

Kelly Creek Neighborhood Association (KCNA) Autumn Meeting 10/7/2026, held on Zoom

KCNA President Charles Teem called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Quorum was established with 16 KCNA members present.

Presenters: Fire Chief Jeffrey Hairston and Police Captain John Rasmussen

Minutes from the 5/6/26 meeting were adopted as presented.

Neighbor Concerns and Discussion

Christie – Neighbors blocking sidewalk, who should be contacted about it?

Charles – Discuss with neighbor directly and if unsuccessful, pursue code enforcement

Gresham Fire Introduction and Updates w/ Chief Jeffrey Hairston

Chief Hairston: Good to meet with the community and see what the needs are.

- *Chief shares a presentation* Starts with video showing radio chatter and rescue footage. –
- Mission is to protect lives, property, and the environment. 60 square miles, ~155,000 people served, 6 stations (plus one shared with Portland, #31). 65% of calls are medical emergencies. 24/7 response. All fire apparatuses are ALS (Advanced Life Support)-equipped.
- 911 procedure: Dispatch -> nearest available unit -> response -> patient care or hazard mitigation -> additional resources if needed
- Gresham will always be ALS equipped.
- 17,071 calls in 2025, 9,307 EMS/Medical, 654 fire-related incidents
- Response dependent on roads and city planning
- Teams: technical rescue, water rescue, hazardous materials, urban search&rescue, wildland firefighting, advanced life support
- Mutual Aid: Portland Fire & Rescue (station 31), neighboring fire agencies, Multnomah County and regional partners, Four-Cities partnership. Equipment is shared as needed. Commercial fires, such as apartment buildings, require two ladder trucks. Gresham only has one so if a commercial fire occurs, we must have Portland respond with one of its ladder trucks.
- Fire Marshal's Office: Fire inspections, new construction and plan review, fire code administration and enforcement, fire investigation, special-use permits and occupancy

management, public education and outreach. Fire marshals are not sworn and so do not write tickets, that is done through the city.

Carol Rulla: How do you enforce without writing tickets?

Chief Hairston: We can shut things down through the city. We also impose fees, but we do not write tickets. We added two fire marshals to do school inspections and they were able to inspect about 70 schools that were behind on inspections. Program had been dormant since 2009, and the levy allowed it to be reactivated.

- Chief Hairston shares a video about school inspections.
- 40+ school inspections in 2025. 73+ schools in program.

KyMBERLEE (in chat): My daughter's school was shut down on the first day of class because they didn't pass their fire inspection!

Chief Hairston:

- Types of fire staff: Firefighters & firefighter-paramedics, battalion chiefs, training & safety, administration, fire marshal / life safety, public information and emergency management
- Growing city changes the fire risk profile. More people, more 911 demand. More development, more inspections.
- 33 fire positions funded by levy in FY24/25. 9 new first responder positions added. 2 fire marshal inspector positions added. Station 72 was expanded and reopened in January 2026. Three new fire engines and a brush rig are part of fleet modernization.
- What Gresham Fire needs from the community: support prevention, give responders room to work, help us prepare, stay engaged, support responsible investment, tell us what you need.

Christie: If Troutdale, Wood Village, and Fairview decide to quit using Gresham Fire, how does that affect Gresham Fire's budget?

Chief Hairston: There would be very little impact to Gresham residents. Troutdale, Wood Village, and Troutdale would be affected though because they wouldn't have personnel. Response times would be higher for them.

Carol: How would the lack of income affect the fire department?

Chief Hairston: There would be some restraint on the budget. The city provides the budget and I figure out how to make it work

Charles: It would end up in a legal situation if the other cities receive services without paying their fair share

Chief Hairston: I don't know what my budget is until the city tells me. I'm not part of those politics. Things were dire when the contract wasn't signed, but now we're good for 4 years.

Carol: You were sitting on the task force including mayors, city managers, etc. Are you still meeting in that capacity?

Chief Hairston: Fairview, Wood Village, Troutdale are saying they can't afford things and want to join Fire District 10. Perhaps join Clackamas. When we get a mutual aid request in the Clackamas area, there is a 2-minute delay since it has to get patched through.

Kelle Landavazo: Is Gresham not interested in forming a district?

Chief Hairston: I have no stake in that game, I don't care what jersey I wear, I just want a fire department funded so I can serve 150k people correctly.

Kelle: Once a district is established, it is not dependent on the voters, it becomes a taxing entity. I'm concerned about the money. After the levy expires, it will have to go out for renewal. A change in council is upcoming. I feel like we should be talking about this now and prepare for it so we can keep the services operating. I'm concerned the city isn't talking more about it.

Chief Hairston: What's your pulse on the people?

Kelle: I think you can bring people along as long as you tell them what's happening.

Carol: I agree with you, Kelle. That's why I asked about the task force with all of the cities talking about a fire district and how to move forward together. It is sounding like the 3 cities are feeling more desperate and want to move sooner

Chief Hairston: We do need to start working on it. Our department needs to be present at all possible events so that we can get that support we need. I can bring this to my communications department and see what is on their mind. That is a main concern of the city manager but I'm not sure when they want to start it.

Kelle: It's a spot and we're in an election cycle. It's troubling from a community standpoint, because it should be brought on earlier. I'm hearing a lot from candidates who want to cut expenses which seems unrealistic. It's a conversation about what kind of city we want.

Chief Hairston: That's the important discussion – citizens have to understand that money needs to be spent to get what we want.

Kelle: Police has the same thing, they have a lot invested in the levy. We don't want to lose these things. It is an ongoing issue that we try to fix with one-time money. I hope we can start that conversation sooner than later.

Chief Hairston: It's nerve-wracking when your lifeline depends on others. I don't want to wait a month before the vote happens that we are unsure of what will happen. When we lowered the number, we put a band-aid on things. Where do we actually fix the problem? We can't do what we need to with the bare minimum.

Carol: Council's intention is to have another levy vote a year before the current one expires. The Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations will be having candidate forums for city council candidates and one of the questions for all candidates is, what we are going to do to maintain the services we have, including from the levy funding?

Frank: What is the benefit of being a district?

Chief Hairston: If it goes to the city, tax revenue goes to the general fund. If you have a district, 100% of the funds go to the fire department. The con is, if the funding is not there, then what do you do?

Charles: For a district to exist, all the city's equipment and personnel have to be transferred to the fire district. A complication is how to compensate the city for that.

Carol (in chat): The district has its own property tax so the city would no longer have to pay for fire services from the city's General Fund. For example, the library is funded by its own district.

Gresham Police Department Update with Captain John Rasmussen

Capt Rasmussen: *Shares a presentation*

- Authorized for 136 sworn police officers, currently at 127 (2 more to be hired on 10/12)
 - 102 officers, 14 sergeants, 6 lieutenants
- Eligibility list – 41 candidates. 15 current backgrounds in progress
- Levy started on July 1st, 2024. Total levy hires: 44 officers, 34 are still employed
 - 7 resignations, 2 terminations, 1 retirement (77% retention rate)
- 18 officers currently in Field Training and Evaluation. FTEP is the 18-month probationary period.
- Shift minimums: dayshift – 7 officers, afternoon shift – 8 officers, night shift – 7 officers
- Detective division: authorized 24 detectives.
- Specialty units: NET (Neighborhood Engagement Team) – 2 full-time officers, BHU (Behavioral Health Unit) – 1 sergeant, 4 officers, K9 – 3 officers, traffic – 2 officers
- Community Safety Specialist program – handles non-emergency calls, evidence collection, community engagement. Program is growing

- Ceasefire: community-based strategy to reduce gun violence by focusing on individuals at the highest risk of being involved in shootings. Combines law enforcement with social services. Goal is to interrupt violence by connecting high-risk individuals with needed resources.
 - Ceasefire statistics (April 2025 to present): 375 person contacts, 78 felony arrests, 24 citations, 65 referrals, 19 search warrants served, 53 guns seized

Christie (in chat): Are there 7 officers on the street for all of Gresham on day shift? 7 for all of Gresham on Night shift?

Carol: Yes

Capt Rasmussen:

- Shooting Stats: 2025 – 409 shots fired calls, 78 verified shootings, 20 persons injured in shootings, 9 homicides, 6 homicides by gunfire. For comparison, there were 846 shots fired calls in 2022.
- 2026 YTD – 36 shootings, 12 persons injured, 3 homicides, 3 homicides by gunfire
- Retail Theft Missions (2026 stats as of 9/25/2026): 9 arrests, 14 criminal charges. Drones are used along with body cams.
- Stolen Vehicle Operation: Gresham participates in Portland Police Bureau's Stolen Vehicle Operation. Collaboration with OHSU researchers and uses mathematical modeling and crime analysis to give officers specific criteria to make traffic stops with high probability of the vehicles being stolen.
 - Stats: 578 stolen vehicles recovered, 674 arrest made, 698 warrants cleared, 98 guns seized, 351 attempts to elude

Christie: Are the statistics on-par with similar cities to Gresham?

Capt Rasmussen: It is difficult to answer, as it is dependent on how the county chooses to deal with things. Metro area all shares the same crime. I don't know off-hand. I know we have a very high solvability rate, like 95%, which is much higher than others in the state. I think we have less issues with homelessness due to our policies. Gresham city codes have given us the "teeth" and ability we need.

Christie: Is there a gap when no officers are on the streets when shifts change?

Capt Rasmussen: We try to have overlaps. We've tried a lot of different things to work within the budget and do everything we need to do to have 24 hour coverage.

Kelle: Do we have any SRO's (School Resource Officers) anymore?

Capt Rasmussen: Yes we technically have one. He is kind of our regional SRO, but he is still assigned to a patrol shift. He isn't assigned to any school. It is helpful for an officer to be assigned to be a school. We liked being in the schools and want to repair that relationship. That is a big loss, not having an officer on campus not being there to talk to kids. Hopefully that will come back. It is important to get the right officer in there.

Kelle: We have low attendance rates. I don't know how big of an impact they would have on getting kids through the door.

Capt Rasmussen: That's what we did back with Barlow. When we focused on how to get kids back in school, we found issues with the school districts. Some kids had been gone for 2 years. I'm all for SRO's helping keep kids in schools. It is sad to see how many kids are falling through the cracks.

Kelle: We talk about the lack of funding and it's such a challenge. I hope we can come up with some solutions.

Capt Rasmussen: The levy truly has helped, moral has improved so much. We've had 9 applicants for lieutenant and people want to come to our department, they like the culture and the feel of it.

Kelle: How does the build into the budget when the gap is so big? It probably needs to be a bigger levy to keep things going the way we want.

Capt Rasmussen: I believe the city is looking for revenue. Bringing in bigger businesses will hopefully help. My two lenses are what we need for the police department and what we need as the residents of Gresham. The officers are in a good place right now, they feel supported by the community and the council. We are very appreciative of this support. Traffic won't get better, maybe we can add some stop signs and lower some speed limits. Concerning the earlier question about neighbors blocking a sidewalk, go on to the MyGresham app and let us know, it's a great way to communicate neighborhood problems.

Christie: I didn't want to start with reporting to the police, I knew there was an alternative.

Charles: Definitely the MyGresham app is fantastic, please use it. We appreciate you being here tonight, John.

Capt Rasmussen: Please reach out via the app if you have any questions!

Charles: Our next meeting in November is our annual election.

Carol: November 18th!

Neighbor Concerns and Discussion Part 2

Charles: Any other neighborhood concerns? Hearing none, land use.

Land Use

Carol: We have some cottage developments that are going through. There is a new state law to expedite middle housing developments. One current development is at 1230 SE Barnes Rd, large lot with a house, previous owners had been trying to do something with it. They ended up selling it and now a development company is moving quickly. They have approval for 24 cottages behind the house. Will need a land division for these cottages to be able to sell them, which is good since they will not be rentals. They are proceeding with an early neighborhood notification meeting which they have not yet reached out to us about. So there will be a meeting about the land division for the existing house, but there will be nothing we can do about the cottages. Another development is on SE 14th, they'll be putting in 6 cottages, nothing we can do about it. Northern portion off of La Mesa will have middle housing. Both developments were approved prior to a code change and these two developments would likely not be able to be approved under the new code. Prior to the code change, courtyards had a minimum width of 15 feet, which is not very big. There was also no specific height limit for cottages, so cottages could be 1800 sq ft due to second story (900 sq ft footprint) but the new code has a height limit of 25ft instead of 35ft. On 32nd near Virginia, the developer that was proposing to put in middle housing on a vacant lot has withdrawn their application, don't know what their plan is now but if they return they will be under the new rules.

Charles: I heard the one on 32nd will be sold to someone that will not be doing anything with it. To be clear, this is the state legislature, to streamline housing and making a priority to infill. Changing the whole dynamic of what is urban planning. That's all for land use.

Conclusion

Charles: Next meeting is November 18th.

Carol: Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations is having a candidate forum for the mayor and council position 2 candidates tomorrow, you can find the link online at GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhood-Coalition. There will also be a forum next week on November 15th, candidates for council positions 4 and 6 will be there.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Minutes taken by Austin Graham, KCNA Member