

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

A City Council/Public Safety Committee meeting was held on November 13, 2019 at 7:00PM.in the City Council office.

Committee Members present: Committee Chairperson Michael McGonagle and Councillor Melinda Barrett. Councillor Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien was absent. Councillors Sullivan, Bevilacqua, LePage, Jordan, Macek and President Michitson also attended.

Department Head: Capt. Robert Pistone – Haverhill Police Department;

Attendees: Sophie Jones-Vinfen, Jeanne Russo-Vinfen, Sue Wing-Dept. of Mental Health, Brooke Doyle-Dept. of Mental Health, Stephen Cidlevich-Dept. of Mental Health, James Wrisley; Dan Robertson, Erin and Nick Bowen

Legislative Delegation: Senator Diana DiZoglio and Legislative Aide Sonia Kwo, Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, Rep. Andy Vargas, Josselyn DeLeon of Rep. Christina Minicucci's office

The following item was discussed:

1) Document # 79-T – Communication from Councillors Sullivan and Barrett regarding discussion with VINFEN and Haverhill Police Department regarding incident in neighborhood of 20 Westland Terrace group home on July 5th and steps being taken to better supervise residents and reduce police calls to residence.

A discussion was held concerning the group home at 20Westland Terrace along with a discussion about the 3 group homes (31 South Kimball St, 4 South Kimball St, and 230 Liberty St.). Captain Pistone provided background and history of the number of calls plus work hours associated with the 3 group homes over the past 4 years. VINFEN had representatives update the situation and conditions since the incident that happened on July 5, 2019. They have made adjustments to try to stagger house visits so that there is more oversight on a day-to-day basis. Residents from Westland Terrace who attended spoke of a better relationship with VINFEN and a sense that their adjustments seem to be working.

The discussion changed to the three group homes to try to find a way to assist the Police Department in managing the workload. Captain Pistone explained there may be software available to help manage the homes more efficiently. The Department of Children & Families has jurisdiction over the group homes but did not have a representative at the meeting. Senator DiZoglio offered to focus her office on understanding the parameters for how these homes operate. Senator DiZoglio will schedule a follow-up meeting to bring all stakeholders together for our next discussion.

Councillor Barrett made a motion to send a letter to full Council in support of sending an ordinance* to solicitor Cox that deals with the requirements of group homes to register with City departments. The motion passed. Councillor Barrett made a second motion to send a letter to the full Council in support of Senator DiZoglio's office setting up a follow-up meeting with all stakeholders. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McGonagle, Chairperson
Public Safety Committee

November 19, 2019

MG/bsa

*Doc.79-T – Handout from Councillor Barrett– City of Quincy Ordinance -Sober Homes