



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of September 18, 2024, 7:00PM - 8:00PM

I. Attendance

Position, Name	Ward	Present / Absent	Position, Name	Present / Absent
Chair, Julia Dezelski	1	✓	Chief of Police, Jarod Towers	✓
Vice Chair, Bob Kantor	2	✓	Deputy Chief of Police, Laura Lanham	✓
Secretary / Recorder, Mark Culberson	3	✓	Council Member Ward 2, Emily Strab	✓
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓	Chief of Hyattsville Fire Department, Henry Sullivan	✓
Member, Jerome Brown	5	✓		
Member, Patricia Page	5	✗		
Member, Ana Chapa	5	✓		

Public Attendance

Two virtual public attendees observed. One was Maximilian Vasquez, the other did not provide a name.

7:05 Chair Dezelski called to Order, quorum affirmed

II. [Agenda](#), and [Minutes](#)

- Motion made (Kantor moved, Wilder seconded) and passed (all verbal aye) to approve [Agenda](#) (as drafted and pre-circulated)
- Motion made (Brown moved, Kantor seconded) and passed (all verbal aye) to approve [meeting minutes for 10 July, 2024](#)

III. Public Comment

- Attendance of two was noted. Public comments were requested; none were made.

IV. Agenda: General Discussion Topics

- a. Ana Chapa was introduced as a new committed member from Ward 5.



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- b. Culberson updated the committee on the Ward 3 GATEWAY WEST housing community Neighborhood Watch (NW) project. Culberson advised the NW was formalized and had a second meeting attended by HPD LT Scott Ratty and neighboring residents from University Park. Both Culberson and Chief Towers commented on the significant decrease in incidents and trespassing since the beginning of the school year compared to the last school year. GATEWAY WEST borders Northwestern High School. Chief Towers attributed the decrease in activity to the increase in the presence of police and public works officials and resident citizens. The replacement, improvement, and fortification of fences in key vulnerable and trafficable areas have also directed foot traffic to appropriate places away from residents and along safer pathways for students. This activity highlights the need and efficiency of city, citizen, and corporate leaders and participants to work together. Culberson will continue to work on a NW manual and report of best practices to be shared with committee members for consideration of use in other areas in Hyattsville.

c. Updates from the Outreach and Policy Subcommittees

- **Outreach:** Dezelski discussed feedback from community questionnaires and fliers, which yielded limited results. The recommendation is to use a multiple-choice option for future questionnaires. Dezelski plans to attend the Summer Jam event on 20 September 2024 and encouraged other committee members to attend.

- **Policy:** No Policy items for review.

d. Public Safety Community concerns:

- **Fire Chief Sullivan:** Chief Towers introduced new Hyattsville Fire Department Chief Henry Sullivan, who discussed mitigation measures to counter department closures. Chief Sullivan responded to a question from Wilder concerning cutback impacts on response times. Chief Sullivan explained that the response time was still below six minutes, which is acceptable. Chief Sullivan also addressed the ongoing staffing issues, which are similar to the personnel hiring and retention with the police department. Chief Sullivan had encouraging news that an upcoming academy graduation will result in more firefighters in the county.

V. HVL Police Dept Updates

- a. **Update on Testing of Stop Sign Cameras:** Chief Towers stated Hyattsville is one of the first cities to authorize automated enforcement in response to the new legislation. However, full testing and implementation will take time due to vendor vetting and testing.



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- b. Police Funding:** Chief Towers discussed the challenges of recruiting and onboarding officers. Strab joined the meeting and highlighted the inflated costs and challenges of constructing and opening new city facilities.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting was confirmed for October 9 at 7:00PM.

- Wilder proposed two agenda topics for consideration:
 - 1. Gun Recovery Rates: What are the demographics and what are the recommendations?
 - 2. Ring Camera Community: Is there a way to tie the data and reporting to the police?

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07PM.



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Relevant excerpt “**City-of-Hyattsville-Handbook-for-Committees_FINAL**”:

COMMITTEE APPOINTED ROLES

Appointed roles in the Committee include the Chair and the Secretary. Committees may choose to have Co-Chairs or Vice Chairs at their discretion or at the direction of the Committee worksheet. The duties of these roles are described below.

- **Committee Chair:** The Chair is elected annually in January for a one (1) year term. The Chair provides leadership and direction to the Committee to facilitate the Body in pursuing its vision and mission. The Chair facilitates the meeting by calling the meeting to order and acts as the meeting Chairperson. The Chair develops the meeting agendas in partnership with Committee members and the staff liaison(s). The Chair also works with the staff liaison(s) to ensure meeting requirements are met for the posting of agendas and approval of minutes.
- **Secretary:** Elected annually in January for one (1) year term. Responsible for writing meeting minutes and submitting minutes for approval of the Body.

City page for Committees and Boards (as of 06.02.2024):

<https://www.hyattsville.org/878/Advisory-Committees-Boards-Commissions>

Committee-specific information on City website (as of 06.02.2024):

<https://hyattsville-md.granicus.com/boards/w/c116e25731a7ccb3/boards/11214>

Description

The City of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens’ Advisory Committee (PPSCAC) is established to promote civic participation and provide advisement and relevant feedback to the Mayor, City Council, and City Administration on issues related to community policing and public safety, including but not limited to policies and procedures, throughout the City.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 11, 7:00PM - 8:00PM, virtual - Police & Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

Vacancies

- 4 Current Vacancies
- 0 Terms Expired

Size 11 Members



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Term Length 2 Years

Term Limit N/A

- **Staff Liaison(s)**
Chief Towers
 - **Council Liaison(s)**
Councilmember Strab Strab (Ward 2)
 - **Committee Worksheet**
[PPSAC Committee Worksheet adopted edits Feb 4 2019.pdf](#)
 - **2024 Meeting Calendar** [PPSCAC 2023 Calendar Adopted.pdf](#)
-

Tab for Member Roster (as of 06.02.2024):

1. [Patricia Page](#)

2nd Term

Oct 03, 2022 to Oct 30, 2024

Appointing Authority

City Council

Position

Member

City Ward

Ward 5

2. [Jerome Brown](#)

2nd Term

Oct 03, 2022 to Oct 30, 2024

Appointing Authority

City Council

Position

Member

City Ward

Ward 5

3. [Robert Riddle](#)

1st Term

~~Feb 21, 2023 to Feb 28, 2025~~

~~Appointing Authority~~



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~~Council~~

~~Position~~

~~Recorder~~

~~City Ward~~

~~Ward 2~~

4. [Taylor Wilder](#)

2nd Term

Apr 17, 2023 to Apr 30, 2025

Appointing Authority

City Council

Position

Member

City Ward

Ward 2

5. [Bob Kantor](#)

1st Term

Nov 20, 2023 to Nov 30, 2025

Appointing Authority

Council

Position

Co-Chair

City Ward

Ward 2

6. [Julia Dezelski](#)

1st Term

Nov 20, 2023 to Nov 30, 2025

Appointing Authority

Council

Position

Chair

City Ward

Ward 1

7. [Mark Culberson](#)

1st Term

May 07, 2024 to May 31, 2026

Appointing Authority



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Council
Position
Recorder
City Ward
Ward 3

Jun 12, 2024 07:00 PM

Jul 10, 2024 07:00 PM

~~Aug 6, 2024 07:00 PM~~: Summer Recess.

Sep 11, 2024 07:00 PM

Oct 9, 2024 07:00 PM

Nov 13, 2024 07:00 PM

Dec 11, 2024 07:00 PM