

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
JULY 17, 2008**

Mayor Meyers opened the Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 175 Johns Hill Road, at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Meyers announced the purpose of the Public Hearing meeting is regarding the merger of the City of Highland Heights Police Department and the City of Southgate Police Department.

Mrs. Rauf announced that notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Campbell County Recorder on July 10, 2008. Mr. Scott Wartman of the Enquirer was notified of the Public Hearing, and that notification of the meeting was also posted on the front door of the Civic Center.

PRESENT: Council Members: Gary Chinn, Steve Lehman, Rose Pfaff, and Gene White.

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Steve Franzen and Police Chief Carl Mullen.

ABSENT: Mayor Meyers stated he was informed by Members Heinrich and Shaw that they would not at this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Meyers stated there has been a great amount of study done for this consolidation.

Mayor Meyers gave a report on how this merger began. He stated in 2007 there was a Financial Report and Service Study conducted. He said the City the size of Highland Heights does not have enough police officers. He said Police Chief Mullen reported to him that his department is overlapping shifts and is not able to give the proper coverage for the residents.

Mayor Meyers stated that last year, the City spent approximately \$90,000 on overtime for the Police Department to cover staffing for officers who were in school or in training.

Mayor Meyers stated in 2007 the Police Chiefs of these two cities begun discussions about the benefits of the two departments merging. He said they informed the Mayors about this idea. He stated that merging the two departments would give the manpower to the two cities to be able to staff their departments and reduce the amount of overtime. He said this would be a savings to the cities.

Mayor Meyers stated that in January of 2008 they met with the Safety Committee, in each City, regarding the merger.

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Mayor Meyers stated the merger has received the endorsement of Vision 2015, several local county cities and some state representatives.

Mayor Meyers stated they also met with the NKADD and asked them to do a study regarding the feasibility of this merger.

At this time, Mayor Meyers recognized the representative from the City of Southgate. He introduced Council members Gene Blanchet, Virgil Miller and Chris Robish,

Mayor Meyers stated that Mayor Hamberg would be at this meeting, but would be late due to a work commitment.

Mayor Meyers also introduced Lisa Cooper and Craig Bohman from the Northern Kentucky Ad District and Mike Hammons from Vision 2015.

Southgate Police Chief Hall introduced his officers that were present.

Highland Heights Police Chief Mullen presented a power point presentation. Some of the items he addressed on the presentation ranged from: the essential functions of the police officer, the education that is required due to Homeland Security, the goals of the two departments, information regarding employee retention, the expenses associated for new hires, the loss to the city of employees, the specialized services, to the police department consolidation structure.

Mrs. Lisa Cooper, Northern Kentucky Area Development. She stated they did a budget comparison, and analyzed the information they received from the Police Chiefs, the cities and the treasurers from the cities. She stated they also studied the National Standards regarding the staffing and the needs of a police department. She presented a copy of the budget comparisons to the Mayors, Police Chiefs, Council members and City Staff. A copy thereof is attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Cooper further stated this merger would be a benefit to both cities. She said there are many opportunities to grow and develop not only for the police officers, but also the services to be provided to the community and the residents of Highland Heights and Southgate.

Mrs. Cooper further stated, NKADD was given the task of coming up with how to structure the governing board to oversee this consolidation. She stated them also looked at how the costs would be shared. She said they came up with a formula for the cost allocation for each City.

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COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL: Member Lehman stated that the City of Highland Heights Police Department and the City of Southgate Police Department will maintain their identity.

Members White , Chinn and Pfaff echoed Member's Lehman's views that this is a positive move for both cities.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Michael Hammon of Vision 2015. He addressed the positive views for this consolidation. He stated that Vision 2015 endorses this merger. He applauded the work and effort that was given to this merger.

Virgil Miller, City of Southgate, announced his support for the consolidation.

At this time, Mayor Hamberg entered the meeting. He announced his support for this consolidation. He also expressed his reasons why this consolidation is a benefit for both cities.

Mr. Chuck Melville, former Mayor of Southgate and former Southgate Police Chief, stated his support for this consolidation.

Dr. Voll, Highland Heights, asked if the percentage would be different if there would be a loss of businesses or a loss in population. Mrs. Cooper stated the formula would be reviewed every three years.

JR Roth, League of Property Owners, addressed the Mayors and Police Chiefs. He stated that he reviewed the budget comparison and the expenses have increased. Mr. Roth had a few specific questions. Chief Hall and Chief Mullen responded to his concerns.

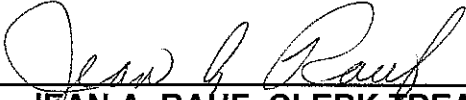
Steve Hunley, South Main Avenue, Highland Heights. He was concerned about the loss of police officers. And if the Police Department would hire more officers how would that increase affect the City's budget Chief Mullen responded to his concerns.

Mayor Meyers also responded that with this merger there will be career paths for the officers of Highland Heights and City of Southgate.

Being no further business, **MEMBER LEHMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY MEMBER PFAFF AYE, ALL. MAYOR MEYERS DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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The meeting adjourned at. 8:15pm

SUBMITTED BY 
JEAN A. RAUF, CLERK TREASURER CMC

SIGNED BY: 
GREGORY V. MEYERS, MAYOR