

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION MEETING NOTES
THURSDAY, July 17, 2025, 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

Attendees: Councilmember Jeffery Mills; Chief Dove Robison, Laurel Volunteer Fire Department; Captain Clyde Williams, Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad; Arman Safakhah, Department of Public Works; Vicki Rambow; and Don Gavelek.

Previous Minutes Approved By: Don Gavelek
Seconded By: Chief Robison

Juvenile Complaints

The meeting began with discussion led by Committee Chair, Jeffery Mills, regarding juvenile complaints.

- Concerns were raised about a growing trend of juveniles engaging in criminal activity.
- Due to their age, many are not being held accountable, leading to repeat offenses.
- It was noted that over 100 vehicles have been broken into by juveniles, highlighting the seriousness of the issue.

Community Updates

- Crime Analyst Said, Shared information about the events on July 5th and July 18th, including:
 - Enforcement of curfew ordinances.
 - The Laurel Town Center takeover, involving juveniles planning a disruptive evening.
 - Said gave details of the operation including the collaboration with other agencies to saturate the area and heighten police presence.

Speed Camera Updates

- A significant number of tickets have been issued recently by the Traffic Enforcement Unit in collaboration with the newly placed speed cameras.
 - New speed cameras were placed on the 800 Block of Gorman Ave EB, 800 Block of Talbott Ave WB and the 30 Block of Washington Blvd SB.
- While the enforcement has resulted in increased revenue for the city, it has also prompted strong reactions from the public.

Department of Public Works Updates

Arman introduced himself and provided several key updates:

- **Traffic & Infrastructure Improvements**
 - Ongoing speed studies throughout the city.

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- Crosswalk repainting projects underway.
- **Main Street:** curb reconstruction in progress.
- **Eighth Street:** raised crosswalks and new concrete sidewalks being installed.
- **ADA ramp improvements:** requests submitted for redesign.
- **Development & Road Projects**
 - **Park Center Drive:** development of an area with 84 new townhomes.
 - **Van Dusen Road:** in process of major upgrades, including signal redesign estimated at \$150K, from Sandy Spring to Contee.
 - Mills noted the **lack of sidewalks** on Van Dusen between Contee and Konterra.
 - **Laurel Park Drive:** concerns raised about the narrow roadway; Arman discussed possible solutions.
 - **Laurel Oaks Lane & Van Dusen:** sidewalk installation requested.
 - **Cherry/Contee Townhomes:** approximately 700 units planned; Chief Robison noted updates are still pending.
 - **Fidos for Freedom area:** a new sidewalk has been added; request made to include a crosswalk in that location as well.
 - **Cypress Street:** Committee Member, Don Gavelek, commended the recent repainting and offered compliments to DPW for their work.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 PM.