

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

Lakewood City Council Study Session

Date: October 25, 2021

Name of Observer: Deanna George

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Present: No roll call taken

Absent: n/a

Others present: Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, Lakewood Police Department

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board (LPAB) presented its 2020-21 accomplishments and work plan.

Its accomplishments included:

- Its first joint session with the new Youth Council
- Youth mental health strategic planning
- Planning its 2022 strategic initiatives

The LPAB work plan includes:

- Continued discussions with Clover Park School District, Youth City Council on how to communicate with mental health professionals at Greater Lakes Mental Health
- Coordinating with the Youth Council on a Youth Summit or Mental Health workshop
- Having mental health professionals work with families as well as students

The Council discussed ways to recruit youth to participate in youth programs. Points made in the discussion included:

- Creating opportunities for youth to ask questions about programs offered rather than just providing a list of programs
- Planning a community event involving youth

Parks, Recreation, and Community Services presented the purchase and sell documents regarding the expansion of Wards Lake Park. Parks, Recreation and Community services hopes to purchase 10.5 acres for \$55,000 and plans to ask the Council to authorize the city manager to execute the purchase agreement. No date was given.

The Council discussed possible liability issues. The discussion included:

- Concerns about water and/oil runoff
- Concerns about Safety and security

The Lakewood Police Department (LPD) presented its 3rd quarter report on crime rates, significant incidents, and staffing.

Crime Rates:

- Calls for service increased slightly, felony arrests held steady, and misdemeanor arrests decreased
- Robbery/property crimes significantly increased
- Shootings have increased significantly
- Assaults on police officers are trending upwards
- Crime overall is on a downward trend

Significant incidents:

- A gang related incident at Lakewood Village Apartments, where a toddler was nearly shot and 19 shell casings were found
- A drive-by shooting where 42 rounds were fired

Staffing:

- 9 officers have left service
- 5 officers were hired
- Most of Special Ops has been reassigned to patrol

The Council discussed the possible causes of the increase in gun and gang related violence. Points made included:

- Increased stress levels
- Increased mental illness
- Volume of guns on the streets
- Not being able to make arrests for certain crimes

Time I left the meeting: 8:25 pm

Links:

Agenda

<https://cityoflakewood.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-25-Council-Agenda.pdf>

Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pJrxHAh4o4>