



**Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
Thursday, September 1, 2022**

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

Staff Present: Major Andrew Powell and Police Executive Assistant Andrea Escher.

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman 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 September meeting agenda.

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

Motion: to accept the statement submitted by Mr. Steven VanGrack for review by the Board.

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

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the June 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

Moved by Board member Espinosa, seconded by Board member Prather. Perkins and Smith abstained – motion approved.

IV. Summer Updates

Report on Crime and/or Major Incidents – Major Powell advised overall the City is safe and the agency continues to be diligent with enforcement actions. He reviewed a few cases from the summer to include a few assaults, thefts, etc. No major incidents to report.

County Rollout of Handle with Care – RCPD has signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County Police and are current awaiting how this program will be implemented. The Board would like to know more about the process and how it will be implemented. They questioned as to if this program will be intertwined with the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) program. The Board would also like to liaison with the City’s newly created Education Commission.

Gun BuyBack – Major Powell advised that over 300 guns were collected during the agency’s first-ever Gun Buyback event, which was a great success.

Presidential Visit to Richard Montgomery High School – Major Powell advised this was a last-minute detail and was a collaborative partnership with Montgomery County Police, the Secret Service and other agencies. It was a successful visit and no issues reported.

V. National Night Out

Board member Smith was not present to discuss his ideas. This item will be discussed next month. There was some conversation about the City hosting several larger scale events throughout the City in place of all the smaller parties which are often hard for police and City personnel to attend every all of them.

VI. Annual Report Progress & Contribution Reminder

Chairperson Perkins provided copies of the draft Annual Report to the members in attendance. He asked that everyone review the draft and bring comments/suggestions back to the next meeting. It is expected the Board will vote to send the Annual Report to the Council at the October meeting.

VII. Proposed Meeting Additions

Quarterly Meetings at Community Centers – Chairperson Perkins stated it is important for the Board to figure “how we can be helpful.” He noted the Board’s mission should be community outreach and engagement, interactions with other Boards and Commissions, be an advocate for the City of Rockville, facilitate RCPD and the community getting to know each other, allocating city resources and advocating for specialized skills and resources as well as transparency and accountability. There was some discussion about hosting community meetings at local places of worship or Community Center’s in the city. The Board would like a list of the monthly HOA meetings and contacts.

Monthly “Meet RPD Segment” – The Board would like to meet with one or two officers each month starting in October for about 15-20 minutes.

Outreach to Boards & Commissions – The Board would like to meet with the Pedestrian Advisory Board and the Human Rights Commission.

Monthly Resource Sharing – There was a question as to if others were interested in monthly resource sharing of articles and topics. If someone sees something of interest for the group, they can e-mail it.

VIII. New Business

The Board asked if there was an update on the new Mental Health Specialist position. The City is still working with Montgomery County on the recruitment for this position and hopes to have more information soon.

There was a brief discussion on the Supreme Court’s decision on the Conceal and Carry law. The Board questioned as to if there would be additional training for police officers on these new laws.

Board member Donahue stated he would like to add a discussion for the future on the new disciplinary laws and use of force.

IX. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

The next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the RCPD Station at 2 West Montgomery Avenue.

Motion: to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.