



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 12, 2025, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Attendance

Position, Name	Ward	Present / Absent	Position, Name	Present / Absent
Chair, Bob Kantor	2	✓	Chief of Police, Jarod Towers	✗
<i>Secretary / Recorder, Ana Chapa</i>	2	✓	Deputy Chief of Police, Laura Lanham	✓
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓	Council Member Ward 2, Emily Strab	✓
Member, Jerome Brown	5	✓		
Member, Patricia Page	5	✓		
Member, Julia Dezelsk	1	✓		
Member, Taurean Barnwell (new member)	3	✓		
Member, Michelle Brown	3	✓		

Public Attendance: Five public attendees.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- Roll Call: Quorum met (9).
- Approval of Agenda: Motion made and passed (as drafted and pre-circulated)
- Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes: Minutes were not approved as we did not have enough attendees to reach a quorum and not meeting was held.
- Recorder Adriane Powell notified the committee that she will no longer be able to serve. Chair Kantor requested volunteers to serve as secretary/ recorder. Only Ana Chapa volunteered and she was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment - Requested, none made.

IV. General Discussion Topics



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 12, 2025, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

a. Initial results and discussion of AI and video used by the Police and Public Safety officials:

- i. Councilmember Emily Straubbegan conversation. The main goal in implementing AI policies is that personal rights and personal privacy rights remain respected and protected. This includes the use of AI and video obtained from personal security cameras at people's homes and in their cars.
- ii. Councilmember Straub provided information on the various types of AI.
- iii. A request was made to bring in an expert to provide more up to date and valid information.
- iv. The committee reaffirmed that ensuring public trust is the main priority.
- v. Next Steps: The committee agreed to take the technology that was discussed in the meeting as well as additional personal research on AI and be prepared to present it to the committee for discussion on what advice to provide to the city council.

V. HVL Police Dept Updates

- a. Chief Towers was absent. Deputy Chief Lanham provided an update on behalf of the Police Department.
 - i. There has been a recent influx in crime/ property vandalism. It has been fluctuating over the last few months. The issues are occurring primarily in and near food establishments. People are not being harmed.
 - ii. The Police Department has been hiring a great deal. The goal is that more officers be available to the community.
 - iii. Immigration has been a concern of many residents. Nothing has changed for the city either in policy or practice. Hyattsville is a sanctuary city and will remain so. The city is combating misinformation regarding what they can and cannot do to enforce laws and protect residents. To date they are not seeing any immigration apprehensions. The only ICE involvements have been in cases of violent crime. ICE has not been involved in community events. Currently the city is preparing for the worst and hoping for the best.
 - iv. A question was asked regarding recent federal funding cuts. DP Lanham stated that as of 2.12.25 the city is reviewing budgets to determine where there may be vulnerabilities and to ensure payments are still received. The department is working to stay informed as things rapidly change. As of now they do not have notice of funding cuts. The greatest impact would be on hiring.

VI. Next Meeting: Confirmed for 12 March 2025 at 7:00 PM.



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 12, 2025, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Outreach will be made to seek an AI expert to attend a spring meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by the chair, Bob Kantor at 8:01.
