



**Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
Thursday, January 6, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Donna Barnes, Jaime Espinosa, Lori Horkan, Chiara Jaffe, Matthew Perkins, Robin Prather, and David Smith were present. Bernadette Goovaerts and Michael Scott were absent.

Staff Present: Chief of Police Victor Brito and Police Executive Assistant Andrea Escher.

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Horkan conducted roll call and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Agenda

Motion: to approve the January meeting agenda.

Moved by Board member Jaffe, seconded by Board member Perkins, unanimously approved.

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the November 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Moved by Board member Perkins, seconded by Board member Smith, unanimously approved.

IV. Update Regarding Board Member Appointment

Ms. Escher provided an update on the status of the two voting Board member vacancies. She advised alternate member Michael Scott was officially appointed a voting member by the Mayor and Council in November. Three additional people have been recommended for appointment by the Mayor and the Council is expected to vote during the January 10, 2022 meeting.

V. Community Comments

Mr. Steven Van Grack, a local attorney and Rockville resident, discussed with the Board that he was one of the visionaries for the Community Policing Advisory Board. He reviewed with the Board what the original concept for the Board was – to include creating new programs and address how to respond during unfortunate incidents, training volunteers for city-wide events to assist with traffic enforcement and house checks, a city-wide camera coordination program, and safety in all health-related matters. Mr. Van Grack stated the CPAB needs to understand and learn about the police department. He would like to see the creation of a volunteer core to assist and that the goal is to make Rockville the safest city in the Country.

VI. Data Review

Board member Jaffe noted that Montgomery County Police Bill 45-20 passed on November 2, 2021. The Bill amends a section of the Code 35-A6, which adds a reporting requirement in regard to traffic stops – if a person is searched, cited or arrested or if there was a use of force incident and the reporting of race, ethnicity and gender and other demographics. It will require the information be posted on Data Montgomery. The additional data will be collected from use of force incidents, alcohol violations, juvenile citations, field interview reports, criminal citations, and possession of marijuana – less than 10 grams.

Chief Brito advised that this data is already captured and tracked by the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPCTC) and the information from the City of Rockville will be included in the County’s data set. RCPD has access to the data and frequently reviews it for training purposes.

Board member Perkins raised the question as to if the Board should reach out to the Montgomery County Police Advisory Board to discuss their data. He mentioned his familiarity with the Comstat model; however, it does not focus on equity rather resolving crime. Board member Perkins suggested speaking with the Center for Police Equity to see if they would be able to review the Rockville City Police Department’s stats for any issues, red flags, or disparities. He will reach out to the Center for Policing Equity to see what their able to do and offer the Board and City. It was suggested to see if they have a model that can be used or a representative that can speak on the topic of data and equity.

VII. CEO Follow Up

The Board reviewed the November presentation and discussion on the Community Engagement Officer (CEO)/School Resource Officer (SRO) program in Rockville and Montgomery County. Board members advised they would like to hear the youth perspective on the program and on having police officers in schools. Board member Barnes will reach out to a youth organization with the goal of having at least four (4) students attend the next CPAB meeting.

Motion: to invite at least four (4) high school students to attend the next CPAB meeting to discuss their views on the CEO/SRO program.

Moved by Board member Smith, seconded by Board member Barnes, motion approved 6-1, Board member Espinosa voted nay.

Ms. Escher was directed to contact the City Clerk's Office to determine if any waivers or policies are required by the City to have underage speakers or as attendees for a future Board meeting.

VIII. New Business

Board member Prather advised she would like to have a future discussion on parking enforcement and have someone from that unit to discuss their role and what they do, specifically how they patrol, and the process for abandoned vehicles.

Motion: to discuss parking enforcement at the next meeting.

Moved by Board member Prather, seconded by Perkins, approved 6-0-1 with Espinosa abstaining.

Board member Barnes questioned the status of the City's Mental Health professional for the police department. Chief Brito advised that the Memorandum of Understanding for the position is currently being reviewed by Montgomery County and is expected to be finalized soon. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by this spring. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will host the interviews for the position and RCPD will also participate in the selection process.

Chief Brito advised RCPD has a new permanent drug drop box in the police station lobby. Anyone interested in disposing of unwanted or expired medications can now do so 24/7 in the box, which is under 24-hour video surveillance.

IX. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

The next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: to adjourn.

Moved by Board member Prather motion, seconded by Jaffe, unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.