



**Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes
WebEx Board Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Donna Barnes, Jaime Espinosa, Lori Horkan, Chiara Jaffe, Matthew Perkins and Michael Scott were present. Bernadette Goovaerts, Renoir Dawson-Finan, Robin Prather, David Smith were absent.

Staff Present: Chief of Police Victor Brito, Senior Assistant City Attorney Ashley McFarland, and Police Executive Assistant Andrea Escher.

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Horkan conducted roll call and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Agenda

Motion: to approve the October meeting agenda.

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

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes.

Moved by Board member Espinosa, seconded by Board member Perkins, approved with a vote of 5-0-1 with Board member Perkins abstaining.

IV. Update Regarding Board Members

Ms. Escher provided an update on the status of the two voting Board member vacancies. She advised that Ms. Michelle Egan has resigned from the Board as well as Mr. Raphael Borrás. Alternate member Michael Scott has expressed his interest in serving as a voting member. This leaves the Board with one open voting member and one open alternate member. In addition, due to the continued absence of the youth member, the Board is also requesting the appointment of a new youth member. The Mayor will review the current applications submitted by City residents and appointments may be made as soon as October 25, 2021.

V. Subcommittee Reports

Data Requests, Monitoring and Evaluation – Board member Jaffe advised the group reviewed the 2020 Annual Report for trends and provided statistics on arrests, ages, demographics, etc. She stated the group wondered how the Rockville data compared to National data. She also questioned how many of the arrests involved the assistance of Mental Wellness Counselors or a police officer trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). She noted the group wondered of the sustained Internal Affairs cases, the race of those officers and the type of punishment received or if any additional training was provided in those incidents. She also advised the group was interested in seeing data on traffic stops. The Board contacted the City Manager's Office who advised the Social Justice survey results are not ready for public release yet. She stated the group believes there needs to be guidelines for the type of data obtained, as well as safeguards to protect personally identifiable information, such as names/addresses. Board member Perkins said the group will need to be as specific as possible when requesting data requests, and reiterated Board member Jaffee's suggestion that the Board develop basic standards for Board requests about data.

There was a brief review by Chief Brito to the Board as to the use of Crisis Counselors, they will not come out without the assistance of police, as well as a majority of the calls for mental distress come from the Crisis Center directly who need a patient transported for a medical evaluation at the hospital.

Chairwoman Horkan will put 10 minutes on the next meeting agenda to discuss the data. All board members should review the data provided (enclosed with the minutes as an attachment) for the next meeting.

VI. Community Engagement Officers (CEO's)/School Resource Officers (SRO's)

Chairwoman Horkan stated she feels it would be important to speak to the school staff, principals, counselors, etc. to discuss this topic in more detail. Chief Brito advised on the history on the SRO program and how the program has now changed effective this August 2021 with the change from SRO's to CEO's. CEO's are still involved with the schools, but are no longer stationed inside the schools. RCPD is responsible for the CEO coverage at Richard Montgomery High School. Chief does have some concerns with no longer having the constant personal interaction in a positive way with students daily now. Chairwoman Horkan stated she would like to have the school principals talk to the importance of this program as well as the school counselors. Board member Barnes stated that she would like to hear from the students as to how they feel with police officers in the schools. Chairwoman Horkan would like to propose having a school administrator, counselor, and students attend a future meeting to share their thoughts on this program. Board member Barnes questioned what types of activities and interactions the police had with the students while in the schools, example playing basketball with them, etc. Chairwoman Horkan will get the contact

information from Chief Brito for the Richard Montgomery High School Principal as well as other persons who would be able to speak on this topic at the next meeting.

Motion: to have Chairman Horkan find a speaker to discuss the SRO program further.

Moved by Board member Perkins seconded by Board member Espinosa, approved with a vote of 6-0-1 with Board member Barnes abstaining.

Board member Espinosa and Alternate member Scott left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: to adjourn

Due to lack of quorum a motion to adjourn the meeting could not be made, Chairwoman Horkan ended the meeting at 8:12 p.m.