

**Minutes – City of Delano  
Public Safety Commission  
Monday, September 8, 2025 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson James Anderson called the regular meeting of the Delano Public Safety Commission of Monday, September 8, 2025 to order at 7:05 pm

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** James Anderson, Greg Keller, Casey O'Connor, and Kallie Tapie

**Members Absent:** Lori Belz and Christopher van Schooneveld

**Also Present:** Jason Franzen, City Council Liaison; Phil Kern, City Administrator; Lauren Kantrovich, Administrative Intern; Matt Van Lith, Fire Chief; Mark Olson, Wright County Sheriff's Office and Delano Resident

**3. Minutes**

**A. June 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion by O'Connor, seconded by Anderson to approve Minutes A; motion carries.

**4. Order of Business**

**A. Presentation Regarding Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)**

Anderson states that the program is currently under review after being inactive for several years. He states that CERT is a national program started by the Los Angeles Fire Department to assist in citizens' immediate responses to natural disasters. He shares the purpose statement and process of CERT training. Anderson states that Delano previously participated in CERT through the Fire Department. He states that the lack of perceived emergencies led to a downturn in participation and the program was later halted by Covid-19 related shelter in place orders. He expresses approval of the program and its ability to instruct residents on how to be safer individually and on a community level. Anderson states members would often assist with large events in town and controlling traffic. He asks for input on how to increase participation in the program going forward.

Kern introduces Matt Van Lith as the new Fire Chief and states Van Lith has been involved in CERT in the past. Van Lith states that Delano CERT members have also assisted with flood control procedures and that CERT members of other communities have assisted with ground searches. Franzen states that he would support providing a subsidy or other type of payment for CERT members to encourage participation and consistent engagement in meetings and trainings. He states interest in pursuing grants to fund the program further. Tapie asks what the cost associated is with restarting the program and what party is responsible for those costs. Kern states the City has paid for training in previous years. Tapie asks if other cities have CERT teams in Wright County. Van Lith states that a few cities have teams, but he would have to look into what teams are currently active.

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Anderson stresses the importance of community relationships in the effectiveness of CERT and that the organization was flexible to meet the skills of their members during events. O'Connor says it is important to make training practical to members and highlight what members get out of it even when there isn't an emergency for the team to react to. He suggests focusing on marketing when restarting the program. Anderson asks Olson, as a member of the Wright County Sheriff's Office, if there would be a situation where he would be comfortable with including CERT members. Olson states he could see CERT members being an asset in certain situations. Kern states that the barriers to restarting the program are the need to have a point-person to build a curriculum and run the program and creating variety in the training enough to keep participants interested. Kern states that the Spirit of Community Commission is gathering neighborhood contacts, which could be a potential crossover with the CERT program. Franzen asks what the next step in the process of restarting the program is. Kern states that the feedback from this meeting is helpful in informing staff on how to proceed.

**Motion by Keller, seconded by O'Connor to pursue restarting the Delano CERT program.**

**B. Update Regarding Traffic Data on Franklin Avenue West**

Kern states the commission had requested data on traffic speed in the area across from Highland Park. He presents the data collected over the past three months. The data shows that the area does not have a significant speed issue, as the majority of vehicles traversing in the area are under the speed limit. Tapie states that she lives in the area and the numbers seem accurate, but that the placement of the speed reader may have impacted the data. O'Connor asks if there are other areas where data should be gathered. The commission determines the speed reader should be returned to its previous location near Shadywood Lane.

Keller states that the speed limit sign on east end of River street is currently obscured by brush. Commission members state that there have been noise complaints in Clover Springs. O'Connor requests a discussion on the use of electric bicycles at the next meeting. Kern states that current ordinance does prohibit motorized vehicles and bicycles on sidewalks. He states it will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**C. Discuss School Resource Officer Program**

Kern states that in response to the recent shooting in Minneapolis, a member of the commission requested an update on school safety procedures in Delano. Kern presents on the resources available on the school website and on the current School Resource Officer (SRO) and his duties. Tapie asks if the preschool and community education building are covered by the SRO. Olson states that the SRO is a resource to all schools in the community, not only Delano Public Schools. Kern suggests contacting the SRO directly to get specific information. O'Connor asks if the current SRO is stretched thin between the public and private schools and if the City has considered adding a second SRO to the school district. Kern states that the number of SROs in the district is a decision made by the school district and sheriff's department. Kern suggests speaking to the school district directly. Tapie asks if there is a notification system for emergency events at the school. Kern states that this question would need to be answered by the school district. O'Connor asks for staff to request

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representation from the school district to be present at the next public safety meeting for further discussion of this topic.

**D. Discuss Meeting Structure**

Kern states that the City Council has directed the Public Safety Commission to meet on a quarterly basis unless there is a time-sensitive topic the commission feels should be discussed, wherein the commission can call a special meeting. Franzen suggests meeting next month to discuss school safety. The commission determines that the next meeting date will be decided based on the availability of school district representatives.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the regular meeting of the Delano Public Safety Commission of Monday, September 8, 2025 was adjourned at 8:32 pm