

# Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on April 13th, 2022

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Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:32

## In attendance on the Zoom meeting

- Committee
  - Chairperson Patricia Page, Ward 5
  - Secretary Joel Chan, Ward 1
  - Committee Member Bette Dickerson, Ward 2
  - Committee Member Emily Strab Ward 2
  - Committee Member Taylor Wilder Ward 2
  - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman, Ward 1
- Council / Liasion
  - Chief of Police Jarod Towers
  - Council Member Rommel Sandino, Ward 5
  - Interim Mayor Robert Croslin, Ward 2

## Agenda and Notes

### *Approval of Agenda and Minutes*

- Committee Member Strab motioned that the agenda be accepted
  - Committee Member Wilder seconded the motion
  - The motion passed unanimously
- Committee member Strab motioned that the minutes from March meeting be accepted
  - Committee Member Wilder seconded
  - The motion passed unanimously

### *Subcommittees and sub-chairs*

- Re: scope of policy subcommittee
  - Committee Member Strab noted that policy might be too large of a scope, would like to get input from Chief on what more specific things we want to do. Perhaps working off of the 21st century policing report?
  - Committee Member Wilder reminded the committee that the civilian oversight committee is being established. don't want to make subcommittees that would overlap with them
  - Secretary Chan suggested we start with a policy team that is large, but then first order of action is to propose a division
  - Committee Member Strab suggested we should make sure we don't make it so that the only place we are getting information is in our hour meeting
  - Chief Towers suggested an incremental approach to start getting into policy initiatives: could be led by HPD as it is overhauling and modifying its policies, and come to subcommittee to analyze and make recommendations. in contrast to civilian oversight committee, coming in after to check compliance with policy
    - Committee Member Strab agreed, and noted, we want to be proactive, while the civilian oversight committee could be reactive. One suggestion would be to get the whole policy and 21st century policing report
- Assignments
  - Committee Members Dickerson, Abdul Rahman, and Page volunteered to join the outreach subcommittee, with Page as chair.
  - Committee Members Strab, Wilder, and Chan volunteered to join the policy subcommittee, with Strab as chair.
- Secretary Chan confirmed that the work done outside in subcommittees is not subject to open meetings act, as long as we do not conduct voting business, and report everything back to the main committee and make all info available

### *Updates from Chief Towers*

#### Hiring

- Hired one new officer since last meeting - lateral from cheverly

- 4 openings (out of 48 total)
- Deputy chief psn open, announcement out, apps, processing soon
- Fleet and mobile tech still open, interviews on monday, narrowed down to top two
- 2 cadet positions still open, drafting policy and position descriptions next
- 1 dispatcher, two apps, haven't started processing yet

#### Budget update

- The budget is pretty much done, handing off to CFO Brooks, presented to mayor and council last meeting. Presenting also between now and June, and then passed 9th June with amendments

#### Various issues

- Near queens chapel town center, there have been complaints about foot traffic, public intoxication, littering, loitering, working with community services, bring resources to folks up there, for summer plan, want long term solution, not short-term fix from policy dispatches, address issues of homelessness, addiction, jobs

#### Thoughts on presentation from last month

- no update yet, got recording, need to watch again to speak to it
- from memory, some things agree, some things disagree (e.g., legislation for repeal of bill of rights; lots of unintended consequences for it; e.g., prior to leg/repeal, if felony from officer on/off duty, would be suspended in place without pay pending outcome of criminal investigation; repeal removed that, now only can be suspended without pay for 30 days)

#### Acknowledgement of fire chief Ryan Pidgeon

- Chief Towers acknowledged fire chief Ryan Pidgeon who was on the call
- Chief Pidgeon noted that there is open call if there's anything the dept can do for us, let them know
- Committee Member Abdul Rahman noticed HPD just acquired a new vehicle to deal with special situations, and asked how would that work with the HFD.
  - Chief Towers noted that yes, in natural disaster situations and other special situations, would work closely together (otherwise mostly on separate dispatches). emergency response team rescue 4wd vehicle is what was recently purchased (e.g., ambulance can't get to residence)
  - Committee Member Dickerson suggested that it would be great to have someone synchronizing the different departments
- Interim Mayor Croslin suggested we take the time to tour the station, get to know it and the department. Chief Pidgeon agreed, and offered an open invite.

#### ***No-Knock Search Warrants***

- Chairperson Page met with Chief, to plan hosting a listening session on how to discuss policies and execution of no-knock search warrants. Aiming to have facilitated discussion on this on June 8th
- Chief Towers clarified that this is part of a general plan to have monthly sessions to talk about diff. topics (negotiated that to quarterly due to bandwidth; first one is June 8th)
- Committee Member Strab suggested that this could be first project for policy subcommittee
  - Chief Towers suggested another policy to review: complaints policy process, he wants to modify it to make it easy to get the forms to anyone who needs it, and back to the chief with no filter in between. Suggest meeting with policy subcommittee next
- Interim Mayor Croslin asked about the target audience for this listening session.
  - Chairperson Page clarified that this is for the public. Want to get flyer, post on social media and bulletin and other places. Outreach needs to investigate best modes of communication
- Citizen Marshall commented that listening sessions generally do not work because public generally has questions and listening sessions do not provide any answers to these questions.
  - Chairperson Page asked for suggestions for alternative formats.
  - Citizen Marshall suggested a meeting with questions and answers, not listening only.
  - Committee Member Dickerson assured that they will make sure there is time for back and forth Q&A

## AOB

- Committee Member Wilder asked about street outage at intersection of hamilton and gallatin - really dark and bc of construction haven't painted street signs, can elevate to transportation
- Chief Towers said he will report on see click fix, also suggest outreach committee raise awareness of this (DPW)
- Committee Member Wilder announced that April is second chance awareness month, PGC hosting series of events, including next wednesday glenarden community center cookout

## Closing

- Committee Member Dickerson moved to adjourn,
- Committee Member Strab seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 21:04.