

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

April 4, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Barry, Long, Stewart, George-Kelly, Burkush

Messrs.: P. Alexakos, C. Goodnow, A. Aldenberg

1. Presentation of a proposed Lead Exposure Prevention Commission.

Phil Alexakos, Deputy Public Health Director, stated thank you, members of the committee. This is a follow-up to the presentation that I did before the Board at the last meeting. I want to keep the momentum going in our efforts to decrease childhood lead poisoning in the City of Manchester. We hoped to have a draft for your consideration at this meeting but we need to make some technical adjustments. So I will outline what the ordinance will contain to give you a primer and then for the next meeting we will have something for you to take action on. I would be remiss if I didn't wish everybody a happy National Public Health week, although in my opinion every week is National Public Health Week. So thank your local public health officials after the meeting. These are all of the slides I'm going to have so that's the good news; I'll yield back probably the balance of half of your meeting time. I spent a good deal of time before the BMA setting the stage for why lead poisoning prevention is important. I want to talk about who should be on this commission, the structure and mechanics, the focus and mission for the commission, and then the timing for the establishment of the group. As I talked about before the BMA and for folks that didn't hear the presentation that may be behind or watching, lead poisoning changes a child's life. It is permanent damage that is done by lead exposure. There are significant societal costs and most importantly, it is something that we can prevent. In doing some research, and looking at return on investment for every dollar that is spent in primary prevention for lead poisoning, you can get anywhere from a \$17 to a \$221 return. I'd be happy to talk more about that next time. Regardless of whether it is on the low or high end, these are dollars and lives, they are not just numbers. We need to keep that in mind when we are looking at data. Who should be on this commission? We want to have a representative sample of folks that have interest, experience, personal experience, professional experience, and a voice. We want to have a well-rounded group. We have not set the numbers of people or different types of folks within these different disciplines, but we want membership from the Board of course, members of municipal staff including the Health Department and the Planning Department, the Solicitor's Office as appropriate, the School District, the medical community, property owners, and not just owners that have lots of properties, but people who own a three-family. We want a representative sample of those stake holders. Most importantly, we want to have voice from those who have been impacted by lead poisoning. Their voice is always the most important to have. Sometimes when we establish these committees and commissions, they aren't able to come to meetings when we typically have meetings, so we'll do our best to make sure that everyone's participation is valued and honored through this process. We want to have representatives from the different sectors in our community that work with children, housing, and lead professionals. Who is out there doing the work? What are the things

they are coming across? What are the areas of work force development? We need every piece of the equation to be part of this discussion and how we determine next steps moving forward. Of course there will be an appointment and approval process like all boards. We're still working on that language about how that process will work. Depending on the length of the commission, whether it is a commission that sunsets or is something that we determine should be an ongoing commission, that is something to be determined. We will have a set of officers so we have accountability. We will have support from my department in terms of note taking and minutes and things of that nature. All of these minutes, as are minutes and agendas for public meetings, will be available to the public. There will be some set of by-laws by which we can bring proposals forward to the board for their consideration. We want to have all of this clearly detailed so everyone understands the process as we get into rolling up our sleeves into this work. Here is the focus of the commission. A lot of this is pretty straightforward language. Of course, we want to have guiding principles and a sort of vision, which is reducing childhood lead poisoning of course. We may make proposals around policies, initiatives, and ordinances or best practices. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen is the body that will have the final say. This commission is not something that is going to make binding proposals. We will be providing guidance to you to make decisions moving forward. We also are very committed to determining what is success. How will we measure any improvement in health status or health outcomes as a community based on what we decide to do as a group of stakeholders? If we're putting an intervention in place, we want to track if it is effective and how effective it is, because we want to share that with everybody. This is not a problem that is just unique to Manchester. We want to report out to the Board and to the community on a set frequency so everybody expects to get information so we can all work together. We'll hold public meetings, and we are trying to work on language to talk about if the community or businesses wanted to be involved and wanted to put funds or allocate resources towards some of these initiatives, is there a mechanism in place for that to happen. And if the Board wishes to do the same, that they would have a mechanism to put funds into a line item for action. We want to have a mechanism. We're not going to come forth and say we want X amount of dollars, but we need to have something in place so if the community or non-profits or others want to participate in that way, we'll have a mechanism to do that. Lastly, we are having that key concepts briefing tonight. The work group that currently exists will put together the final draft, we'll call it, so that this committee will be able to take action at the May 2 meeting. We will definitely have an actionable document for you well in advance of that for your consideration and certainly we can answer questions. We've made a whole list of other steps, and this is your civics lesson for the evening for folks watching at home. There is a process when you adopt ordinances. Things don't happen automatically. There are opportunities for the public to participate in these processes. I'm happy to entertain questions, but we will definitely have something to you well in advance of the May 2 meeting so you can consider and ask questions, and we welcome that opportunity. You may actually hear from members of the community during public comment because we certainly put out information that this initiative is something that is important and that people should have their voice heard as part of this process. Thank you.

Alderman Long stated thanks for all the work that you put into this very important initiative. What I like about it is it is not an educational thing. It is action that is going to be taken. I think it is needed. Lead is silent. It is not on my plate often, or at all actually,

but I think it is very important and I do agree. I love the idea that it is zero. You're allowed five but we're looking at zero. I guess I agree. Just one is problematic. Thanks again and I'm looking forward to getting this set-up. Just to put it on the record, you did say the Health Department would help with agendas and minutes correct?

Mr. Alexakos stated yes. Typically, when we convene community efforts like this, we will allocate our staff to support those important things. We've done that before when it is in our wheelhouse. Certainly we have worked on these types of things in the past. We are committed as a department to improving the health of all citizens and in this instance, children.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to table.*

2. Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding a request from Erika Hamel of Total Image Running to use the Arms Lot for the TI 10 miler/10k event scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2023.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request from Peter Telge of Stark Brewing to use a section of Arms Lot for a Micro Mayhem Wrestling event scheduled for Sunday, May 21, 2023.

***Alderman Long** moved to approve the request. **Alderman George-Kelly** duly seconded.*

Alderman Stewart stated I spoke with Mr. Telge earlier about this. I'm glad the name was changed on here. I do want to say I'm not crazy about this idea. It's little people wrestling. It's kind of a spectacle. It seems like it is in bad taste to me to have entertainment because of a disability that people might have. So, I'm not in favor.

Chairman Barry called for a vote. The motion passed, with Alderman Stewart voting in opposition.

4. Communication from the Parking Manager regarding a request from Liza Schoedinger to use a portion of the southeast corner of Arms Lot for DEKA's ARMI BioFabUSA Meeting in the Millyard event scheduled for Thursday, June 1 through Saturday, June 10, 2023.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Communication from Jen Drociak, Ward 3 resident, requesting amendments to Section 71, Snow Emergency Regulations, of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances.

***Alderman Long** moved to discuss. **Alderman Stewart** duly seconded.*

Alderman Long stated the bottom line of this is that my understanding is that there was enforcement after 6AM, but we're getting mixed messages that there may not be. I'm wondering if with respect to the 10PM to 6AM, after 6AM my understanding is that there is no more enforcement. If there is a car that is snowed in with snow on top of it, after 6AM you can't enforce that. Is that right?

Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, stated that is how we understand it. We will handle it a different way. We will put an abandoned vehicle tag on it. We'll go back and check it. If it's not moved, we'll tow it. If it's in a spot where it is supposed to be cited, we'll handle it that way. We keep it in the parameters of 10PM to 6AM, the declared snow emergency.

Alderman Long stated so there is no towing or ticketing after 6AM.

Mr. Goodnow responded correct.

Alderman Long asked is there a reason why we couldn't add that in language somewhere. We would have to talk to Emily I am sure. I have had cars that were towed or at least ticketed after six because what happens is we get calls especially after the last snowstorm when it froze, and you've got a snowbank in a parking spot when the person leaves that is not going to be used because nobody wants to drive over the snowbank to get into the parking spot.

Mr. Goodnow stated I would defer to however you want to handle the declaration of a snow emergency.

Alderman Long stated okay I can speak with the Solicitor's Office to see if there would be a problem if we added to 10AM as far as enforcement goes because we have our plow trucks driving around looking for the opportunity to clean the street out. I know in my area, usually around 8 o'clock, all the workers are parked in the street so you don't have that opportunity to clean.

Alderman George-Kelly stated one of the things in question here is when it was reported and whether that makes a difference. Enforcement after 6AM, but in this situation it was reported during the snowstorm or a snow emergency before 6AM and enforcement didn't happen. We have to take that into consideration, too. Figuring out whether it was reported prior to 6AM, can enforcement take place after 6AM?

Mr. Goodnow stated there will probably need to be some discussion about after 6AM. I think some of the spirit of that ordinance is folks are now going to work. Now do I pick out the car that is cleaned off or the car that is snowed in? They're both on the street in the time frame. There should be some discussion on that.

Alderman Stewart stated to my mind, if you have a car that is cleared off after 6AM, that's not the issue. We're talking about cars that still have snow on them and were clearly parked and did not move over night. They're completely snowed over. To my mind, it would only make sense that clearly they violated the parking ban and can be given a ticket.

Mr. Goodnow responded I understand. I think you have to look at it black and white though, because the vehicle could have been cleared off but the vehicle still has been there since the night before. The ordinance will have to dictate what is ok and what is not ok. As it is now, you're driving around and the road is plowed, you pull over at 1AM and park your car, you're technically still under snow emergency and your vehicle could be towed. How do you articulate that this car had snow on it, this one didn't, that's why I think there should be some discussion on it.

Alderman Long stated I think Alderman George-Kelly has a good point. You'll probably be able to know if someone called in at midnight or 5AM that there's a car here in front of my house that hasn't moved and the plow can't get through, in that case would we be able to enforce it after the 6AM? I could check with the Solicitor and the Chief and see.

Mr. Goodnow stated as it is now, snow emergencies are managed by the Police Department; the towing. Ticketing at this point, where my folks come in at 8AM, where does that call come into? Does the call come into the Police Department? Is at the answering machine at the Parking Division? I think there is a lot to discuss there to move forward.

Alderman Stewart stated we have some questions, like you said, some details and practicalities that might need to be figured out but I think that's a discussion worth having.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to refer the item to city staff for review and creation of a draft ordinance amendment.*

6. Special events update from the Police Department, if available.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated I'll be brief. I sent it to you all early this morning. On April 26 through April 30 will be the carnival. There are no road closures for that, only police details. That's the one over at JFK. On April 30 we have the Walk for MS at Arms Park at 9AM with temporary road closures. We have a traffic plan in place for that. May 4 is the Taco Tour put on by the Chamber. Elm Street will be closed from Bridge Street all the way down to Granite Street. May 6 is the YWCA Walk for Hope at Delta Dental Stadium. May 13 is the Total Image Running ten miler at Arms Park at 9AM that crosses Granite Street to the Rail Trail and returns to Arms Park. That's all I have, pending your questions.

TABLED ITEMS

7. Communication from Christopher Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding an inquiry from Brad Pernaw in reference to parking in front of the Common Man Roadside restaurant at 451 Commercial Street.

(Note: Items #1 and #3 of the request were received and filed at the 9/6/2022 committee meeting. Item #2 regarding the installation of a park & pay kiosk is the only item on the table.)

8. **RESCIND CROSSWALK**

On Pine Street, mid-block across from the Library (ORD 2211)

Alderman Fajardo

(Note: This was pulled off the Traffic Agenda on 3/7/23.)

These items remained on the table.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee