



City of Hyattsville
Police and Public Safety Citizens (PPSC) Advisory
Committee Meeting - Virtual
Minutes, Meeting of May 13, 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	X
Member, Jerome Brown	5	✓	Council Member Ward 5, Kelson Nisbett	X
Member, Michelle Brown	3	✓		
Member, Julia Dezelski	1	X		
Secretary / Recorder, Evan Myers	2	✓ (late)		
Member, Patricia Page	5	✓		
Member, Taylor Wilder	2	✓		

Public Attendance: one public attendee

II. Agenda and Minutes

- A. Roll Call: 5 members in attendance- quorum was reached.
- B. Approval of Agenda: Taurean motioned to approve the agenda. It was seconded and unanimously confirmed.
- C. Approval of March Minutes: Taurean motioned to approve. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

- A. One public attendee - did not request to make a public comment.

IV. General Discussion Topic

- A. Taurean invited Cindy Zork, who works on communications for the city, to the meeting. She introduced herself and Taurean presented the recommendations the committee has for the City with respect to communicating about how to respond to ICE.



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- i. Ms. Wilder said she was doing research about ACLU resources... also recommended putting an ad out in the paper
- ii. Ms. Zork updated us on what the city is doing, highlighted what the youth services team is doing and underscored that the city's website can be translated into Spanish. Most of the resources on the website are also in Spanish.
- iii. Ms. Zork said the city has also been prioritizing using social media.
- iv. Ms. Zork said the city is balancing distributing resources and not drawing unwanted attention
- v. Ms. Zork said the city only makes 4 posts a day
- vi. Ms. Wilder recommended that the city look into free toolkits to give the Hispanic community
- vii. Taurean appreciated Ms. Zork's feedback and wants to start a subcommittee to complete a letter with recommendations that we can send to council
- viii. Chief Towers informed Taurean that he didn't need a vote to establish a subcommittee
- ix. Taurean officially established the subcommittee and aims to send it to Councilman Nisbett in the next week or two

b. Taurean asked Chief Towers on an update about the police force's pension packages

- i. Chief Towers explained that Hyattsville pension package isn't that great
- ii. Chief Towers said that the fact that the city had a conversation about potentially taking away benefits from current retirees has really hurt the ability to retain current employees
- iii. Chief Towers said that the city of Bowie, Greenbelt, and Laurel are competitors...
- iv. Overwhelming majority of our employees are commuting through those communities in order to come to Hyattsville
- v. Being an employer of choice takes maintaining competitive salaries, benefit packages, and are loyal to our employees when they do the right thing
- vi. He opened up the floor to questions.
- vii. Taurean asked if the fundamental issue is that we are struggling to retain current employees because there was a discussion about cutting benefits
- viii. Taurean said he'd like to discuss how the committee can support the department in a future meeting
- ix. Ms. Page said that the fact that the city is considering changing contracts bothered her
- x. Taurean said he'd like the committee to draft a letter of support



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- xi. Chief Towers said he expects there to be a vote on this a month or two down the road
- xii. Taurean asked if we could make this the main agenda item for our next meeting. Evan seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Towers Update

- New facility is complete and police department will start shifting people over there in the next 6-8 weeks
- Wanted to suggest that this committee review the FLOCK system and businesses model, which has been controversial

VI. Next Meeting: June 12th, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Taurean said that our next meeting will be June 12, and he motioned to adjourn the meeting. Myers seconded him. The vote was unanimous.