



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of September 17, 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	X	Council Member Ward 5, Kelson Nisbett	✓
Member, Michelle Brown	3	✓		
Member, Julia Dezelski	1	X		
Member, Patricia Page	5	✓		
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓		
Member, Evan Myers (new Member)	2	✓		

Public Attendance: No public attendees.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- A. Roll Call: 7 members in attendance- quorum was reached.
- B. Approval of Agenda: 1 Change- Evan Myers will be introduced as a new member
- C. Barnwell motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Myer's introduction. Unanimous approval of revised agenda.
- D. Approval of August Minutes Meeting Minutes: Barnwell motioned to approve. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

- A. New Member Evan Myers (Ward 2) - joining the committee to get more invested in the community. Has planted roots here and expects to raise his family here.



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Originally from Birmingham, AL. Moved here in 2021. 26 years old. Married with 2 young children.

B. 0 public attendees

IV. General Discussion Topics

a. Need for electing a new PPSAC Chair in our November meeting.

- i. Bob Kantor to step down as Committee Chair. The November meeting will be his last as a member and as the Chair. He is term bound.
- ii. Invitation to give thought about leading or serving as the recorder.
- iii. No one initially volunteered to serve as recorder- members should give it some thought over the month.
- iv. Barnwell is considering the Chair role.
- v. Vote for a new Chair will take place in October.
- vi. Council Member Nisbett looks forward to working with the new chair.
- vii. Council Member Strab will be sunseting her role on the committee by the end of the year. She has served for 6 years.

b. Sharing of initial research into how small city PD departments address dealing with unhoused community members.

- i. Kantor reminded us of the committee's role as advisory.
- ii. Proposed that the City provide a referral system of supportive services for people who are unhoused. That process is being codified by the city as we speak. The City is coordinating with the County to provide resources. This will outline standards of care for unhoused persons.
- iii. Police do not generally provide unhoused people with resources. That is outside their scope. They respond when there is a safety concern for them or for other members of the community. This is especially the case in severe weather. The Police Department should not be the first resource called.
- iv. Request for Shakira Louimarre (Hyattsville Cares Team) to speak to the group to inform us of resources.
- v. Kantor encouraged us to take a look at the draft document that was sent out as a proposed recommendation.
- vi. Recommendation that the Committee or a City office inform the community about who community members should reach out to instead of the Police Department.
- vii. It was brought up that the community has changed a great deal over time and there may need to be an effort to update and educate the community about how people can help.
- viii. Council Member Strab recommended the committee invest in putting a resource packet together and also looking into the city's handling of vagrancy.



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V. HVL Police Dept Updates

- a. Good News- Hyattsville received a DOJ grant in 2021 for a CIT co-responder program. It took 3 years to hire 2 positions and a car. The new hire will start next week.
- b. Received another grant for a mental wellness program for officers. It is mandated every other year but the city participates twice a year.
- c. Received a gun violence reduction grant (\$25K) for two software programs to better track stolen equipment.
- d. Received \$21K grant for a police recruitment grant.
- e. The department applied for nearly double what was received in grant funding this year. Receiving 5-% of requested funding is the trend across local governments.
- f. Received a grant from Gov. Moore's Office for a joint effort with the County for Lexus Nexus - to ensure legal residency status is not available to third parties- including the federal government. The city does not acknowledge, ask about, or document people's immigration status.
- g. The City Manager hopes to partner with other city offices to improve efficiency.
- h. Newly appointed State's Attorney, Tara Jackson, brought together multiple jurisdictions to learn what issues local law enforcement officers are seeing in their communities.
- i. The City has promoted several officers at varying ranks.
- j. HPD is a CALEA accredited organization - the national accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Their review was completed this summer and went very well.

VI. Next Meeting: October 8th, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

NOTE: We are back to the regular second Wednesday of the month.

- a. Bob Kantor concluded the meeting. Chapa motioned to adjourn. Barnwell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.
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