



## **Community Policing Advisory Board**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023**

**Meeting was held at the Rockville City Police Station – 2 W. Montgomery Avenue**

**Members Present:** Donna Barnes, Michael Donahue, Jaime Espinosa, Lori Horkan, Chiara Jaffe, Matthew Perkins, and Rici Rutkoff were present. Robin Prather and Michael Scott were absent.

**Staff Present:** City Manager Robert DiSpirito, Deputy City Manager Barack Matite, Chief of Police Victor V. Brito, and Police Executive Assistant Andrea Escher.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Perkins conducted roll call and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **II. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** to approve the February meeting agenda.

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

#### **III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve the January 5, 2023 meeting minutes.

Moved by Board member Espinosa seconded by Board member Horkan, unanimously approved.

#### **IV. Guest Introductions & Statements**

A comment submitted by Ms. Marissa Valeri was entered into the record regarding the RCPD Statement written by Chief Brito on the Memphis Law Enforcement Incident.

The Board was introduced to the new City of Rockville Deputy City Manager, Barack Matite.

## **V. RCPD Updates & Meet RCPD**

Chief Brito provided brief hiring and retention update on the staffing of RCPD. The Board was introduced to Lieutenant Jason West, the Midnight Duty Patrol Commander. He gave the Board a brief overview of his responsibilities with RCPD and his personal history as a police officer.

## **VI. Crime Statistics Year to Year Comparison**

This discussion was tabled to the March meeting.

## **VII. CPAB Advocacy**

Marijuana Legislation – There was some discussion as to whether the Board should submit a statement to the State Assembly regarding this topic, if so, it needs to be done now. Chairman Perkins will be drafting a letter to discuss at the next meeting.

Rockville Budget – The City of Rockville proposed FY24 Budget will be released on February 17, 2023. Board member Espinosa suggested the need to increase police training on marijuana legalization, such as “drug driving.” Chief Brito advised this will be covered in In-Service Training – with focus on possession, public use, he noted that officers need to be more mindful of use, and education rather than confrontation and citation.

Restoration Center – City Manager DiSpirito provided an update on the status of the City’s position on the Restoration Center. The Mayor and Council have expressed their concern about the location being next to eight (8) neighborhoods. Montgomery County has not yet hosted another forum since October 6 and the City is waiting on their response to some requested information and questions. The Board questioned if they should advocate “for” or “against” and agreed they should wait for the Montgomery County to respond to the City’s requests for further information.

## **VIII. CPAB Outreach**

Mayor & Council Report – The Board will present their Annual Report at a future meeting date after March 2, 2023. The Board would like to have a booth at Hometown Holidays in May.

Community Meeting - The Board will look into setting up their May meeting possibly at Lincoln Park Community Center.

**IX. New Business**

Board member Donahue stated that he wanted to look at the mission of the Board and Community Policing Agenda and what the next focus should be. He noted there needs to be an in-depth assessment, the best practices and purpose to see if it meets the mission and core values, as well as the community policing plan and build on that plan. It was agreed to further discuss this at the next meeting.

**X. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Rockville City Police Station – 2 West Montgomery Avenue.

**Motion:** to adjourn.

Moved by Board member Espinosa, motion seconded by Donahue unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.