

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on September 8th, 2021

[In attendance on the Zoom meeting](#)

[Agenda and Notes](#)

[Approval of Agenda](#)

[Approval of minutes](#)

[Police updates from Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee](#)

[Hire of new chief](#)

[Other updates](#)

[Police appreciation event](#)

[2018 recommendations: what do we want to retain or close out?](#)

[back to school](#)

[Closing](#)

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

In attendance on the Zoom meeting

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Vice Chairperson Mariel Alper
 - Secretary Joel Chan
 - Committee Member Jerome Brown
 - Committee Member Emily Strab
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilder
- Council / Liasion
 - Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - Council Member Rommel Sandino
 - Council Member Danny Schaible
 - Mayor Kevin Ward

Agenda and Notes

Approval of Agenda

- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman moved that the agenda be approved
- Secretary Joel Chan seconded
- Passed with zero objections

Approval of minutes

- Committee Member Bette Dickerson moved that the minutes from August meeting ([link](#)) be read and voted on at the next meeting
- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman seconded
- Passed with zero objections

Police updates from Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee

Hire of new chief

- Hire of new chief has been confirmed! Candidate from Cheverly
 - Mayor Kevin Ward was a big help!
 - Many thanks to Chairperson Patricia Page for sitting in on interviews!
 - Mayor Kevin Ward: it really came down to who would be able to continue Hyattsville's positive trajectory
 - Chairperson Patricia Page: is new chief on 1 year probation?
 - Mayor Kevin Ward: no, this position is not that kind of position
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: what were the qualities that stood out that determined this selection?
 - Mayor Kevin Ward: approachable, able to be mentor and mentee, build local roots; accountable, understands importance of transparency, community policing in a diverse municipal environment
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: will the deputy stay with us?
 - Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: yes, will stay on if requested

Other updates

- Non-contact shooting on 45th and Jefferson - they apprehended the shooter, but not the two victims (still working on it)
 - Proud of this; worked with PGCPD and Anne Arundel County PD and FBI
 - Had nothing to do with Busboys and Poets, they just happened to be with there; none of the people involved are connected to Hyattsville
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: how old were they?
 - Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: late 20's
- Fatality on August 13th, fatal accident late at night; this is being investigated by special accident reconstruction team

- One of our officers, Officer Kelly Hernandez has graduated from Drug Recognition Expert training (intensive three-week training), one of the hardest training programs, very proud of her

Police appreciation event

Committee Member Bette Dickerson: Main next step right now is setting a date: when is this going to happen?

- How many shifts and people?
 - Two shifts would be great: 30 at 6:30-7a and 30 at 6:30-7p
- Volunteers are needed
- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman might make sense to wait until the new chief arrives?
 - Liaison Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: will likely take some time to settle
 - Chairperson Patricia Page and Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman agree: we should go ahead then
- Chairperson Patricia Page: let's maybe order extra 10-20 per (along with five dozen gifted by bakery) so everyone has enough
- Liaison Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: committee can pick a date that works with the baker - during the week there are more people than the weekends, so we can target that if we like; any day should work
- volunteers
 - coordination with baker and Nola's Treats: Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - 9 - 10
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - 6 - 7
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Committee member Emily Strab
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilde
 - others can volunteer by email to Chairperson Patricia Page
- Chairperson Patricia Page will take care of signing card on behalf of committee

2018 recommendations: what do we want to retain or close out?

- Are the business/community quarterly meetings related to the Hamilton Street Corridor still held?
 - Liaison Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: no
 - Mayor Kevin Ward: some have moved online
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: context from last round - there was a lot of crime issues around the Hamilton corridor

- Committee Member Emily Strab can confirm. and seems like a lot of those issues have discontinued, and other initiatives have taken over
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: someone got killed in that corridor a couple months ago! vote to ask Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee for an update on this
 - Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: perpetrator for the murder has been arrested (w/in 2 days of incident); was over a dispute between the perp and the victim
 - also had a meeting with businesses there about loitering and other issues; in years past police had tried to fix the problem with arrests and citations; now wanting to take a different, more holistic approach, including more social resources (e.g., with Adrian on mental health responders)
- Mayor Kevin Ward: Hyattsville is ahead of the county in terms of what is needed here; one way to mitigate this is to lean on the Clean and Safety team; cleaning seems to help in a nonconfrontational way; also partner with city to recruit/train/partner-with mental health responders, but is still moving slowly (was on a call with Council Member Danny Schaible last week to move this along)
- Were new county political leaders and prosecutors engaged on the importance of working with our community to prosecute cases and provide guidance to offenders on the importance of rehabilitation and not returning to Hamilton Street Corridor with continued criminal behavior?
- Does Code Enforcement Division investigate rental properties which do not include bathrooms or kitchens?
- Were Mayor and City Council briefed in detail on the Prevention and Deterrence of Gang Activity initiative? Is the initiative continually monitored and supported?
- On Police Department Sustainability, what is the source of retention of our police officers? Are there specific measures in place to keep our experienced professional police officers?
- On Animal Control, is there a local ordinance that identifies specific criteria and appropriate penalty for irresponsible pet owners?
- On Committee Administrative Issues, do we need to update the founding document?
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson motions that Chairperson Patricia Page work with Liasion Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee and Mayor Kevin Ward ~ next week to clarify the status of the remaining items from the 2018 item list, to discuss at next meeting
 - Up to 1-2 others from committee welcome to join as needed
 - Secretary Joel Chan seconded
 - Passed with zero objections

back to school

feedback from community/residents that Chairperson Patricia Page collected:

- too many rats coming into their home!
- not enough lights on queensbury road (very dark)

- crosswalk at bestway needs a different crossing signal (should send email to our email address to elaborate on that)
- too many cars in the residential area (no place to park if they come home after 7/8)
- too much trash in residential areas
- some kids say there is a lot of theft in their area

Chairperson Patricia Page will compile and send out to group

Closing

- Committee Member Bette Dickerson moved to adjourn
- Committee Member Jerome Brown seconded
- no objections
- Chairperson Patricia Page adjourned at 20:41