

**City of Westminster City Council Study Session**  
**March 22, 2004**

Mayor Moss called the Study Session to order at 7:07 PM following the Executive Session.

All Council was in attendance.

City Staff in attendance included City Manager Brent McFall, Assistant City Manager Steve Smithers, Assistant City Attorney Jeff Betz (filling in for the City Attorney), City Engineer Dave Downing, Director of Finance Mary Ann Parrot, Chief of Police Dan Montgomery, Deputy Police Chief Jeff Jones, Deputy Police Chief Lee Birk, Senior Police Officer Tim Torrez, Public Information Officer Katie Harberg, and Administrative Secretary Kim Farin.

The guests in attendance were Gary Creager, a Commander with the Arvada Police Department and Mikele Kelley of the *Westminster Window*.

**Discussion of Urban Renewal Legislation**

Steve Smithers briefed Council on House Bill 1203, the eminent domain reform bill. He said that HB 1203 was heard earlier today. He expects it to be voted out of committee on Wednesday.

**Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Program**

Brent McFall introduced Dave Downing who, along with staff, recommended proceeding with the solicitation of bids for the proposed 2004 traffic calming projects and placing all others on hold until the program is further evaluated during the nine-month moratorium.

Council did not concur with Staff's recommendation. Council asked staff to come back with more information. Specifically, Council is looking for time frame information on when requests have been submitted and cost information on all projects.

**Informed Response Intrusion Alarm Strategy**

Brent McFall introduced Chief of Police Dan Montgomery. Chief Montgomery briefed City Council on a new strategy that the Police Department will implement on July 1, 2004 to deal with the continual problem of false intrusion alarms. Gary Creager, with the Arvada Police Department, joined Chief Montgomery with the briefing.

The Police Department has developed a new "Informed Response" strategy to help cut back on the hundreds of hours officers spend each year responding to false intrusion alarms, freeing up police time to respond to actual break-ins and other emergencies. Under this "Informed Response" strategy, police will respond to an intrusion alarm when: 1) there is some verification that there has been an illegal intrusion, such as a report from a witness or verification from an alarm company that is conducting video or audio surveillance of the site; 2) two alarm zones are activated; in other words, police respond when a perimeter zone is tripped, followed by an internal zone or motion detector; or 3) the officer has some knowledge of burglary problems or other special circumstances in the area, such as the North Area burglar.

This new policy only affects intrusion alarms. It will not change the City's response to robbery, holdup, panic, medical, and fire alarms.

Council concurred with Staff's recommendation.

**Transit Alliance**

Nancy McNally will attend the Transit Alliance meeting on Thursday and was seeking Council's position on S. 1072. She presented the draft statement on the reauthorization of TEA 21.

**South Sheridan Blight Area**

Councillor Dixon suggested that, in the future, when the City is in the preliminary development phase of a blight area, an extra step is taken to better educate the residents. She suggests that early meetings be held to gain input, which Council concurred with.

In another piece of business, Councillor Dixon asked for Council's approval to attend a DOE meeting in Albuquerque, NM. Council approved the trip as long as the costs are covered by DOE.

Mayor Moss adjourned the Study Session at 8:50 PM.