

Community Policing Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Held Via WebEx

Ms. Sarah Farrell opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Chief Victor V. Brito welcomed everyone for attending and stated that all the information and suggestions raised during this meeting will be shared with the Rockville Mayor and Council on November 16, 2020. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss ideas and thoughts on what the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) should be about as well as roles/responsibilities. Chief Brito read off the list of all attendees on the WebEx call. Chief Brito then introduced the evening's moderator, Mr. James (Jim) Stowe from the Montgomery County Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Stowe advised the goal of the meeting was to be a part of the on-going discussion on how to deal with policing. He then asked what the word "vision" means to the attendees. The responses included:

- a desired goal, state of what you want to be;
- long term outlook or strategy;
- clear sense of purpose;
- the larger picture;
- the hope and projection

Mr. Stowe then asked what the Community Police Advisory Board should be about. The responses included:

- a relationship of mutual respect and trust between the police and community;
- partnership and strong relationship between the police and community;
- a collaboration and cohesiveness;
- trust;
- a diverse group of residents where RCPD will listen to their thoughts and take them seriously.

Mr. Stowe then asked what the purpose of the Community Police Advisory Board should be, the responses included:

Mr. Fred Evans – the community should be fully informed on purpose of the police and to have as much interaction as possible with the police. Most important, engagement and full knowledge of the purpose of police/law enforcement in Rockville.

Ms. Judy Rudolph – questioned how literally anyone should take the word "advisory." She referred to the Montgomery County Police Advisory Board and stated their purpose

was to recommend policies and legislations. She questioned if the Rockville CPAB would advise the Mayor and Council.

Marissa Valeri – stated there needs to be representation from community residents from all over the city, the makeup of the Board must represent as many Rockville communities as possible.

Suzie Sinclair Smith (Coalition for the Homeless) – stated there needs to be an in-depth partnership with those who can provide common resources as well as advocate the decriminalization of homeless crimes. There needs to be a partnership to resolve community issues.

Mr. Stowe then asked what the Community Police Advisory Board's mission should be about. The responses included:

Meredith Weisel (Anti-Defamation League) – stated there is an urgent need to eliminate bias in the criminal justice system and that needs to be the mission. Stated the officers need to have proper training regarding understanding hate crimes, hate groups, etc. The key should be for the commitment to eliminate bias.

Reverend Jane Wood -stated training should be a priority. Questioned as to if there is on-going training to deal with homeless and ethnic groups. Believes the group should advise and counsel to look at training.

Alexandra Dace Denito – stated that she feels the CPAB should advise on the hiring of police officers and to look for applicants who have specialties/degrees such as psychology.

Courtney Proctor – Montgomery County Human Right Commission – stated the CPAB should look at the current state of the community and police and focus on what is not being done well.

Judy Rudolph – stated perhaps there should be the creation of a feedback group to hear the concerns of the people, whether good or bad.

Ms. Harris – stated the purpose should be about accountability and transparency.

Other comments included:

- interaction with officers, ensuring visibility and problem solving;
- racial diversity, gender, sexual orientation;
- what needs should/could be fulfilled.

Mr. Stowe asked where the CPAB should host their meetings (location), how often and for how long. The responses included:

Fred Evans – stated the CPAB should meet at a school, the terms should be more than a year and would recommend two-year terms. The Board should represent diversity and all parts of Rockville, as well as the inclusion of young people. The Board should meet every 4-6 weeks and stay in contact to ensure progress is being made. Noted there is an 8-month meeting requirement in the County.

- meet monthly and transition to 8 times a year
- terms should be for two or three years
- meet virtually due to COVID and better attendance
- must have youth represented- specifically young, African American Males – noted the strained relationship with you and police
- must be diverse and have translation available for non-English speaking members
- have a local prosecutor on the Board for a different perspective
- have a representative from the Crisis Center/Mental Health professional

The City Manager thanked those who attended and stated there will be a de-brief with those staff regarding the meeting. This item will be presented to the Mayor and Council on November 16, 2020.

Meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.