

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
Special City Council Work Session Minutes
TUESDAY, December 14, 2021
ROBBINSDALE City Hall
6:00 p.m.

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Blonigan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan –Kline arrived 6:16pm
Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator
City Prosecutors Derek Archambault and Tom Weidner – Eckberg-Lammers

Presentation from City Prosecution Team

3. Archambault shared information on trends and challenges. There were 608 cases in 2020 and so far 620 cases not including DUI. There has been some backlog as a result of court being on-line and jail space is reserved for felonies due to COVID restrictions. The new officer training academy last year was very effective and the prosecution team provided legislative update during the recent annual training for all officers including changes to DWI forfeitures starting in 2022.
4. Archambault shared that the police department team are dedicated and professional.
5. Mayor Blonigan asked about the trend toward balance of consequences for minor offences.
6. Archambault replied that an important element of dealing with people in all roles is to remember that the prosecution team is the face of the city and are directly answerable to the city council. There is a judgment as part of the balance when handling each unique case. (Kline arrived 6:16 pm) City prosecution involves a large number of unrepresented people so there is a need to connect to the humanity of each individual.
7. Mayor Blonigan questioned how the court and city officers collect racial data.
8. Archambault noted that race data collected by the courts is optional and voluntary and as a consequence not generally reliable.
9. Archambault shared that a legislative change in the law for 2022 means that the state won't suspend licenses for non-payment of fines; instead unpaid fines will go through a collection process. The cumulative impact of fines and suspensions had a disproportionate socioeconomic impact.
10. Weidner noted he enjoys working with the police chief and the professionalism of the department. Prosecutors review reports for constitutional stops. There is more purpose and reasoning in report on stops and body cameras benefit everyone. His personal observation is that he doesn't see concerns about the stops being made by Robbinsdale officers.

11. Glick affirmed that the police department has been posting weekly data on arrests by race on the city website since earlier in the year. She knows that the Human Rights Commission is aware of this resource. She expected that a compilation of the information would be included in the annual report.
12. Webb noted her appreciation for professionalism shown by the prosecution team during the televised discussion on police processes when she was the Chair of the Human Rights Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

13. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the work session at 6:39 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem