

Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Mai Abdul Rahman

Wednesday April 12th, - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Committee

Chairperson Patricia Page, Ward 5 (**present**)
Vice-Chair, Jerome Brown, Ward 5 (**present**)
Secretary – Mai Abdul Rahman, Ward 1 (**present**)
Committee Member- 1 vacancy
Committee Member Taylor Wilder Ward 2 (**present**)
Committee Member, Julio Gomez, Ward 2 (**present**)
Committee Member, Robert R. Riddle, Ward (**present**)

Council/Liaison

Chief of Police Jarod Towers (**present**)
Council Member Danny Schaible, Ward 2 (**Absent**)
Council Member Rommel Sandino, Ward 5 (**Absent**)

7:00 p.m.- Call to order–Chairperson Page

1. Roll Call of attending Committee Members? **Quorum met?**
2. Approval of Agenda- approved
3. Approval of March 8th, 2023, meeting minutes? **Approved**

Discussion Items

1. Cameras and Steering Wheel Locks Proposals?

Both proposals sent by email to both Councilmen Solomon and Sandino on March 20@11:56am.

Police department is in the process of notifying community on the various platforms on the availability of wheel locks for pick up.

Distribution dates are set for the morning of April 15 and April 22nd.

2. Considering the Mayor of College Park situation, let us talk about the protection of our younger population. Were any Hyattsville children compromised? Is the city prepared to help children who are victims of sexual crimes?

When victimization of young persons occurs, they are usually paired with a social worker- harm is too large and requires intensive intervention.

Children's identities are protected and information on child victims is usually not shared with police.

3. Chief report and update? Member recruitment update?

Personnel recruitment: *Signing bonus runs through April 6th- and not open-ended. Nonetheless, after a while the appeal of a signing bonus is limited considering that many surrounding police departments are also offering bonuses.*

It is a very competitive market at this moment.

Few candidates are currently being considered-- with the bonus ending number of applicants not expected to increase- we would process candidates we have already in the pipeline. To date, five openings were filled. This is five of the ten positions we were recruiting for. At this time the new hires are going through training.

Currently the department has 75 police officers and two cadets.

4. HPD Dispatchers:

It takes two dispatchers around the clock to maintain eight-hour coverage. And HPD dispatchers' cover extends twenty-four hours. We have increased staff by three new dispatchers. Two dispatchers left, which left us with five openings. Department offered small hiring bonus of \$5000- and now hired three of the five we need. Department focused on hiring Spanish speakers. The new hires are undergoing speak live scenario training.

Department aims to have one Spanish speaking dispatcher available seven days a week.

Originally the city had allocated 9 funded dispatcher positions- we increased this by three dispatchers. And now the department is fully staffed with 12 dispatchers.

5. Discuss and agree on a date for community listening engagement event: How can the committee help facilitate this? And how many events should we organize and plan for?

The listening session went well. Department could take advantage of social media platforms to amplify listening sessions by tweeting and sharing citizens' concerns and department response and planning. Next Listening Session will be conducted on zoom.

6. Does the city police assist other police departments in case of civil unrest?

Size of Hyattsville police department and city safety demands prohibits the police department from taking part or assisting other local agencies in case of riots or civil unrest. However, in the past, HPD has assisted presidential inaugurations and peaceful events. Although HPD engages with multi jurisdictional training, however the department cannot help outside our city premises- City needs our police to support citizens' needs within our city.

7. How does HPD address concerns about the mental health conditions of police officers?

Quarterly HPD officers meet with mental health clinician- If and when our officers are in need of additional assistance they can meet weekly.

City is providing HPD with social workers and other supports in cases and situations when officers face a social generated situation rather than a criminal incident. With this support

system HPD officers are able to seek the assistance of co responder crisis management team and case manager social worker.

8. Complains that our Crime statistics are spotty?

At this time HPD statistics are reported by hand, which takes a significant amount of time to populate and share. HPD finally got caught up for 2022- weekly, monthly and annually reporting are still largely behind.

On average HPD is usually a week or month behind because of the changing nature of the activities that are collected where we need to change the descriptive nature and legal terms used to categorize a criminal activity, which affects the reporting of the specific data calculated - for example robbery can change to theft.

Moving forward we have purchased command Center Software, which we could deploy within two to six weeks. CCS will take HPD data and post statistical data within three days along with heat maps. This process will be totally automated- command central to community. Check on this website for more information:

https://www.motorolasolutions.com/en_xu/products/command-center-software/community-engagement/commandcentral-community.html

9. Public comment? **NONE**

10. Adjournment: **Moved to adjourn**