



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of March 12, 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	2	✓	Deputy Chief of Police, Laura Lanham	✓
Member, Taurean Barnwell	3	✓	Council Member Ward 2, Emily Strab	✓
Member, Jerome Brown	2	✓		
Member, Michelle Brown	3	✓	Joe Paul, Founder/ CEO OptimaNova AI	✓
Member, Julia Dezelski	1	✓		
Member, Patricia Page	5	✓		
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓		

Public Attendance: Five public attendees.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- Roll Call: Quorum met and exceeded. All members present
Joe Paul

- Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Ana Chapa, motion passed and approved
- Approval of 12 February 2025 Meeting Minutes: no changes proposed. The motion was made by Taurean, seconded by Julia, and passed.

Announcement about National Prescription Take Back Day:

Taylor Wilder reminded everyone of PG Health and Human Services Department/ Prevention Team of her offices services around drug prevention (particularly substance use and abuse).

National Prescription Take Back Day- national initiative and community outreach event in partnership with the federal government and local pharmacies and public agencies.



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Encourage the community to bring in extra and unused prescription medications, e-cigarettes and vapes.

Event is at First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville MD on April 26th

Opportunity for the public to register as vendors. Taylor recommends we attend as citizens.

III. Public Comment - Requested, none made. 2 members of the public attended.

IV. General Discussion Topics

a. AI in Police and Public Safety:

- i. Guest Presentation from Joe Paul, Founder & CEO of OptimaNova AI Corp.
 1. AI can improve local services
 2. Important to be ethical, equitable and community focused
 3. Presentation outlined best practices and recommendations
 4. Opportunity for questions and comment from Chief, Police Chief, Councilmembers, and others
 - a. Recommendations of other jurisdictions doing this well: Detroit, MI has a powerful AI code of ethics
 - b. Councilmember Strab- recommends the committee look into an AI Code of Ethics to ensure consistency.
 - c. Bob recommended we, as a committee, draft an AI code of ethics and an AI data privacy code.
 - d. Taurean provided a useful document from the University of Michigan with sample templates for codes. He will send the resource to the group.
 - e. Patricia recommended the National Science Foundation as a resource. They are key researchers in this field.
 - f. Chief requested that we focus on Police and Public Safety recommendations.
- ii. Action Item: Each member will provide some examples of draft language for Police/ Public Safety for us to discuss at the next meeting.

V. HVL Police Dept Updates

- a. Chief Towers provided an update on staffing successes and challenges.
 - i. Two incidents happened today near Hyattsville metro stations(West Hyattsville and Hyattsville Crossings). Both being managed by Metro Transit Police.



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1. First was related to a gun shooting.
2. Second was a response to a suspected suicide attempt.

VI. Next Meeting: April 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

- a. Chair Kantor concluded the meeting. Ana Chapa made a motion to adjourn. Taurean Barnwell seconded and all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:00
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