



# OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DAWN M. JONES, CITY CLERK

## HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY 10, 2022, 4:45 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Eli Wax, Karen L. White, Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner, Canneth Lee

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Council Present: Lori K. Hamann, Henry Davis Jr., Sheila Niezgodski, Sharon L. McBride

Other Council Absent: None

Others Present: Dawn Jones, Rachael Coates, Bianca Tirado, Elivet Navarro, Bob Palmer

Presenters: Scott Ruszkowski

Agenda: *Bill No. 22-01* – Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Special Victims Unit

Committee Chair Eli Wax called to order the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:45 p.m. and proceeded to hand the meeting over to the first presenter.

### ***Bill No. 22-01***

Chair Eli Wax stated that this resolution is for Council to approve entrance into an agreement between St. Joseph County, Mishawaka, and South Bend, to recreate the special victims' unit.

Committeemember Troy Warner stated that he took part in drafting this agreement and represents a party to the agreement from the police and will thus recuse himself from the vote on this bill.

Scott Ruszkowski, South Bend Chief of Police, 701 W Sample Street, presented *Bill No. 22-01*.

Chair Wax requested confirmation that two (2) sworn officers would be part of SVU, and the Department would provide funding for three (3) additional officers, for a total contribution of five (5) officers from the City.

Mr. Ruszkowski confirmed. He stated that in-house officers will be assessing domestic violence cases, and the family violence unit will handle all children offences and sexual assaults.

EXCELLENCE | ACCOUNTABILITY | INNOVATION | INCLUSION | EMPOWERMENT

455 County-City Building | 227 W. Jefferson Blvd | South Bend, Indiana 46601 | p 574.235.9221 | f 574.235.9173 | TTD 574.235.5567 | www.southbendin.gov



Committeemember Karen L. White asked what the funding of over two hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars (\$297,000) is for.

Mr. Ruszkowski responded that this amount is for the three (3) non-sworn South Bend police officers, who will likely be from other agencies or retired South Bend officers in good standing. The latter would have to receive an exemption from City legal.

Councilmember Lori K. Hamann asked whether the SVU falls under CRB purview for complaints as per section six point zero three (6.03).

Mr. Ruszkowski responded that a complaint could come from any employee, police officer, or community member. Depending on the violation, two (2) separate investigations would take place. SPBD and family justice center rules must be followed.

Committeemembers Rachel Tomas Morgan and Canneth Lee thanked all those involved in drafting this cooperative agreement. The rate of solved cases is remarkable.

Mr. Ruszkowski stated that this MOU is based on one of the seven (7) recommendations previously made for the SVU.

Committeemember Rachel Tomas Morgan made a motion to send *Bill No. 22-01* to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation. Committeemember Karen L. White seconded the motion, which carried by a voice vote of four (4) ayes. Committeemember Troy Warner abstained.

Councilmember Henry Davis Jr., stated that South Bend is down twenty (20) to thirty (30) officers, and there is a crime issue. It would be prudent for the Committee to discuss these issues and funding for related initiatives in the future, with an update from law enforcement.

With no further business, Chair Eli Wax thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the Health and Public Safety meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eli Wax, Committee Chair

