

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on June 8th, 2022

[In attendance on the Zoom meeting](#)

[Agenda and Notes](#)

[Approval of Agenda and Minutes](#)

[Subcommittees and Subchairs Report- Patricia](#)

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Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:34

In attendance on the Zoom meeting

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page, Ward 5
 - Secretary Joel Chan, Ward 1
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson, Ward 2
 - Committee Member Emily Strab Ward 2
 - Committee Member Taylor Wilder Ward 2
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman, Ward 1
 - Committee Member, Julio Gomez, Ward 2
- Council / Liasion
 - Chief of Police Jarod Towers
 - Council Member Danny Schaible, Ward 2
 - Council Member Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

Agenda and Notes

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Committee Member Strab motioned that the agenda be accepted
 - Committee Member Gomez seconded the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously
- Committee member Strab motioned that the minutes from May meeting be accepted
 - Committee Member Gomez seconded

- The motion passed unanimously

Subcommittees and Subchairs Report- Patricia

- Committees Chair Members Report
 - Outreach
 - Police Appreciation Day needs to be rescheduled; Chairperson Page will work with HPD for new dates.
 - Subcommittee has spoken with Ms. Riddle (DPW supervisor) to work on a date for appreciation for DPW team
 - Policy
 - No updates since last time due to travel
 - But ready to work on policy documents; want a walk through of choke hold policy
 - Chief wants to look at (records) retention policy. It is severely outdated (currently on file from 86), doesn't account for bodyworn cameras, etc;; HPD has all files and videos, they need a good way to decide what to keep and drop. Eager to look at a recommendation, would need to go through legal also
 - Legislation for use of force policy takes effect July 1st - state AG had questions about what is necessary, proportional and reasonable (not defined, only in case law), PG county office of professional standards developed training on 80p opinion; reached out to us last week to partner with us to do collaborative training, discuss with Tracy Wilkins from NBC channel 4; problem is timing and staff bandwidth
 - Training materials does not exist now, but will be in the future
 - State ag office has opinion published

AOB

- Committee will have a July meeting, probably take a break in August, will collect questions from public at National Night Out
- Committee Member Abdul Rahman suggested we take a break in Dec, to make sure we address concerns raised recently, including safety in schools related to the recent school shooting
- Chief: trying to get our staffing up so we have people on our CAT team fully staffed; supposed to be 5, now only 2
 - Need to get approval to increase staffing through ARPA program (not admin, but patrol), which hasn't been increased for 15 years
 - Important for 21st century policing; because of volume of calls, officers don't have the time they need to spend on each call, responding with
 - HPD has 5 officers on the ground at any one time, budgeted for 50, have 43 now

- Committee Member Abdul Rahman asked how this compares to FBI benchmarks; Chief is skeptical that those thresholds are informative, given the change in policing needs (e.g., increased load re: mental health crises)
- Chief clarified the reason that the number of officer is less on the streets: officer count includes supervisors, sexual assaults, injuries, etc.
- Chief clarified that FBI recommended ratio of officers to city residents is 2.7 per 1k, so given Hyattsville pop of ~21k, would work out to 54 officers, which happens to be what Chief is asking for, using ARPA funds
- Council Member Schaible noted that he is meeting community crisis services (CCSI) team, which had been working on providing services and partnership with HPD
 - Chief clarified that HPD is not in a place to send them calls now; one issue is liability with police taking 911 calls and sending them out to another entity (vs. calling mental health line directly). HPD does refer and communicate with them, but are not calling them out to the scene yet. HPD is using their CIT
 - Council Member Schaible would like to see increasing partnership with them towards standing up a non-police response team; perhaps this could help with the load
 - Chief clarified that additional staff positions requested are for the CAT team, not to supplement patrol
- Committee Member Dickerson recommended that these budget justifications be written down in layperson's terms, based on strategy (similar to how this was explained today)
- Committee Member Dickerson asked how we can get these explanations and answers out to the community
 - Chief noted that ideally we would assign CAT to this
 - Committee Member Gomez echoed the need to get the word out, socialize

Closing

- Committee Member Dickerson moved to adjourn,
- Committee Member Abdul Rahman seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 20:57.