

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on March 10th, 2021

[In attendance on the zoom meeting:](#)

[Approval of agenda](#)

[Agenda:](#)

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Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:33 with quorum of 5 committee members present; 6th member joined after meeting called to order

In attendance on the zoom meeting:

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page
 - Secretary Joel Chan
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson
 - Committee Member Jerome Brown
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman
- Council / Liasion
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee
 - Council Member Daniel Peabody
 - Council Member Danny Schaible
 - Council Member Ben Simasek
 - Council Member Robert Croslin
- Other
 - Residents: Ben, Taylor Wilder

Approval of agenda

- Committee Member Maggie Brunner motioned to accept
- Secretary Joel Chan seconded

- 5 yea, 0 nay

Agenda:

• Review minutes

- Committee Member Maggie Brunner motioned to accept
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson seconded
- 5 yea, 0 nay

• Hyattsville Police Updates

- Reported to public (on news) on new mental health initiatives
 - Mental Health Response Training
 - Internal mental health, including four check-ins a year, mental health fair
 - Proposed for next fiscal year, which starts in July; up for approval on March 24th
 - Ramping up mental health training in the meantime with current funds, one in March and one in April
- Recent carjacking part of slight recent uptick in auto theft attempts in the greater Washington DC area (and nationwide as well)
 - No incidents in Hyattsville in the last week
 - Most are from out of the area
 - Frequently the car is left 15-20 miles away (joyride, not necessarily for sale)
 - If this happens to you please don't fight back, can be dangerous (there was an incident in Riverdale Park recently)
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: what are we doing about this? What can we do in community education?
 - Help community be aware of issue; tips about not fighting back, being extra careful, etc.
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: Might be helpful to sign up for Code Red alerts that can give updates on nearby
 - Chairperson Patricia Page: practical tip - carries her registration and insurance in her wallet, not car, so carjackers can't gain access to home
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner: does this uptick relate to any patterns?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: not that he's aware of; using crime mapping etc. haven't been able to find any strong patterns
- New incoming Police Chief

- Search is continuing
- There are two mayor candidates (also want to be involved in process), have gotten together with City Administrator; they have received our request to be involved in interview
- Plan from discussion with city administrator: gathering applications
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: what are we doing to get the best candidates?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: advertise in national places, talk with local chiefs; past Police Chief Doug Holland is handling/chairing applications
- Chairperson Patricia Page: is there a list of use of force incidents?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: yes, in annual report (including complaints and results of complaints)
- Chairperson Patricia Page update on police reform bills before assembly?
 - Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman: encouraging recent developments at the national and state levels with police reform - suggest it can be part of our charter to educate our community about these changes to help (e.g.,)
 - Council Member Danny Schaible: there was a push to get a special session in for assembly to consider police reform bills
 - Also considered committee's comments on the motion in great detail, really appreciated it, made some changes in response
 - Council Member Robert Croslin: apologies on behalf of the committee for the short turnaround time - will aim to give more time in the future for consideration
 - Committee Member Maggie Brunner: eager to get more tasks like this
 - Follow up: thoughts from task force about more civilian oversight?
 - Council Member Danny Schaible task force spent second half of meeting on Monday discussing exactly this; have proposal in the works now to integrate civilian oversight into handling of external and some internal complaints
 - Civilian oversight committee would as-needed (not standing), have access to internal complaint data, including bodyworn camera data
 - Would be done after internal affairs

- Working with National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE)
 - Will bring back to this committee for input once it's ready to move to the next step
- Chairperson Patricia Page: are our police officers required to wear bodyworn cameras?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: yes, PG County was one of first in state to require this, since ~2016. Footage is stored internally on a local server; exploring new tech to help with storage (cloud) and also so that officers don't have to manually turn the camera on (autoamtically turn on for certain knids of events), but it's expensive - it's in budget for next fiscal year, will be discussed

● 2021 agenda for committee

- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: proposal to host dialogues and virtual townhalls
 - Committee Member Bette Dickerson: yes, and try to integrate with community groups that already meet (e.g., Ward 2 neighborhood watch)
 - Council Member Robert Croslin: pre-COVID, we tried to host committee meetings in different wards, to have
 - Chairperson Patricia Page will meet with vice chair to draft a plan and come back to committee
- Citizen Annie Armstrong: who can residents contact about concerns and questions? would this be my council rep?
 - Council Member Danny Schaible: yes, that's a good place to start
 - Council Member Daniel Peabody: council members advocate for us so it's good, but don't always know the exact operational details; if that is needed, calling the main city 5000 number is also a good place to start, can redirect to exactly the right people
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: if you need police, contact communications 301-985-5060 (also 911)
- Committee Member Maggie Brunner: wondering how community engagement efforts has changed post-COVID?
 - Liason Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee: it's been tough - lots of core things like coffee with cops, block parties, have been missed greatly, hoping that things will come back into swing soon
- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman suggest review and discussion of state/nation-wide
- Committee Member Bette Dickerson motion to adjourn at 20:38

- Committee Member Mai Abdul Rahman seconded
- 5 yeas 0 nays; yeas have it