



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of August 13, 2025, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Attendance

Position, Name	Ward	Present / Absent	Position, Name	Present / Absent
Chair, Bob Kantor	2	✓	Chief of Police, Jarod Towers	✓
Secretary / Recorder, Ana Chapa	1	✓	Deputy Chief of Police, Laura Lanham	✓
Member, Taurean Barnwell	3	✓	Council Member Ward 2, Emily Strab	✓
Member, Jerome Brown	5	✓	Council Member Ward 5, Kelson Nisbett	✓
Member, Michelle Brown	3	✓		
Member, Julia Dezelski	1	✓		
Member, Patricia Page	5	X		
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓		

Public Attendance: No public attendees.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- A. Roll Call: 8 members in attendance- quorum was reached.
- B. Approval of Agenda: 1 Change- Kelson Nisbett to introduce himself. Ana motioned to approve the agenda. Unanimous approval of revised agenda.
- C. Approval of June Minutes Meeting Minutes: Taurean motioned to approve. Minutes unanimously approved. (A meeting was not held in July.)

III. Public Comment

- A. Council Member Kelson Nisbett (Ward 5) - joining the committee on behalf of the Council. Comes from a career in the military. Leads by focusing on local issues first and knows this committee is very important.
- B. 5 public attendees- 1 comment from Evan Myers. Is interested in joining the committee and will be interviewed by the Council Members (Emily and Nisbett) after the meeting.

IV. General Discussion Topics



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- a. **Vote to approve and submit our final version of the Core Values to guide the use of AI in local law enforcement by the HPD.**
 - i. Invited final comments or revisions. None were made.
 - ii. Taurean motioned to approve and the motion was carried unanimously.
 - iii. *See approved document attached.*
- b. **Discussion of timeliness of PD communications to the community and their use of the Nixle notification system.**
 - i. A procedure on the use of Nixle was drafted. The goal is to speed up and increase the quantity of communications. This has been done. Feedback has since been received that it was timely but not totally accurate. A new message had to be sent once more information was received. PD is balancing timeliness and accuracy.
 - ii. The committee engaged in a conversation. Safety should be the primary priority. Appreciate the effort to communicate faster and more frequently- even if the information is incomplete. Neighbors and listservs are likely to be faster just given the population density and likelihood that a resident will see some action.
 - iii. There is a need to manage community expectations to be realistic around communications. Recommendation after action briefing on another approved communication channel (i.e. Twitter).
- c. **Discussion to identify the next project on which to focus PPSAC activity.**
 - i. CARES team is currently working on our **unhoused response**. - high priority and very timely!
 - ii. Back to School (also timely) - **concern for mixed status families and school attendance**. Can we reinforce establishing trust within the community and promoting schools as safe spaces. PG Public Schools has worked hard at this and continues to need support.
 - iii. Is there something we can do to **promote pedestrian/ cyclist traffic**?
 1. Taurean spoke about the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan- state sponsored. Much of this is state controlled. We need to determine what can be done at the local level.
 - iv. **The committee** voted and unanimously approved focusing on Hyattsville's response to the **unhoused community** and their safety. Emily Strab will invite the CARES team to our next meeting.

V. HVL Police Dept Updates



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- a. Sgt. Jessica Williams was recognized as Community Services Officer of the Year by the Police Chief Association of the County!
- b. Staff Member Jason Woolet was appointed to the Board of Directors of (CCSI) Community Crisis Services Inc. (CCSI) This will deepen the collaboration between the city and the organization that serves the most vulnerable of the community (including the unhoused).
- c. Promotion Ceremony- Promoted 3 to corporal; 2 to Sargent; 2 Lieutenant.
- d. Stop sign camera enforcement; Council Member Waneka Fisher will put forth to the county council in the Fall. Expected to be approved in October. CCTV approval is in progress and hope to have systems up and running by year end.

VI. Next Meeting: September 17th, 2025 at 7:00 PM.- NOTE CHANGE FROM TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE of September 10th.

- a. Bob Kantor concluded the meeting. Taurean motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8PM.
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