



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

I. Attendance

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

Public Attendance: Two public attendees.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- A. Roll Call: 6 members in attendance- quorum was reached.
- B. Approval of Agenda: Taurean motioned to modify the agenda to include the discussion of an article about ICE facilities potentially being built in Hyattsville. This motion was unanimously approved, along with the agenda.
- C. Approval of October Minutes: Taurean motioned to approve. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

- A. A couple of public attendees - neither requested to make a public comment.

IV. General Discussion Topics

- a. **Special Guest Sandra Shephard Discusses Community Resources for Interacting With ICE**



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- i. Tauren introduced special guest Sandra Shephard to discuss ICE and how residents can interact with ICE. Taurean framed it as an opportunity to propose guidelines to the city council.
- ii. Sandra Shephard highlighted the various resources that are available to community members.
- iii. Taurean asked Shephard what residents in Hyattsville should and should not do when interacting with ICE.
- iv. Shephard emphasized that laws are changing rapidly. She encouraged residents not to escalate. She also mentioned that sometimes individuals do not want to be recorded. She said residents should always call the police department. She encouraged members of the committee to get training.
- v. Taurean asked where we can receive training.
- vi. Shephard responded that her team could help facilitate that.
- vii. An attendee (Bob Kantor) had a question about whether the committee had connected with the group "Indivisible"
- viii. Taurean explained that we had not connected with that group and that he had not heard of it.
- ix. Chapa explained what the group Indivisible is and when they meet.
- x. Shephard mentioned that her group worked with Indivisible and that they helped families to receive food and other resources.
- xi. Taurean asked if the committee could do anything to help make the community more aware of these resources.
- xii. Taurean asked if the City had promoted the resources and materials through social media, etc.
- xiii. Taurean asked if there were any additional questions.
- xiv. No one responded and Shephard headed to her next meeting.

b. Discussion of New ICE Office in Hyattsville

- i. Taurean introduced the article and asked CM Nisbett to speak.
- ii. CM Nisbett tagged in Jerome Brown as he was the one who introduced the article.
- iii. Brown summarized the article and explained that ICE was planning to move an administrative office into the heart of Hyattsville. He mentioned that this might not be desirable, but asked if anyone had thoughts.
- iv. Nisbett pulled up article and mentioned how some other cities have responded by banning ICE from city buildings and how some organizations were asking private establishments not to lease their space to ICE. He explained that there's nothing the city can do to prevent ICE from leasing private property, but the community can always get together.
- v. Brown asked, in that case, what the community can do to protect the residents.



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- vi. Nisbett responded and explained the centers are primarily being used for adjudication. He said the city is caught in a sort of catch 22 because these facilities are also being used to help process cases and get people out of detention facilities.
- vii. Chief Towers jumped in and was able to get through with somebody at ICE who used to be the director of ICE in the state of Maryland. This person has access to information and said that the procurement office confirmed that ICE has no additional funding to outfit any more offices in Maryland. He warned that it might not be ICE, but it could be DHS or FBI or CBP or any other group.
- viii. Taurean said we do know that there was some RFP issued by GSA for an office space to be used by a federal law enforcement agency in the Hyattsville area. He agreed that it could be a Catch 22 situation. He concluded that we should get more information first before acting.
- ix. Chief Towers pointed out that ICE or any group would run into an issue with the county if they tried to transform the facility from administrative offices into a detention facility. Towers reassured that Mayor and team are on top of this situation.
- x. CM Nisbett said he doesn't think it will be a potential detention center or anything like that. He said ICE tends to detain people further away from their community.
- xi. Taurean asked if anyone had any additional thoughts they'd like to share.
- xii. Taurean asked the committee to think about ways we can help people in the city of Hyattsville to become aware of the resources available to them.
- xiii. Towers pointed out that we have two hands raised.
- xiv. Attendee Bob Kantor spoke up to second the idea of connecting with the local chapter of Indivisible and encouraged us to understand what they are doing and augment it.
- xv. CM Nisbett pointed out that we have the ability to establish subcommittees. He also encouraged detailed proposals for anything we'd like to do with the Council
- xvi. Chief Towers spoke up and encouraged any budget requests to be made soon as our budget season will be coming to an end.
- xvii. An anonymous attendee explained that there is an immigration court already in Hyattsville and asked how DHS is involved in this location.
- xviii. Chief Towers said that he didn't know. Lanham confirmed that it is indeed an immigration court.
- xix. CM Nisbett said we can perform some follow-up research.
- xx. Taurean



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

V. HVL Police Dept Updates (from Chief Towers)

- a. Chief Towers mentioned that we have had a string of commercial burglaries. He is happy to announce that their detectives worked the case relentlessly and were able to bring a suspect to justice.
- b. 3505 - hopeful for a good timeline in the next couple of weeks that outlines the permitting process for moving furniture / installing technology / etc.
- c. Towers received questions from residents about stop sign camera programs. They selected the stop-sign camera enforcement company Gynoptic. The contract is currently with legal but will be brought to Council after that.
- d. Towers also received a question about the automated noise enforcement. There is a camera in front of Northwest High School. The camera is not issuing tickets, just warnings.
- e. Towers provided a staffing update. 52 of 55 positions are filled. A few people are in the academy and a few in training. They remain vigilant about retirements and filling vacant positions. They have received a grant for marketing for new recruits.
- f. Staff are busy between ordinary business, 3505, and budget season.
- g. Taurean opened the floor to questions for Chief Towers.
- h. Towers added that there was a peaceful protest near the target that ended up inside of the mall. The protest was against Target allowing ICE to use its parking lots. Towers explained that the Target in Hyattsville doesn't own its parking lot, as it is managed by the mall.
- i. Taurean asked for any final questions or comments for Chief Towers.

VI. Next Meeting: December 10th, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

- a. Taurean reiterated that he wants Committee Members to think about recommendations we can make to the City Council.
- b. Taurean said that our next meeting will be March 11, and he motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brown seconded him. The vote was unanimous.