

# Meeting Minutes

## City Council Community Safety Subcommittee Meeting

March 22, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.  
Police Department Community Room  
250 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

### Roll Call

#### Subcommittee Attendance

Vice Mayor OD Harris  
Councilmember Christine Ellis (virtual)  
Councilmember Angel Encinas

#### Staff Attendance

Melissa Deanda, Interim Chief of Police  
Chris Perez, Police Commander  
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney  
Keith Hargis, Assistant Fire Chief  
Cassie Gutenson, Management Assistant  
Matt Burdick, Comm. & Public Affairs Director  
Josh Wright, City Manager

### Discussion

1. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 11-16 Providing a Location for An Unlawful Minor Party Gathering/Prohibited to Provide Additional Enforcement Tools for Unruly Gatherings

KELLY SCHWAB, City Attorney, and CHRIS PEREZ, Police Commander, introduced the item and presented information on proposed amendments to Chapter 11-16.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked how the police department clarifies if it is a juvenile gathering versus a family gathering with juveniles.

COMMANDER PEREZ answered that family gatherings would not fall under this statute.

MS. SCHWAB advised that the current ordinance also explicitly applies to providing alcohol to minors.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked how long ago the ordinances were instituted in other cities.

MS. SCHWAB advised the oldest ordinance in the valley is from 2013; Chandler's ordinance originated in 2015.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if it would be possible to look at rewording the name of the ordinance from "Unruly Gathering".

MS. SCHWAB advised that that is a possibility but that we want to avoid using terms that would create confusion by using verbiage used in other laws or ordinances.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked to clarify that this ordinance would not apply to protests.

MS. SCHWAB responded that protests are protected under the first amendment and that this language will not impede on that. This proposal is specifically related to unruly gatherings on private property and holding the property owner accountable for hosting such an event.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked if School Resource Officers (SRO) will be advised when students that attend the schools they are assigned to are involved in unruly gatherings.

INTERIM CHIEF MELISSA DEANDA advised that our SROs do proactive work on the weekends to identify parties involving students from their schools, engage with students, and listen for talk about events.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked at what point someone be considered a habitual offender of the ordinance.

MS. SCHWAB advised that we have habitual offender provisions outlined in existing codes. There are two levels proposed for this ordinance. Initial violation would be a civil violation and can be escalated to a criminal offense after the second visit if there is no criminal activity present. If criminal activity is present, the parties can be cited criminally from initial response.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked for clarification on when the gatherings would be considered a civil offense versus a criminal offense and if other cities have this provision.

MS. SCHWAB advised that it would be considered a criminal offense if there were criminal activities present, such as underage drinking.

The presentation continued with the policies of other local cities.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if it was possible to make the ordinance any stricter than is currently proposed.

MS. SCHWAB advised that City Council can only define Class 1 misdemeanors and anything more stringent than that must be codified through state law.

MS. SCHWAB asked if the Subcommittee is agreeable to the language and proposed changes presented.

The subcommittee members agreed and approved moving forward to all of Council with the current provisions presented.

(Councilmember Ellis left the meeting following this presentation.)

## 2. Fire Safety Inspections and Commercial Building Reinspection Fees

KEITH HARGIS, Assistant Fire Chief, introduced the item and presented information on Fire Safety Inspections and Commercial Building Reinspection Fees.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked for clarification on the current staffing model.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS clarified that prior to the previous budget approval, we had three inspectors; two were added in the 23-24 fiscal year and we are looking to increase that number to seven inspectors.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS clarified that this is for commercial inspections.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS stated that is correct.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked if the reason for noncompliance could be lack of understanding in what is being asked of them.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS responded that they provide a lot of education to make sure there is understanding of the requirements.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked if written documentation is included to the business to explain why compliance is important.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS advised that specific documentation as well as education and resources are provided to ensure understanding.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked how we address language barriers to ensure that the business owners understand.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS advised that all documentation provided is bilingual and a Spanish speaking inspector is on staff to assist when needed. Other language assistance can be provided as needed through translation services that are already employed through EMS services.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked about reassessing whether we should implement fines at the first reinspection and perhaps raise the cost of the second inspection.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS proposed raising costs for each reinspection after the second inspection, but not assessing fines at the first re-inspection.

Discussion was held among the group regarding potential fine amounts.

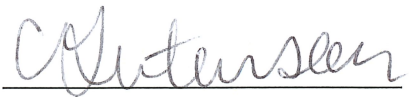
COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS proposed bringing this back to the entire Council for further discussion.

Consensus of the Subcommittee was to have staff bring forward some options for the full Council to evaluate.

ASSISTANT CHIEF HARGIS emphasized that grace periods are built in and there is leeway provided when seeing progress is being made towards corrections required.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Gustafson", written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary