

Chief Eddington response to citizen’s comments: He stated there are individuals within each
family who are disinclined to let go of the recent activities. The police will continue to investigate
the recent violent activities. In past years the police concentrated on burglary during the holiday
season however this season the concentration of staff was placed in Beat 77 to suppress further
acts of violence. The Chief noted that on December 21, 2012 he was on a three way call with
Ms. Murphy and Mr. Bamburg updating them and discussing the recent violence.

Betty Sue Ester is happy with the outcome of the Evanston Wilmette Golf Association but is
concerned with the relocation of the Township to the Civic Center she believes the two entity
should be kept separate. It is her belief that whenever she brings a concern to the committee it
is passed over; however, if a Caucasian person voices the same concern it is given more
attention and validity. She asked for the same respect because her concerns are valid and
should be respected no matter her ethnicity.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of Police Complaints
The report was accepted by the committee 5-0.
Ald. Holmes reiterated how important respect is when interacting with the community and it
seems that a lot of the complaints are related to lack of respect.

Chief Eddington reviewed the complaint submission procedure.
Ald. Braithwaite stated he has asked the Chief to take a close look at the statistics coming out of
OPS; report on the total number of complaints broken down by race; the number of officers who
has had more than three complaints within one year.
Ald. Braithwaite also stated there seems to be a large number of complaints made by African-
American residents and the goal is to reduce that number and also change the perception of the
police department.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
Township of Evanston December 2012 Monthly Bills

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston December 2012 monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.*

Assessor Bonnie Wilson report

Evanston's 2012 appeal period to the Cook County Board of Review is certified and published. Of the 231 taxpayers who utilized the services provided by the Evanston Township Assessor's office 76% received decreased assessments. Over half (53%) of the taxpayers who were no changed for 2012 by the Board of Review received previous triennial assessment relief from appeals through my office to the Board of Review or the County Assessor.

The 2012 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze and 2012 Senior Citizen exemption renewal mailing went out on Friday January 4th and have due dates of February 6, 2013. Anyone born in 1947 or before and lived in their property on January 1, 2012 is eligible for the 2012 senior exemption. First time qualifiers must provide a recent tax bill and a State ID or driver's license with the correct address to my office for forwarding to the County Assessor. According to the County Assessor, generic exemption forms should be available soon. Call us at 847-332-2465 to make an appointment or drop by at 846 Dodge at Dodge and Main St. Reminder that every senior must apply every year for a senior exemption even if you might not qualify for a Senior Freeze you should still apply for a senior exemption.

In December 2012, eight taxpayers received corrections for missed property tax exemptions totaling $15,033.06. The 2012 fiscal year total for the first 9 months of the year is now $353,582.08. Please contact the Assessor’s office if you feel you've missed a previous property tax exemption. State law still allows corrections back to 2008 for missed exemptions.

COMMUNICATIONS
Evanston Wilmette Golf Association Report
Perry Weinberg, acting Golf Board President, summarized the report sent to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT
It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department