

Citizens Police Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2015
Asheville Police Department

Present: Jayden Gurney (Chair), Larry Holt (Vice Chair), Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Fred Cooke, Keith DeBlasio, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Cliff Joslin, Chief Tammy Hooper, Lt. Wally Welch, Paul Fetherston (Assistant City Manager), Marsha Stickford, Christina Hallingse

Guests: Jim Abbot, Michael Beech, Kathryn Liss

Meeting: Called to order by Chair Jayden Gurney at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- September minutes were approved as written.

APD & City Staff Update:

Update from Chief Hooper:

Chief Hooper gave a brief recap of her first 100 days:

- Organizational restructure was completed August 15 to even out workloads.
- Property and Evidence Section established a new chain of command to work with the City Attorney and the DA. She also directed development of an SOP and enhanced plan for inventory and purging of evidence.
- Body Worn Cameras: recommended implementation plan has been submitted to Chief; after her review, will then go to City Manager.
- Promotions: organized committee to revise promotional processes which has finished their work; committee had FOP and PBA representation; finalizing recommendations now and will advise City Manager; announced promotion process for a Captain position (to be held Nov 5-6); and Request for Proposal (RFP) issued for Lieutenant and Sergeant promotional processes, to be held Jan / Feb
- Hired a new Deputy Chief, James Baumstark, who will start with the department Nov 9; DC Baumstark will be over the Operations Bureau; DC Wood will be over the Administration Bureau.
- Organized committee to revise disciplinary process, which will meet next week.
- Realigned patrol districts at the end of September in order to increase efficiency and provide better response times; will be assessing over next 5-6 months.
- Directed development of enhanced recruitment plan to improve recruitment and retention; Lt Eberhardt has completed; will be reviewing soon.
- Directed development and implementation of a plan to update / overhaul all Department policies.
- Communication Enhancements, headed up by PIO Christina Hallingse: Everbridge, Social Media / NextDoor, participation in WLOS Fugitive Files segment; Ms. Hallingse did great job this week handling murders and search for young women.

Clarification for the Committee:

- No longer four specific Watch Commanders; line lieutenants do a rotation every five weeks, with Command level rotating through Fri / Sat nights in addition to those lieutenants
- District Commanders: Adam (West): Lt Geoffrey Rollins; Baker (East/South): Lt Janice Hawkins; Charlie (Central /North): Lt Gary Gudac; Edward (CBD): Lt Wally Welch
- At this time, one vacancy for a captain exists, and none for a lieutenant
- The Body Worn Camera policy does not need to go to Council for approval; only to the City Manager
- Hope to have 20 new police officers by beginning of 2016
- Ongoing discussions regarding barriers for minority representation in the APD.

New Business:

Election of Chair:

- Nominations for Chair: Jayden Gurney and Pastor Spencer Hardaway; vote was 5 – 2 for Jayden Gurney; Cooke, Applewhite, Holt, Joslin, Brailsford voted for Gurney; DeBlasio, Rogoff Hallstrom voted for Hardaway

Election of Vice Chair:

- Larry Holt was the sole nominee for Vice Chair; Mr. Holt was appointed by a unanimous vote

Potential Location Change for CPAC meetings:

- After limited discussion, the Committee voted to remain in same location at same time, but reconfiguring the room set up to allow for guests to more easily hear the Committee; Vice Chair Holt to provide new set up plan

Committee Member Regional Concerns:

North (28804):

- Ms. Hallstrom expressed her appreciation to all agencies who worked together to have crosswalks painted at Merrimon Ave and Coleman Ave; also for the electrical work being done to install “walk” signals
- Regarding her ByWater concerns, she also was pleased with the “no parking” signage on both sides of Riverside Drive near the ByWater, making it a safer place for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic

South (28803):

- Mr. Joslin spoke to the increased number of homeless camps along the railroad track, from Rock Hill Road almost up to Long Shoals Road, behind Carolina Day School’s soccer fields; Lt Welch will follow up

East (28805):

- Ms. Applewhite shared that East Asheville supports a new library and community center.
- She also shared that she, at Marsha Stickford’s (City Neighborhood Coordinator) recommendation, has become involved in a committee regarding downtown buskars; a pilot program has been developed by the Planning Department, creating locations for buskars and establishing distances between them

- Ms. Applewhite will be doing a ride-along Fri afternoon and evening, first with Sgt Coward and then with Sgt Griffin in the CBD

West (28806):

- Mr. Brailsford thanked Chief Hooper for doing the Walk-Along in September on Haywood Rd; good group of people and good for neighborhood
- Neighborhood clean up scheduled for Sunday along Haywood Rd
- EWANA community meeting: Tuesday evening, Nov 17, 6:00p, Haw Fletcher Elementary
- Coffee with a Cop this Saturday, 724 Haywood Rd, 8a – 10a

Central:

- Mr. Holt reported that downtown is very busy with tourists / leaf peekers.
- Mr. Holt has notified Public Works that, due to the resurfacing on Patton Ave and lane paintings are needed on road; there are now large puddles at curb cuts on Patton Ave at Church St when it rains; possible cold weather hazard for pedestrians
- Buskars: DARN and the Asheville Downtown Association have had several meetings with the buskars to address mutual concerns
- Noise issues: new bar over Table Restaurant puts speakers in their windows at night; APD responsive to complaint driven process
- Lt Welch spoke to the Watch For Me program: City-wide, pedestrian collisions have dropped 30%; in the downtown area, have dropped from 10 to 4; campaign runs through Nov 30

Housing:

- Chair Gurney shared that the switch from one sergeant w 10 officers, to two groups of 1 sergeant / 5 officers has been very successful
- He also requested that the team return to its former name of the Housing Team, vs the new name of Neighborhood Enhancement Team; Mr. DeBlasio supported that request.

Ad Hoc - MADD:

- Mr. Cooke solicited feedback regarding the introduction of state level legislation to upgrade the charge to a drunk driver with children in the car from a misdemeanor to a felony, per child endangerment laws; some discussion followed to clarify concerns for children

Ad Hoc – Housing Authority Resident:

- Mr. DeBlasio discussed “School to Prison Pipeline,” and asked that CROs be trained to recognize learning disabilities in K – 3rd grade children; Chief Hooper to meet w/ Mr. DeBlasio, having an opportunity to talk prior to coming back to Committee; Ms. Hallstrom spoke to the Read to Succeed program, which has been very successful with similarly aged children
- Mr. DeBlasio also spoke to the decorum of the committee and its members

Community Outreach

Round Table/ Shared Experiences:

- Ms. Hallstrom spoke to the Racial Equity Institute training; five officers participated and she asked that one or more of them attend a future meeting to share how they experienced the

training; Chief Hooper stated that, given the opportunity, APD will send more officers to the training

- Mr. Brailsford invited all to attend a community race relations formal debate on Nov 13th, 5:30p, Asheville High School, sponsored by the Wilma Dykeman Legacy
- Ms. Applewhite invited all to a meeting on Saturday at AB Tech, starting at 8:30; subject: COA Comprehensive Plan geared to neighborhoods looking at themselves, and planning for themselves; event is sponsored by NAC and CAN.

Public Comment

- Kathryn Liss, vice chair of the ABCRC Board, shared that even though Pastor Hardaway was not in attendance, ABCRC was being represented.
- Michael Beech invited all to an art display of 52 portraits, "Americans Who Tell the Truth," at the YMI Cultural Center

Adjourned: 4:23PM

Next Meeting Date: December 2, 3:00 p.m.