



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Present: Councilor Downs (Chair), Malakie, Grossman, Bowman, Oliver and Lucas

Absent: Councilors Markiewicz and Lipof

Also Present: Councilors Albright, Danberg and Kelley

City Staff: Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer, Jack Cowell, Financial Director and Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

Others Present: NewTV

#187-21 Requesting an amendment of City Ordinance Section 10-38

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an amendment of City Ordinance Section 10-38. Companies and apparatus leaving city; authorization to aid other municipalities.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 6-0**

Note: Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Police Department and Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Lucchetti stated that this item was docketed as a request from the Metro Chiefs because it has been twenty-years since the mutual aid agreement has been signed.

City Ordinance **Sec. 10-38. Companies and apparatus leaving city** has not been updated since 1973. Some additions to the new draft ordinance include the authorization of the ambulance or emergency medical services (EMS) to go to aid another city, town, fire district or areas under federal jurisdiction in the state or in any adjoining states.

If approved, the new Ordinance would be submitted to the Metro Chiefs indicating that Newton will be in standard with the other 35 communities in the metro division.

Committee members and Councilors questions and answers:

How frequently does Newton send apparatuses, equipment or personnel to other communities and how frequently does Newton receive same? Chief Lucchetti answered that it can occur daily with the EMS. Cities and towns are growing and requesting more fire construction details. Newton has not

done a fire construction detail because we have not been approved. Fire construction details will become a more frequent occurrence.

Is the city compensated for fire construction details attended in other municipalities? Chief Lucchetti answered yes, the contractor requests a detail, the department provides the detail, Newton receives the compensation for the firefighter and receives a service charge.

The DPW is unable to complete 1/3 of city projects because they are unable to get enough police details. Do we have enough police details to complete the DPW projects in the city? Ms. Lemieux answered that the police and fire details are two different things. Tonight, Chief Lucchetti is requesting an amendment to the current ordinance which allows companies and apparatus leaving the city and authorization to aid other municipalities. The administration has had several conversations with the Fire Department Union and the Law Department to determine how the city can move forward to allow fire personnel who are not working on a particular day to cover police details. The administration believes that it is better for our firefighters on their days off to be working in the city, as opposed to doing side jobs in other communities. This would be a win for everyone.

Please clarify the list of total incidents and responses in the budget book, do the figures include Newton responses only and/or neighboring communities? Chief Lucchetti the budget book lists Newton responses only. He then stated that he does not have the number of mutual aid responses from other cities or towns.

Without further discussion, Councilor Grossman made a motion to approve this amended ordinance. Council members agreed 6-0.

At approximately 8:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andreae Downs, Chair