

CITY OF MEDINA
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING (Virtual)

July 13, 2022,
4:00 P.M

Medina City Hall Chambers
501 Evergreen Point Road
Medina, WA 98039

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rosalie Gann, called the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Leadership Team: Chair Rosalie Gann, Dr. Doug Dicharry, Dr. Kay Koelemay, Cy Humphreys
City Staff: Police Chief Jeff Sass, Police Captain Austin Gidlof, Police Admin Sunita Hall

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Rosalie Gann welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the meeting's agenda. Gann introduced guest speakers, DC Chief Beste and Natasha Grossman from the Bellevue Fire Department. Mayor Jessica Rossman congratulated Chief Jeff Sass on his recent promotion to Chief of Police and relayed that there would be a promotional ceremony followed by a community forum held on the following day (Thursday, July 14th).

PRESENTATION A Day in the Life Series – Bellevue Fire Department

DC Chief Beste began his presentation on Bellevue Fire Department and briefed the Committee on how fire services were covered in Bellevue and for contracted cities. He explained how the department was set up and trained to respond to different calls for aid – and the critical moments when responding to fire calls, and the impact of early CPR on survival rates. In addition, Beste described the role the department played in the community, on education outreach and safety/CPR training. Beste answered questions on how the department would respond to and prioritize calls in the event of a disaster e.g., an earthquake.

Natasha Grossman, Program Manager for Bellevue CARES gave an overview of the program and how it was resourced and contracted. Grossman explained that the program was set up to

respond to those cases typically requiring more than one service or department. She described its model organization structure and the type of situations that her team was able to respond to - they could be called to an incident by firefighters or police in the moment of crisis (and any follow up) or receive a referral from contracted agencies. Grossman reported that the program had grown exponentially (currently just under 1000 cases served) and that the team were seeing more mental health cases, compared to a few years ago, where more elderly /mobility cases were seen.

A short discussion ensued on sharing resources with the committee. Chief Beste advised that Heather Wong, the interim public information officer for the fire department was currently in the process of having updating communications in 25 languages; And Carl Lunak from the City's emergency preparation department was another good resource. Beste spoke on the importance of education, coordination, and communication within communities. He suggested in addition to look at opportunities to engage with employees who worked in some of the houses in Medina. Beste stated that the new high-rise buildings complied with the appropriate fire safety codes and equipped with sprinkler systems, that made it safer to respond to a fire in a single storey high rise building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve April 12, 2022, meeting minutes moved by Doug Dicharry and second Cy Humphreys. The April 12, 2022, Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting minutes were approved as written.

MEDINA UPDATES - Chief Sass

Chief Sass announced that Austin Gidlof had been promoted to Captain. There would be a ceremonial function held on the following day for both his and Austin's promotions. Sass expressed the importance of celebrating promotions and successes. He updated members on the two recent entry level officers, who had joined the Department and would complete their Criminal Justice Academy training on September 9th.

Medina PD, along with Clyde Hill and Washington State Patrol had met with Medina Elementary school and the Bellevue Security team to go over security protocols. Chief Sass spoke about equipping teachers with relevant skills and training (both exiting plans and critical lifesaving skills) for active emergency incidents. And the importance of actively getting out of danger rather than the more traditional passive responses (i.e., stop, drop and cover) that may be more suited to earthquakes events. Sass reported that there would be a strong emergency services presence (including Medina PD and Bellevue Fire Department) over Seafair and Medina Days. The Committee would also have a presence, and Chief Sass confirmed that there would be some emergency preparation type giveaways.

2022 GOALS - Communicate, Educate, and Engage

Chair Gann suggested the option of a sub-committee that would look at ways to engage. And that Shredder Day in October could also be an opportunity to share emergency preparation information.

MEDINA RADIO GROUP COMMUNICATIONS

Doug Dicharry reported that there continued to be a steady core group at check-ins. He thanked Austin for obtaining an extra antenna. And Cy Humphreys updated the Committee on the impact of the hotter weather on some of the equipment and that he would continue to work with Austin on this.

ROUND TABLE

Chair Gann asked for ideas for the next meeting. Chief Sass suggested the idea of having a speaker from the Bellevue Security team to share more about the work and the new approaches to safety that they are using in schools.

Chair Gann closed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Sunita Hall

Next Meeting October 12, 2022