

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on January 13th, 2021

[In attendance on the zoom meeting:](#)

[Minutes](#)

Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:41, with 6 members present (4 required for quorum)

In attendance on the zoom meeting:

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Vice Chairperson Mariel Alper
 - Secretary Joel Chan
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Committee Member Jerome Brown
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner
- Council / Liason
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - Council Member Robert Croslin
- Other
 - Resident Chuck P
 - Resident Jarod Towers
 - Resident Maira Delao
 - Resident Sarah Harper

Minutes

- Review minutes
 - Tabled for next time
- Update on the Shand Officer-Involved Shooting and any potential administrative/policy changes being considered as a result
 - From Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - State's attorney took on criminal investigation - criminal

- Took quite a long time because of COVID, grand jury couldn't meet
- Eventually sometime in the fall State's attorney
- Hired an outside specialist to review this case
 - Longtime law enforcement expert
 - Usually testifies against the police
 - Focus on identifying criminal wrongdoing
 - Issued ~40 page report
 - Presented to grand jury
 - Press conference shortly after
 - No criminal charges against officers involved, justified shooting
 - Concluded criminal investigation
- Next is administrative investigation
 - Officers not involved
 - PGC is doing exhaustive investigation, interviews, ballistics, etc.
 - Latest update: they're almost ready to wrap that up
 - Before former chief left, had arranged for that investigation to have a secondary review by another independent agency from MD state police
 - Expecting that after PGC wraps up, MD state police will give complete review of entire investigation
 - Then we will take suggestions and recommendations from both for changes to policy, etc.
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson asks about update for Edwin Morales case
 - Liaison Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee responds: currently being held up by toxicology report - can be 3 months or longer for it to come back, major factor in that case
 - Also note:
 - Shand was first fatal shooting
 - Morales was first death in custody
- Chairperson Patricia Page: where are crime stats shared? In Gazette?
 - All are online (almost everyday)
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: why wait for conclusion of admin investigation for policy changes? anything in mind even before conclusion of that investigation?
 - since Floyd incident, issued new use of force special order on choke holds, etc.
 - also bolstered de-escalation tactics (ICAT):
<https://www.policeforum.org/icat-training-guide>

- used in queens chapel call, was able to talk someone out of a bad situation without escalation of force
- Question from Resident Chuck. P: How is HPD vetting its police force since a great number of police officers have been implication in the insurrection even on the Capital Police force. How have you vetted the integrity of your police force?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - involvement in these criminal activities not permitted
 - also do extensive psychological evaluation during hiring, to check for warning signs
 - part of 21st century policing 6th pillar is officers' health and wellness
 - going to try to get some money to start a program where every quarter we can update assessments
 - Followup q from Chuck P: The Capital Police do the same thing as well as a polygraph. How did they get on the force?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: not sure if that's the case for a fact
- Safeguarding re: insurrection
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - No civil defense unit: we're too small
 - Can keep an eye on stuff with cameras, etc.
 - Had officers on Route 1 with Mt Rainier
 - Do we have a force that come in to repel a big crowd, etc.? No: we would call in others
 - Had incident with a group over in Riverdale
 - No current intelligence that Hyattsville is a target for anything
 - Chairperson Patricia Page: anything gone out to community members re: practical things we can do to look out for?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee had conversation with city chief, hopefully in the next few days we'll put something out
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson followup: anything special we do in Hyattsville during inauguration time beyond what we just discussed?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee no usually nothing
 - Have been on phone calls with other PDs with security briefings, they seem like they have it under control (more so than on 1/6)
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner: any social media policy on what police can and can't say?

- Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee didn't have social media policy before in general regulations, but it's being reworked, and social media policy will be included
 - PGC just suspended an officer today about a social media post
 - Former HPD chief also just suspended an officer for something related to the Capitol incident
- Chairperson Patricia Page are you paid if suspended?
 - if criminal, no
 - if administrative leave, yes
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson q: do we do any going to churches to coordinate?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee yes, every few weeks have meeting with faith leaders
 - they help us with more than we can count
 - often help to notify death in family
 - probably closest group of faith-based members we've seen
 - also helping us with mental health counseling reforms
 - also: community action team: crime prevention talks, [CPTED](#) (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)
 - hopefully can start block parties back up
- Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee brought up school-resource officers: current move to dismiss them from schools in PGC
 - county school board is discussing whether to do away with them (voting very soon)
 - police reform committee did community survey of many families, [got very positive reactions to SROs](#) (keeping them)
- The Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee would like to participate in both the search committee and interview process for the new incoming Police Chief of Hyattsville, MD
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee great idea! will pass on request to the city administrator, who is heading up the search
 - Search posting: <http://www.hyattsville.org/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=76&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Chief-of-Police-150>
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: would love to have either of those officers (community action team) on the agenda at some point to brief this committee
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee yes! let me know and I'll get them to come
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner are our radio comms interoperable with DC and others?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee within MD, can talk across counties

- DC can patch radios together, so possible, but haven't tried
 - usually just stand next to DC officer and listen in
 - Resident Chuck P: The APCO 25 standard does allow interoperability.
- Secretary Joel Chan question about how HPD processes and publishes demographic arrest data
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - Can get arrest data from state website
 - We pick from a list
 - NCIC doesn't have hispanic as its own category (not granular enough)
 - Chuck P: noticed lack of Hispanic category, why?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee Not sure. UCR from federal gov maybe?
- Question from Chuck P: If you have to go into the district close to the capital what would you suggest? I have to inspect a building 6 blocks from the capital.
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee actually probably fairly safe now, there is strong security
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner would love to get to the point of doing something, not just learning
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee in the past, pick 3 goals for the year, then present report to council, with recommendations
 - Council Member Robert Croslin e.g, someone wanted to focus on gangs in the area, and the 21st century policing, and how the HPD was addressing these issues
 - is there a copy of the report from the last committee that we could see?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee will try to find
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson could help generate list of questions for police chief candidates
 - Secretary Joel Chan can also help focus on
 - Council Member Robert Croslin budget cycle coming up for next fiscal year, begins in July
 - all depts will submit requests for budget, could be something to think about (city will be short due to covid)
 - initial draft sometime around mid-February
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner volunteer to take open meeting training
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson motion to adjourn at 20:45
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner seconded
- No objections

