



PUBLIC SAFETY POD Work Plan 2013 YEAR END Update **Police, Fire, Finance, Attorney, Information Systems, Human Resources**

The City of Mount Vernon “public safety pod” has been tasked with working on goals common to the public safety departments. The Directors of the pod met during the month of January to discuss areas in which working collaboratively would result in fulfillment of common goals, better inter-departmental cooperation, and gained efficiencies.

The information in green font is the results of their work in 2013.

Emergency Management Focused on Disaster Recovery: Chief Roy Hari & Chief Jerry Dodd

The City of Mount Vernon has an emergency management plan written in 2002. The need for review and modifications is critical. The public safety pod has identified the following steps for 2013:

- Review of Citywide emergency management plan
 - Complete
- Review municipal code
 - Complete
- Evaluate Skagit County DEM services
 - Complete
- Define partner agency roles/responsibility
 - Complete
- Drills: train disaster scenario based, involvement of internal City Director roles
 - Ongoing – table top exercises completed with Policy Group in June & November

- Complete plans for Fire Station #2 as backup EOC
 - Complete

Fiber Optic Master Planning: Kim Kleppe, Doug Nathe, Jana Hanson

Use of fiber optic internet connections is critical to effective delivery of public safety services. See also Economic Development Pod plans. This project contains elements of both pod focus.

- Plan, Prioritize & Propose ideas
 - Fiber map is complete with existing and proposed fiber expansion
- Addition of expansion areas to master map to include Little Mountain, Waterfront, high volume intersections in partnership with WSDOT
 - Continued work in partnership with Public Works on relocation of fiber along Waterfront Project
 - Mapping complete for fiber optic expansion up Little Mountain
 - Active discussions with partnership for use of new Little Mountain fiber expansion project

Identify added resources needed for successful expansion

- Successful 2014 budget requests – gaining support for reclassification of employee to fiber optic infrastructure support & capital expenditures for PON equipment (fiber optic related)

Regional Collaboration: Chief Hari, Chief Dodd, Kevin Rogerson

The City of Mount Vernon has historically provided leadership in working collaboratively with regional public safety agencies. In 2013, the public safety pod has identified the following opportunities:

- Computer forensics – Countywide team – research the concept of sharing trained detectives, share equipment, training, and outsource specialized need
 - Not complete, added to 2014 work plan
- Countywide SMART team – Police critical investigations: work has already been completed on the concept of pooling detectives during overwhelming critical incidents in Skagit County. For example, multiple casualty incidents, officer death, etc. Planned implementation and testing in 2013
 - Training is completed.
 - City Council approved the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (November)
 - The team is ready for call-outs
- Consolidate with others – discussions of borderless response in Mount Vernon/Burlington metro area
 - Complete - interlocal approved by City Council on July 10, 2013
 - Interlocal being developed for Fire Investigator response
- Skagit County Jail issue – significant hours of Mayor, Council, staff time in collaborating on a new Skagit County Jail issue.
 - Interlocal agreement accepted by Council on July 17, 2013.
 - Ballot measure approved by voters on August 6, 2013, collection begins Jan 1, 2014
 - Joint EIS proceeding with Skagit County and City of Mount Vernon on 2 proposed sites
- Gang issue – MVPD to select 2 gang officers in 2013, City Attorney to engage in regional discussions of gang taskforce to include prosecuting attorney and funding
 - MVPD able to commit to 1 officer in 2013 and 1 in 2014 due to staffing constraints

Physical Security: Rick Prosser, MVPD Crime Prevention Division, Eric Stendal, Kandy Bartlett Pod members identified concerns with security in the municipal courtroom and city hall buildings. CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) reviews will be conducted, and a phased implementation plan will be developed. In addition to planned drills in each location.

- Completed review of Municipal Court & City Hall
- Prioritize security solutions and implementation in 2014
- Security drills to be planned and executed in 2014

Technology: Kim Kleppe & various identified leaders below
Public Safety services rely heavily on technology.

- Cyber Security – Kim Kleppe, Kandy Bartlett, Shannon Haigh, Scott Worley, Eric Stendal, Alicia Huschka
 - Ongoing training for I.S. team including consultation with FBI for best practices
 - Conduct risk assessment
 - WCIA audit complete with good results
 - CJIS audit completed
 - FBI Technical Security audit completed
 - Implement recommendations
 - Password policy implemented
 - Separated police network from the rest of the City of Mount Vernon network
 - Added in a redundant firewall
- Document Management – Kim Kleppe
 - Working with Municipal Court Judge David Svaren to research integration of document management systems for paperless Court. Recommend system that is expandable for other City Departments to include police records functions.
 - Presented to City Council with favorable reaction. Discussion stalled at Skagit County, Judge Svaren will work to resolution
- Technology Infrastructure Equipment Replacement Plan – Alicia Huschka
 - Pod identified growing need for adding technology equipment to the equipment rental and replacement budget process
 - Appropriate requests supported by Mayor in proposed 2014 budget, City Council supported requests
- Surveillance Camera Expansion – Chief Dodd, Chief Hari, Kim Kleppe, Kevin Rogerson
 - identify expansion areas for surveillance
 - Prioritize other physical security proposals for funding through ongoing budget process to include expansion of security cameras at City owned facilities
- New software efficiencies – all members to identify opportunities
 - Dragonspeak, website enhancements, volunteer management, continued upgrade Spillman/2011
 - 36 digital recorders & docking equipment purchased through grant – pilot group of officers using this currently – evaluation ongoing
 - Online reporting (Fire, Police, Code Enforcement)
 - Good feedback from police department – received steady 6 or so reports per month, anticipating increase
 - Crime analysis
 - Research showed software upgrades do not prove out to be cost beneficial, Department will continue to utilize current Spillman system, with support from GIS specialist in CED Department
 - Telestaff – scheduling software up and running at MVFD – will evaluate results in 2014, anticipate efficiencies gained in scheduling. Will research use for time recording and payroll in 2014.

Funding: Alicia Huschka, Chief Dodd, Chief Hari

- Grant opportunities
 - Administration of Fire grants moving into finance office
 - Research for new programs an ongoing task for Chief Hari and Chief Dodd
 - Applications made for SAFER grant (Fire) which would enable hiring of 3 daytime firefighter personnel
 - Applications made for FEMA grant to replace aging airpacks for Fire Department
 - Decided against application for Federal law enforcement grant due to requirements
 - Police received grant funding for body armor, digital dictation equipment, & emergency driving training
- Police realistic equipment maintenance/replacement – work with budget process to request realistic figures and need
 - Realistic equipment request in proposed 2014 budget, supported by City Council – Police will replace 4 vehicles in 2014
- State mandates
 - Planning for marijuana legalization, will assess in 2014
- Jail costs – realization of new laws (mandatory arrests), medical costs, daily bed rate/use
 - Medical costs increased by \$9,808 in 2014 budget
 - Consider lobbying Federal delegation for support in reform to NOT cancel government healthcare coverage for incarcerated individuals
- 1/10 of 1% sales tax – 3/10 of 1% sales tax –
 - Agreement for revenue sharing with Skagit County for new jail facility will save the City approximately \$353,000 in the Police budget which is offset by increase in police budget of \$411,445
- Labor costs increasing significantly
 - Partially mitigated with police non-commissioned labor guild moving to City high deductible medical insurance plan
 - Significant medical insurance savings with settled Battalion Chiefs Fire Union contract