

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on June 9th, 2021

[In attendance on the Zoom meeting](#)

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In attendance on the Zoom meeting

Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:33

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Secretary Joel Chan
 - Committee Member Emily Strab
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilder
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
- Council / Liason
 - Council Member Danny Schaible
 - Council Member Robert Croslin
 - Council Member Daniel Peabody
 - Mayor Kevin Ward
- Other
 - Brian Banks
 - Joe Brewer from code compliance

- Sandra Elvin
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Agenda and Notes

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Committee Member Maggie Brunner motioned to approve agenda
 - Committee Member Emily Strab seconded
 - Zero objections
- Review minutes
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner motioned to accept
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilder seconded
 - Zero objections

Police chief updates

- Update on new police chief
 - Now reviewing applications
 - Former chief Holland and new mayor is involved
- Various highlights from the police department
 - Some carjackings, some mental health calls that were resolved peacefully, some with Community Action team and therapy dog
 - Coffee with a cop is starting up soon
 - Community action team has been busy
 - Questions
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: are finalists brought in? how many? a day for each person?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: this committee's representative will likely be brought in just for the one finalist's all day (probably in person) interview
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: in general how is the morale right now?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: mixed bag right now. a difficult time right now in terms of the national narrative and mood, but there are positives, in terms of good changes in the department, support from the city, and crime going down in the city. Also looking forward to hiring, moving temporary positions to permanent positions.

- Also excited about just recently submitting a grant to fund the program proposed by Council Member Daniel Peabody for mental health checkups for officers
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: would like the committee to consider sending a token of appreciation to the department
- Committee Member Taylor Wilder: what will the demographics of the chief application look like? is there regional or also national outreach for applicants?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: can't speak to demographics because not personally involved, but regarding regional vs. national, went through the National Association of Police Chiefs, but guessing most applicants are local, through Maryland and PG County Chiefs' Association
- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: comment - she personally knows Chief from Annapolis, and just wanted to say that not all chiefs and departments are dreading the changes coming out of Annapolis
 - Also, how is the department preparing (and also preparing the public) for the changes coming out of Annapolis?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: going to a 4-hour training tomorrow to prepare to find out more about what's really involved in the changes, and will continue to adapt and prepare as we learn more

Update from Committee Member Maggie Brunner on Civilian Oversight Committee

- Letter of support has been drafted for consideration
 - Ready for discussion
- Questions
 - Chairperson Patricia Page: has feedback from the public been solicited for this draft motion?
 - Council Member Danny Schaible: not formally, other than through publicly available discussions
 - Council Member Robert Croslin: reminder that discussion in council and in this group is public, so this is the appropriate forum for citizen feedback prior to coming to council for discussion

- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: will there be some budget from the county allocated to this? how do you envision interacting with the various county-level bodies on this?
 - Council Member Danny Schaible: not really anticipating a big ask in terms of budget - just a small budget request for training from the leading national group on civilian oversight for the committee members. not really a need to get funds from the county for this iteration, but maybe in future iterations that collaborate with the county.
 - Brian Banks: unknown for now, we will get going and figure it out as the county moves ahead. ideally the county will take our review into account. the city's body will be the only one put into place during the transition period.
 - Council Member Robert Croslin: we will have to fall in line with the county's eventually because the state super
- Committee Member Emily Strab: generally supportive, but curious about when/how details of how the committee will operate (e.g., a charter) will be fleshed out. also one concern is that individuals would be at least 16 years of age (has to go through legal review): would rather not have minors on a body that may have to review disturbing footage.
 - Brian Banks: committee will be set up just like the others, will set up charter and work out operational procedures in consultation with city staff.
 - re: 16 year olds, this is in sync with the county's progressive stance on voting age (16), but happy to take feedback on this, not a sticking point if this needs to be changed.
 - Liaison Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: can't be police officer until age 21
 - Brian Banks: that could be a reasonable standard
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: concur with concerns about 16-year old age
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: support for raising age, sticking with 16 would also require parental consent
 - Brian Banks and Council Member Danny Schaible are happy to make the change to raise the age to 21 with justification added
 - Council Member Robert Croslin: note that many of these issues will also have to go through the city legal team
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: are we ready to take a vote on this?
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: suggest we make sure we note that the motion is in accordance with the general assembly's mandate

- Brian Banks: agreed! this is already noted in the motion
- Committee Member Emily Strab motioned to accept latest draft of civilian oversight letter of support to be submitted to council, pending suggested changes to the motion regarding raising the minimum age
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson seconded
 - The motion passes with unanimous support: no objections and abstentions

Code enforcement

Does Code Enforcement Division investigate rental properties which do not include bathrooms or kitchens?

- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: would it be useful for this committee to work with code enforcement to alert to rentals that are alleged to not be official or in compliance?
- Joe Brewer: yes, could be helpful, but be aware that we have limited manpower to address all complaints with due process

Update on outreach

- Spoke with the chief, and got agreement to get business cards, flyers, and table for our committee at the National Night Out, and host a kickoff at the park

Trash on sidewalks as public safety issue

Chairperson Patricia Page raised an issue about trash on the sidewalks as a public safety issue - forces people to walk on the streets - would like the city to address this

- Committee Member Taylor Wilder: seconded, this relates to the Broken Windows theory of criminal justice
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson:

Closing

Committee Member Bette Dickerson motion to adjourn at 20:54

- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman seconded
- Motion passed unanimously