



Community Policing Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Meeting was held at the Rockville City Police Station – 2 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

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

Staff Present: 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 7:05 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 Jaffe unanimously approved.

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes.

Moved by Board member Rutkoff, seconded by Board member Donahue approved 5-1-0 with Board member Jaffe abstaining.

IV. CPAB Updates

Membership Update – Chairman Perkins welcomed newly appointed member Bob Ross to the Board and advised that former member, Jaime Espinoza, had resigned from the Board as he was recently appointed to sit on another City Board/Commission. The Board is currently down two (2) positions. Ms. Escher will provide an update to the City Clerk's Office for recruitment.

FIP Training – RCPD will host the Fair and Impartial Police Training on Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Social Hall. There are still spaces available for anyone who would like to attend.

September 11 Council Presentation – Chairman Perkins advised he will be presenting the Board's Annual Report to the Mayor and Council during their regular meeting on September 11.

V. RCPD Updates & Meet RCPD

Meet RCPD - Chief Brito introduced RCPD Major Troy Plummer. Major Plummer was recently promoted to the rank of Major, he previously worked in the patrol bureau of RCPD for the past two years. Major Plummer is the Field Services Bureau Commander and oversees the patrol functions of the agency. Before joining RCPD, he worked at the Montgomery County Sherriff's Office where he retired after 20+ years of service.

Summer Update - Chief Brito reviewed the agency's summer activities and events to include the National Night Out and a second annual Gun Buyback which resulted in over 200 firearms being collected. He also noted the City of Rockville was named the 12th safest City during a recent survey by a national magazine.

Mental Health Response Update – Mental Health Specialist Beth Loftus provided a six-month update on the progress of this new initiative. She noted she has done outreach at the Senior Center, participated in Community Engagement Unit activities, and has assisted officers in the field with calls for members in mental crisis and victim/witness assistance. The Board discussed the importance of having Ms. Loftus activities tracked for data purposes so that in the future the Board can advocate additional clinicians. Board member Barnes noted having background information is imperative to prevention methods.

VI. CPAB Discussion

Draft Annual Report – The draft Annual Report has been distributed; members should submit their feedback via e-mail to Chairman Perkins for final approval by the Board in November. This Report will be submitted to the Mayor and Council.

30 x 30 Program – Board member Donahue noted Montgomery County Police has recently adopted the 30 x 30 initiative – the goal of hiring 30% more females by 2030. Suggested RCPD consider looking into this program.

VII. New Business

Plan for Path Forward – Board member Donahue expressed that to be more efficient as a Board, he would like to have a proposed recommendations discussion to improve community policing at the October meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting Date & Meeting Adjournment

Due to a scheduling conflict with members, the next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Rockville City Police Station.

Motion: to adjourn.

Moved by Board member Donahue motion seconded by Scott unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.