



**Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Donna Barnes, Michael Donahue, Jaime Espinosa, Bernadette Goovaerts, Lori Horkan, Chiara Jaffe, Matthew Perkins, Robin Prather, Rici Rutkoff, Michael Scott, David Smith were present. Carter Fensterstock was 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 7:00 p.m.

II. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Agenda

Motion: to approve the March meeting agenda.

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

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the February 3, 2022 meeting minutes.

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

IV. Welcome and Introductions – New Board Members

The Board was prepared to welcome Youth Board Member Carter Fensterstock but he did not attend the meeting.

V. Welcome Mr. Rob DiSpirito – Rockville City Manager

City Manager Robert DiSpirito introduced himself and thanked the Board for volunteering and taking the time to serve the city. He appreciated their guidance and for taking the lead to be a voice for the community regarding public safety and police. He said he is most interested in

hearing what a group of community residents have to say about issues regarding policing in the community and how the city should respond and address concerns/issues. He also noted that in the FY23 budget he is advocating to release the frozen Police Major position as well as the change from a part-time Police Service Aide to a fulltime Police Service Aide. He said the Board's opinion on the budget and what the police department needs is always a helpful conversation.

VI. Recap Community Policing Advisory Board – 1st Year

Chairwoman Horkan provided a recap to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito on the Board and what has been accomplished over the course of their inaugural year. She noted the Board spent the first few months learning about the police department, police training, current reform legislation, department budget summary, and were introduced to various presentations from RCPD staff on a variety of topics. The CPAB established rules and procedures, established committees on data monitoring/evaluation, policies/procedures, mental health/officer wellness and community engagement, as well as welcomed guest speakers on the Community Engagement Officer (CEO)/SRO program. The Board has also spoke with community members to address their comments/concerns, attended the Fair & Impartial Policing Training, and continue to strive to their goal to make recommendations to the police department and Mayor & Council regarding crime and safety initiatives, enhancing community interaction, officer training and professional development, and improving communication between the police department and community.

VII. Update Spring/Summer Events Planned by RCPD

Ms. Escher provided an update on upcoming Spring/Summer events planned by RCPD to include:

Coffee with a Cop at Starbucks Congressional Plaza – March 9, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

National Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, April 30, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hometown Holidays – Saturday, May 28 & Sunday, May 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2, 2022 – various times/block parties around the City.

VIII. Volunteer Opportunities for Community Involvement with RCPD

Chief Brito stated he would like to create a Police Auxiliary Reserve Corp – to be comprised of civilian volunteers who can assist with home checks, searching for missing persons, assistance with police events, larger scale events with traffic control for fires or water main breaks. He is currently working on a General Order to outline the program and qualifications needed for the

program. He will be sharing with the Board for future comments/collaboration and feedback on the creation of the program, possibly in May, for further discussion.

IX. New Business

Color with a Cop

Board member Barnes would like to have further discussion on the Color with a Cop program but stated that she would like to talk more about it during the April meeting under New Business.

Twinbrook Town Hall Meeting

Board member Espinosa noted that the Twinbrook community will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on crime and safety on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 via Zoom. Espinosa will be forwarding the link for the meeting to the Board members should they like to attend.

Mental Health Wellness Position Update

Chief Brito advised that the City of Rockville and Montgomery County have finalized the Memorandum of Agreement for the hiring of a Mental Health Professional for the Rockville City Police Department. The recruiting process will soon commence to hire the new employee, which is hoped to be filled prior to summer. RCPD. Chief Brito noted that he will be bringing the new employee to the CPAB in the future for an introduction and more robust discussion about the roles and responsibilities of this new position.

Change to January 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board member Donahue noted discrepancies to the January 6, 2022 regarding a section on the meeting to include a name change for MPCTC and the comment regarding tracking of the data is inaccurate.

Motion to amend the January 6, 2022 minutes with the changes noted by Board member Donahue.

Moved by Board member Prather, seconded by Board member Jaffee, unanimously approved.

Hometown Holidays

The Board discussed having a booth/table at the upcoming Hometown Holidays event to allow people the opportunity to speak to the Board about their issues/concerns with the police. It was suggested that the table/booth be separate and apart from the police department booth.

Motion for the Community Engagement Committee to create a signup sheet with blocks of time to attend the Hometown Holidays event.

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

Motion for the Community Policing Advisory Board to have a table/booth at the Hometown Holidays event.

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

Board Chair Interest

Chairwoman Horkan noted that she has been the Chairperson for the past year, but if anyone else is interested in being the Chairperson, she is open to someone taking over. This would need to take place effective July 1, in keeping with the City's fiscal year schedule.

X. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

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

Motion: to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.