

Minutes of Hyattsville Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on February 9th, 2022

[In attendance on the Zoom meeting](#)

[Agenda and Notes](#)

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[Remarks from Community Chaplain and City Administrator Tracey Douglas regarding passing of Mayor Ward](#)

[Guest speaker: Carlton Mayers II](#)

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Chairperson Patricia Page called the meeting to begin at 19:37

In attendance on the Zoom meeting

- Committee
 - Chairperson Patricia Page, Ward 5
 - Vice-Chair, Jerome Brown, Ward 1
 - 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
- Council / Liasion
 - Chief of Police Jarod Towers
 - Council Member (and interim Mayor) Robert Croslin, Ward 2
 - Council Member Danny Schaible, Ward 2
 - Council Member Rommel Sandino, Ward 5
 - Interim Mayor Robert Croslin, Ward 2

Agenda and Notes

The committee observed a moment of silence for the late Mayor Ward

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Committee Member Abdul Rahman motioned that the agenda be accepted
 - Committee Member Wilder seconded the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously
- Committee member Wilder motioned that the minutes from January meeting be accepted
 - Vice-Chair Brown seconded
 - The motion passed unanimously

Remarks from Community Chaplain and City Administrator Tracey Douglas regarding passing of Mayor Ward

- Chief Towers introduced Pastor Stephen Price, community chaplain.
- Pastor Price reminded us to take care of ourselves, that grief can come back after initially subsiding. He reminded us that our feelings are normal, and that it is important to physically take care of ourselves to move through grief in a healthy way: adequate sleep, healthy eating, moderate alcohol use, some exercise.
- He noted that the crisis team is available to help if needed, and encouraged us to reach out if needed.
- Chief Towers recognized City Administrator Tracey Douglas for joining
- City Administrator Douglas expressed gratitude for the chaplains and for the committee's work.
- She reminded us that the city has purple lights and purple ribbons in honor of Mayor Ward; if we want to pick them up, they can be delivered to businesses
- She also reminded us to please reach out to one of our pastors if we would like more help; they can refer to appropriate help

Guest speaker: Carlton Mayers II

- Chairperson Page introduced Mr. Mayers II.
- Mr. Mayers II gave an overview of his work on a community-empowered approach to police reform, in contrast to a broad defund agenda, building on his work with the NAACP on criminal justice reform, the NAACP legal defense fund, including work in Ferguson and Baltimore on consent decree, and in North Charleston and New York on the cases of Walter Scott and Eric Garner, as well as with the Obama white house on 21st century policing.
 - His CAT method (community empowerment, accountability, and transparency) rejects one-size-fits-all approaches, and works with local communities to empower communities and law enforcement to work as one community to forge solutions that are tailor-made to their specific situation and history.
 - His company website is going online later this month, and he can be reached now at empower@mayersolutions.com
- Committee Member Abdul Rahman asked how he works to identify affected communities: through immediate situation or through researchers?

- Mr. Mayers noted that every community is different - each community needs to be approached and understood on their own terms, through on the ground contact and research
- Committee Member Wilder asked about his professional opinion on no-knock warrants
 - Mr. Mayers re-emphasized that there is no one-size-fits-all policy. Based on conversations in communities around the country after the death of Breanna Taylor, the answer is different depending on community. Some do not have good relationships with law enforcement, and no-knock warrants should not be used; in others, under certain circumstances for their particular community it may even be helpful.

Updates from Chief Towers

- Chief Towers relayed good news on hiring: HPD has hired one additional officer who will be sworn in later this week, and will also make an offer to one more officer (anticipated acceptance) to start in the next 30-45 days.

Open Q&A

- The committee discussed a question from an anonymous citizen:
 - *Does the police department have a comprehensive doctrine with respect to domestic terror groups to include their operational doctrine and recent (past two years) of acts of terror and online recruitment activity? Have patterns of hate speech been identified for the 13 groups currently listed as active in Maryland by the Southern Poverty Law Center?*
 - Chief Towers noted the question and said he would provide an answer for discussion prior to the next meeting.
- Interim Mayor Croslin asked if there were any updates about the incident at Wells Fargo
 - Chief Towers noted that this type of crime is handled by PGC, and can't get into specifics. However, he was able to relay that HPD officers responded to call for shots fired at the bank. When they arrived, they found the driver of the armored vehicle shot who had run to building next door for help. They gave medical aid and life-saving measures; there is no update on status of victim, but last heard Closing
- A citizen asked when the public will start to get emails from the committee as to what the committee is doing in-between meetings.
 - The committee clarified that no official voting business is conducted between meetings

Closing

Chairperson Page noted that the remaining agenda items will be moved to the next month

- Committee Member Dickerson moved to adjourn,
- Vice-Chair Brown seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.