



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 5:30pm, Room 209, City Hall

Committee Attendance:

Councilor Belinda Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Pious Ali (At-Large)

City Staff: Director of Health and Human Services, Dawn Stiles; Police Chief, Michael Sauschuck; Fire Chief David Jackson; Corporation Counsel, Anne Torregrossa; Director of Public Assembly Facilities, Andy Downs; Director of Public Health, Dr. Kolawole Bankole; Code Enforcement Officer, Chuck Fagone; Public Health Program Manager, Kristen Dow; Director of Permitting and Inspections, Mike Russel

Kristina Foster; Casey Gilbet; Steve Dimillo

Acentech Representatives: Alex Odum, Andy Carellera

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30PM.

Councilor Batson moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Sound Monitoring Equipment Update

Acentech representative Andy Carbellera presented the results of the noise level study. He described why the study was done, how data was collected, and what the study found:

([Link to the report:](#)

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/5951?fileID=32289>)

- What are the typical ambient sound levels in the City and where is it noisy?
- Provide a baseline: average sound levels during the day and at night
- 15 microphones to measure sound pressure (A-weighted and C-weighted) across Portland and South Portland over three months.
- What sound level is annoying or would wake someone up?
- Amusements (Chapter 4) upper limit of a minute average of 92 dBA
- HUD guidelines on community sound levels where single family homes would prefer lower outside noise levels versus hotels and outside. (HUD screening criteria for new construction.)
- Most sound is from traffic except for music in the entertainment areas on the weekend.
- Do concerts bother people?
- Sunday is the quietest and Friday/Saturday are the Loudest
- In places where sound is considered “unacceptable,” it simply describes where mitigation such as windows and walls would be appropriate.



Chair Ray described what the City is interested in:

- Noise levels at concerts
- Amusements part of city code (Chapter 4); knowing what the weekends sound like is useful
- Land Use (Chapter 14) regulation is applicable where people sleep.
- Heavy base is a big predictor in what noise people file complaints over.
- Keep A-Weight Criteria
- Most complaints are from outside patios.
- The data is most useful in the design process of construction.

Chief Sauschuck asked if Acentech has best practices to share. Andy does and explained they have model ordinances with back up documentation to support them. Chief Jackson asked if there are additional surfaces for the exterior of buildings that can minimize sound. Chief Jackson asked if there are mitigating materials one can put on the exteriors of buildings. Anne hopes that these data will help simplify City Code. Dr. Bankole asked what the public health implications are in the findings. Andy said that when noise prevents or interrupts sleep is when noise can impact health.

Andy will look at the noise level change at the borders of areas that affect vulnerable people.

Mike Russell asked about noise over water, the concerts that are on the water; Andy did not have a recommendation but notes that sound moving over water is amplified.

Councilor Ali asked if a pattern was noticed where the sources of sound is measured at multiple points. Andy said he would need to design a different study to answer the question.

Chair Ray asked if the microphones captured the ambient sound level. Andy explained that they do, including background sound levels with respect to concerts.

Chair asked how we would use the data to inform noise ordinance. Andy cautioned against writing ordinance too prescriptively to dB readings as most sound comes from traffic and would enforcement would be difficult.

Chair asked the staff present who are working on a noise ordinance if in light of the presentation that they will have recommendations at the end of February. Chief Sauschuck responded no and asked what the data means if it wouldn't inform dB level thresholds in ordinance.

Mike Russell- asked about methodology where 10 dB was added. Andy explained that just the nightly average levels received the extra 10 to account for sleeping individuals' sensitivity to sound.

Chair clarified that the ordinance needs work and staff will continue to work.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – Fire Department Facilities Assessment Presentation**

The committee postponed the item for time.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Flu Update

Dr. Bankole explained that an emerging strain of Influenza A (H3N3) is very virulent and contagious. The public health concern is high as there have been 34 fatalities in Maine. It brings with it 4 complications:

- Viral pneumonia
- Sepsis
- Heart Attack Risk
- Dehydration

Dr. Bankole explained that public health must make vaccines more available to vulnerable populations: children, elderly, and pregnant individuals, including a vaccination clinic that occurred on October 27. Last week PPHD pushed to get staff and the public vaccinated.

PPHD is looking to partner with other City departments to increase vaccination clinics. HR, Parks and Rec, and Media to see how city staff will help: all city buildings and bathrooms have hand sanitizer

- Clean
- Cough into the elbow
- Stay at home when you feel sick

PPHD wrote guiding protocols for the city shelters when shelter residents become infected. This includes a 3-5 day quarantine for treated individuals returning to shelter. A shelter representative must coordinate with the medical continuum of care.

People calling out reduces hospitals' ability to respond. The supply of saline is managed but reaching critically low levels.

Interdepartmental collaboration is key

PPHD is targeting outreach to vulnerable minority populations to get people vaccinated.

Councilor Ali suggested that Portuguese be added to the Flu materials to reach the growing Angolan population.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Work Plan

Goal Setting should occur on the last day in March.

- New Shelter
- Paid Sick Leave
- Sober/Recovery Housing – Anne did research, PCRC wants organizations to be appropriately accredited; this will come when ready.



- Comprehensive user engagement site was added and is closely tied to Opioid Epidemic, Substance Use Disorder (Lowers endocarditis) PPHD has already started researching SES facilities.

Next meeting:

March 20th in Room 24.

Meeting adjourned