



**CITY OF BOULDER  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE: June 18, 2013**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Consideration of a motion to accept the summary of the May 28, 2013 Study Session on the Boulder Police Department Master Plan Update.

**PRESENTER/S**

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager  
Paul J. Fetherston, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Beckner, Police Chief  
Dave Hayes, Deputy Police Chief  
Greg Testa, Deputy Police Chief

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This agenda item provides a summary of the May 28, 2013 City Council study session regarding the update to the Police Department Master Plan. The study session was intended to provide council with an opportunity to review the key factors driving the need for change in policing, receive information regarding the master plan update process, and provide feedback on proposed strategies and initiatives developed within the context of the Sustainability Framework.

**Attachment A** is a summary of the presentation, issues discussed and questions that were asked at the study session.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Suggested Motion Language:**

Staff recommends council consideration of this summary and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to accept the summary (Attachment A) of the May 28, 2013, Study Session regarding the Boulder Police Department Master Plan Update.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will incorporate City Council's feedback from the May 28 discussion and revise the Police Master Plan accordingly. The updated Police Master Plan will also include the priorities and funding plan, which will provide guidance for capital improvement programming and annual budgeting to guide management of the police department. The revised Police Master Plan will be presented as a public hearing item on July 25, 2013 to the Planning Board for a recommendation. It is anticipated that the Police Master Plan will then be presented to City Council as a public hearing item for review and acceptance on August 20, 2013.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- **Attachment A** – May 28, 2013 Study Session Summary on the Boulder Police Department Master Plan update

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**May 28, 2013**  
**Study Session Summary on**  
**Boulder Police Department Master Plan Update**

**PRESENT**

**City Council:** Mayor Matthew Appelbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Morzel, Council Members Suzy Ageton, Macon Cowles, Suzanne Jones, George Karakehian, Tim Plass, and Ken Wilson. (Council member KC Becker was absent.)

**Staff members:** City Manager Jane S. Brautigam, Deputy City Manager Paul J. Fetherston, Police Chief Mark Beckner, Deputy Police Chief Dave Hayes, and Joanna Crean.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this informational study session was to provide council with an opportunity to review the key factors driving the need for change in policing, receive information regarding the master plan update process, and provide feedback on proposed strategies and initiatives developed within the context of the Sustainability Framework.

**OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

Chief Beckner began the presentation by explaining that the Police Master Plan is being updated to better reflect current and emerging trends, which include an increasing population and changing demographics; a rise in the number of calls for service; changing community expectations; advances in technology and communication and the use of technology to investigate crimes; and requirements for court evidence. The updated Police Master Plan is being restructured within the context of the Sustainability Framework to reflect the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan and the city's approach to Priority Based Budgeting. The Master Plan is intended to guide the Boulder Police Department (BPD) for the next five to seven years in addressing the business operations of police service delivery in a manner that meets the community's standards and sustainability goals.

Chief Beckner provided details about the key measures used in evaluating police effectiveness including crime statistics, response time and number of officers per 1,000 residents. Based on the last five years of data, BPD is continuing to see an average of approximately 3,000 serious and 5,000 less serious crime cases per year. Average response from the time a call was received to the arrival of an officer for Priority One<sup>1</sup> calls has increased from 2 minutes and 15 seconds to 4 minutes and 28 seconds. The

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<sup>1</sup> "Priority One Calls" includes calls that require the immediate presence of a law enforcement officer in order to protect individuals from injury or life-threatening situations, or other emergency situations which require and depend upon an immediate response.

increase is mostly due to improvements in record keeping but it is also partly related to the fact that there are fewer officers available to respond. Another useful performance measure is the comparison of various data against police agencies of similar size and makeup. In comparison to the benchmark cities, Boulder typically has shorter response times, within the average range in number of serious crimes, and above average in number of officers per resident.

Part of the master plan update includes strategies and initiatives (action items), created within the context of the Sustainability Framework to address the provision of police services. The Sustainability Framework is a tool to help ensure that each departmental master plan aligns with and advances the goals and priorities of the City Council and community. For each Sustainability Framework category area, Chief Beckner presented the BPD's strategy along with an example initiative. Staff will incorporate council's feedback and revise the Police Master Plan accordingly. It is anticipated that the Police Master Plan will then be presented to City Council as a public hearing item for review and acceptance on August 20, 2013.

## **COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**

Following the presentation, City Council members provided comments and feedback on the master plan, including the proposed strategies and initiatives. The main points are summarized below.

- Explanation of the coordination with CU-Police including protocols on roles and responsibilities.
- Additional information on the number of officers on patrol per shift or time period.
- Several council members noted that the biggest concern for BPD over the next five to ten years is keeping up with the technological changes.
- One council member highlighted that the Public Safety Building is undersized for both "people" and technology needs. There was an understanding that this will be addressed as part of the Facilities and Asset Management (FAM) Master Plan in 2014, when this issue is evaluated across the city organization.
- Explanation of what community policing means and the types of changes that are being considered. Council is interested in hearing from the community about opportunities where an officer must be present versus other methods of response and what that means in terms of trade-offs and resources.
- Clarification on how homelessness is being addressed in the master plan process (for both Police and Human Services).
- In terms of measuring performance, one council member would like a better understanding of how we are doing compared to ourselves. Further discussion about what it would take to get BPD to the upper benchmarks (performance measures) in order to be the best that it can be (in areas where appropriate).
- One council member questioned whether a civilian review board appointed by City Council would be more appropriate than the current process.
- Better understanding of push and pull of federal, state and local efforts and the kinds of crime faced by society. Clarification about who has primary jurisdiction.

- Time period for phasing in of additional staff is longer than hoped.
- All the council members were interested in talking more about the impacts of the legalization of marijuana once the law is better understood.