

**Citizens Police Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 6, 2015  
Asheville Police Department**

**Present:** Councilmember Chris Pelly, Chair Jay Gurney, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Fred Cooke, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Larry Holt, Cliff Joslin, Interim Chief Steve Belcher, Sgt Michael Lamb, Paul Fetherston, John Maddux

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

- April minutes were approved as presented

**APD & City Staff Update**

Update on search for new Chief of Police

- Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston gave the update; in process of screening candidates; onsite visit will be held May 18-19; onsite candidates not confirmed until May 13; anticipate names and brief bios of candidates available then; public meet & greet to be held May 18, 5:00p.m., in the Mountain Room at the Wilma M. Sherrill Center at UNCA; presentations by candidates on pre-determined subject will begin at 6:00p.m.; separate comment cards for public meet & greet and presentations will be made available; childcare available for those kindergarten and older; information posted online, and at libraries and community centers; press release going to all media outlets; Carol Rogoff Hallstrom requested to make sure information sent to Urban News; panel interviews May 19; Chair Gurney CPAC representative on panel

Update from Chief Belcher

- Scheduled to go before Council May 12 for authorization to purchase Taser Flex Axion body cameras; \$90,000 in budget; expect to spend \$60,000 for equipment and \$30,000 for software; three year program to purchase; will apply for grants, but not many out there for number of agencies applying; will have separate policies for use and retention issues; will have neighborhood meetings to introduce cameras

Update on APD/Public Housing meetings

- Chair Gurney gave the update; Housing team has held meetings in all of the Public Housing communities; hope to gain more participation as continue to have meetings; suggestion made to discuss with Residents Council how best to promote meetings; pleased to see that Housing Team has new vehicles; crime picking up as weather warms and vacant units increase prior to construction of new units; May 14-16 sessions will be held for residents to give input for redesign of LW Heights housing units (per Councilman Pelly)

Changes to CompStat meetings

- Chief Belcher gave the update; CompStat is data driven approach to solving crime; meetings now held once a month, not twice; work in progress; intent is to ingrain the SARA model into meetings; fits into community policing issues

### Report on Merrimon / Coleman Traffic Study

- Traffic Safety Unit Sgt Scott Pruett gave a PowerPoint presentation on the goals and results of study; DOT expects to start project this summer to install traffic signal at Merrimon and Coleman; City Traffic Engineer Ken Putnam liaison to NCDOT

### Implementation of Matrix recommendations

- Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston gave the update; no implementation action plan yet; hope to present proposed timeline to PSC at May 25 meeting

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Filling the Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council (ABCRC) and Ad-Hoc positions

- Spencer Hardaway, of Rock Hill Baptist Church, will be filling the ABCRC position; motion made to accept in order as presented by the Housing Authority's Residents Council candidate to fill Ad Hoc position; vote 5-3; in favor: Gurney, Brailsford, Hallstrom, Holt, Joslin; opposed: Applewhite, Cooke, Sgt Lamb

#### National Night Out planning

- Ms. Applewhite gave the update; planning meeting held just prior to CPAC; Sgt Lamb, Mr Holt and Ms Applewhite attended; large community event will be Aug 4 in front of City Hall; working towards doing some demonstration projects in neighborhoods; Mr. Holt and Ms. Applewhite attending Citizens Police Academy May 7 to promote; working with Crime Prevention Officer McCulloch to identify neighborhood watch communities; thanks to Public Information Officer (PIO) Christina Hallingse for her input

#### Getting out into the neighborhoods

- Regional (CPAC) representatives should attend Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) meetings and bring information back to CPAC

### **New Business**

#### Reduce formal meetings to every other month to allow for greater community interaction

- Discussion: monthly two-way exchange critical; meeting every other month might allow for greater community interaction; decision made to hold off for now.

#### Election of vice chairperson

- Larry Holt unanimously elected as Vice Chair; role will be to help with setting agenda, and leading meeting when Chair unavailable

#### Proposed racial equity institute training

- Ms Rogoff Hallstrom, Chair Gurney, Lt Eberhardt, Lt Rollins, Sgt Creson and Sgt Miller attended information session; AB Tech has agreed to hold class this fall; APD goal is to send 10 officers (class size in 40 total)

#### CPAC / community volunteer roles in the event of a future crisis

- Discussion: strengthening existing relationships, and building new ones, within community important element; Chief Belcher to explore models of community participation in police response and bring back to Committee; Ms Hallstrom volunteered to research too

## **Community Outreach**

### South – Mr. Joslin

- Having a hard time contacting neighborhood representatives; suggestion made to send email with contact information as outreach tool

### North – Ms. Rogoff Hallstrom

- Pleased with Merrimon / Coleman traffic study and results; continuing to participate in Stop the Violence Coalition

### Downtown – Mr. Holt

- New members on DTU – all doing excellent job; pleased to see officers on bicycles; with school out and warmer weather, more late night noise

### Housing – Chair Gurney

- With warmer weather, and units emptying up due to pending construction, trending toward increase in crime

### West – Mr. Brailsford

- Coffee with A Cop in West Asheville went great – good conversation; EWANA annual meeting at Haw Fletcher

### East – Ms. Applewhite

- Attended Coffee With A Cop in both East and West Districts – great event; working hard on National Night Out; very concerned about APD fleet; important to improve; attending budget meetings to make sure stays in budget

### Ad Hoc – Mr. Cooke

- Graduation of first DWI Treatment Court held today; please support Senate Bill 671; MADD and DA's office working hard together on significant problem of repeat DWI offenders

## **Public Comment**

### Issues raised during public comment:

- Lack of media coverage of significant police events
- Right to return to Public Housing concerns
- Inability to access crime stats on website
- Good work being done by CROs in East End
- Stop the Violence Coalition having positive effect because of increased interaction between police and community

**Adjourned: 5:00p**

*Next Meeting Date: June 3, 3:00p*