

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on August 11th, 2021

[In attendance on the Zoom meeting](#)

[Agenda and Notes](#)

[Approval of Agenda](#)

[Approval of Minutes from April meeting](#)

[Status of incoming police chief](#)

[Reaction to video that took place on 12/5/20 in Windsor, VA?](#)

[Q & A](#)

[Civilian Oversight Committee](#)

[Outreach: how to socialize the committee more](#)

[New Police Recruits/Training](#)

[Closing](#)

Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:33

In attendance on the Zoom meeting

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Committee Member Emily Strab
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilder
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
 - Secretary Joel Chan
- Council / Liason
 - Council Member Robert Croslin
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - Council Member Rommel Sandino
- Other
 - Deshundra Fortson

Agenda and Notes

- Approve Agenda
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson motioned to approve the agenda
 - Committee Member Emily Strab seconded
 - Passed with zero objections
- Approval of Minutes
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson motioned to accept
 - Committee Member Emily Strab seconded
 - Passed with zero objections
- NNO Event
- Police updates
 - Did study about crime rate:
 - Went back to first six months of 2019-2021 - we are down 21% in violent crime and 35% in property crime from 2019; only problem is carjacking, way up this year (countrywide and DMV trend), along with auto theft
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: is this going to be shared with the public?'
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: no was internal for bosses, but can ask if they'd like to share; was mentioned in council meeting
 - Staffing levels still low: down 5 officers, and some admins left and on injured leave
 - Have 3 in the academy (picked Hyattsville bc they see us on Facebook, know we're active in the community); will graduate Nov 3, then field training won't be on the field until February
 - Another 3 entering the academy
 - And 2 experienced officers who might join by the Fall
 - Status on incoming police chief
 - Interviewed 4 candidates
 - Final candidates are going through the last round of interview
 - Panel that interviewed everyone was very diverse, as was the interviewees
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: was put at ease when she learned that the panel was going to be chaired by the outgoing chief
 - Q&A

- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: thank you to officers who came to Livingston Street to respond to a stolen car that was blocking the road; they did a great job!
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: how did coffee with a cop go on Thursday? Useful for committee to do a version of it?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: got to talk to a lot of people (in the morning), with Community Action Team and Corporal Chris Evans: went really well!
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson: do we have a qualified immunity policy?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: yes, this is at the state level.
- Chairperson Patricia Page: spoke back in April re: hosting a meet and greet with the team. now that NNO is past, we should start working on that - is there any budget for this (e.g., for business cards)?
- Chairperson Patricia Page: data transparency - is it at all possible to create space on our website that talks about all the cases that are currently open and update on the status?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: city maintains the website, not the PD; also q about what level of case we want to put up there (worried that long lists of minor cases that take a long time to resolve might concern people)
- Council Member Rommel Sandino: appreciate report on lowered crime and increases in carjacking. Curious to hear more about any proactive steps the PD is taking and what city residents can do
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: yes! constantly putting out information on social media (e.g., make sure you take in valuables or put in your trunk, be aware of your surroundings)
 - City has also approved PD hiring a bilingual social media help
- Council Member Rommel Sandino: comments on implicit bias and sensitivity training?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: training on history of community-police relations and Jim Crow laws, ICAT deescalation training, mental health and first aid
 - will expand on this in the Fall to allow for officers to see a confidential counselor for 45 mins every quarter)

- Committee Member Taylor Wilder: follow up on crisis intervention training and crisis response in general: where does Hyattsville in general stand on the issue of generally having police do crisis response: evidence from recent cases of deadly responses to crisis events that police may not be the appropriate people to do crisis response safely
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: hoping that county would pilot a program here, with a couple options: co-responder and separate / civilian responder model (currently piloting in Oxon Hill)
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: two questions: how do you track direct and indirect impact of various training programs? and how is the training actually implemented?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee implementing new system where each supervisor randomly pick bodycam of officer and use checklist to review and rate conduct
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: really important that the contractor providing the training has a tight evaluation plan for making sure they are moving the ball forward
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: suggest learning from protocols from abroad that involve less deadly force
- Police Appreciation Event
 - How many shifts and people?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: there will be 5 people on each of 4 shifts, but also staff and communication (60 people in total; everyone needs a cupcake!)
 - Lieutenant Zach Nemser will help to coordinate when he gets back in about week
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson will take care of liasing about the baked goods
 - Chairperson Patricia Page will pick up coordination from Committee Member Maggie Brunner (who has left the committee)
 - Will likely schedule this towards the end of August
 - Need volunteers
 - Chairperson Patricia Page will send out info to committee and solicit sign-ups after coordinating with Lt. Nemser
- Chairperson Patricia Page will put 2018 recommendations at the top of the agenda

Closing

- Committee Member Bette Dickerson motioned to adjourn at
- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman seconded
- Passed with zero objections