

**Citizens Police Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 3, 2015  
Asheville Police Department**

**Present:** Chair Jay Gurney, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Fred Cooke, Keith DeBlasio, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Larry Holt, Interim Chief Steve Belcher, Paul Fetherston (Assistant City Manager), John Maddux (Assistant City Attorney)

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

- May minutes were approved as presented

**APD & City Staff Update**

Update from Chief Belcher

- Chief Belcher reported that with the 2015-2016 COA budget, there will be no change to the Housing Authority / APD contract; also in next year's budget, approximately \$1.5 M for vehicles; Chief Belcher reported on the progress of the Family Justice Center which will be a great improvement for victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence victims will be able to receive services at one location. It should open in the Fall – this is a cooperative effort between the APD, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's office and area service providers

Update on Implementation of Body Cameras

- Chief Belcher reported that the policy is in place, but City / APD still working on a couple of retention issues, which should be resolved in the next 30-45 days; the City may wait until the new Chief is in place to roll out; APD is following all best practices; he also reported that it would take a number of months from purchase to final implementation of cameras, and that the department would be taking information to community groups (Education / Enforcement / Outreach); the Committee requested further information at the July meeting

Update on Search for the New Police Chief

- Assistant City Manager Paul Fetherston gave the update; on May 29, the City Manager announced the appointment of Tammy Hooper, Deputy Chief, Alexandria VA PD, as the next Chief of Police; Chief Hooper will start July 20th

Update from APD's PIO

- Christina Hallingse, APD Public Information Office, gave the update; during the month of May, she had 98 media interactions, eight press releases, and fulfilled seven records requests; Ms. Hallingse is focusing on the positives within APD on social media (Facebook / Twitter / maybe Next Door soon, which directly targets neighborhood associations); APD website has been updated; she is meeting next week with the External Communications Committee; hope to have new website up and running by the Fall; current public campaigns are "Watch For Me" (pedestrian / vehicular safety), and "Sober Heroes" (sober driver vs designated driver)

## **Unfinished Business**

### Ad-Hoc Positions and Length of Service

- Discussion tabled until Chair Gurney can review with City Clerk

### National Night Out

- Ms. Applewhite gave the update; Mr. Holt and Ms. Applewhite attended the Citizens Police Academy on May 7 to promote; will have more to report next month

## **New Business – Committee Member Regional Concerns**

### North (28804)

- Ms. Hallstrom: update on paving scam in North Asheville; department well represented at Grove Park Sunset Mountain neighborhood association meeting, where PACE car program was introduced; concern expressed over parking / pedestrian issues at the By Water on Riverside Drive – Chief Belcher to report back next month

### South (28803)

- Concern expressed over speeding issues on Jeffers Ave in Shiloh

### East (28805)

- Ms. Applewhite: Nothing to report.

### West (28806)

- Mr. Brailsford: CRO came to EWANA neighborhood meeting to discuss car Breaking & Entering in Carrier Park; reminder to lock cars / hide valuables / report suspicious activity

### Central (28801)

- Mr. Holt: transients coming through with nicer weather; activity constant from 6a – 3a, but Downtown Unit (DTU) doing great job; buskers creating some pedestrian overflow into streets; DTU putting cards on cars, either to say “good job” (locked, with no visible valuables), or “need to secure” – PIO Hallingse to provide examples of cards at next meeting; police presence very positive, on Segways, bicycles and on foot; Montford and River District all doing well.

### Housing Authority

- Mr. Gurney: Lee Walker Heights: trying to detract from illegal activity in vacant units; Pisgah View: improved camera system has calmed down crime noise complaints in lower end; Hillcrest: working to add additional lights to help with security cameras, but Dark Sky Ordinance will cause some issues with floodlights

### ABCRC

- Pastor Hardaway: attending first meeting; welcomed by the Committee

### Ad Hoc (MADD)

- Mr. Cooke: WLOS advertising Town Hall meeting next Thursday, June 9, 7p at the WNC Agriculture Center to discuss the coexistence of “Beer City USA” city designation with sober drivers; register online at WLOS

### Ad Hoc (Public Housing Residents Association)

- Mr. DeBlasio: reported that there had been much work done between the Residents Council and the APD Housing Unit (conflict resolution, community relationship building, racial equity awareness); they hope to have more participation in Housing meetings; the Units are experiencing speeding issues and having problems with scooters on the sidewalks, as well as problems with non residents; they are working to develop Youth programs, especially during the

summer; Bartlett Arms community needs survey revealed that concerns with the difficult access to the street at corners for residents using wheelchairs and walkers

### **Community Outreach**

(Discussed under New Business – Committee Member Regional Concerns)

### **Public Comment**

#### Michael Beech

- What percentage of police force will have body worn cameras if department purchases 50-60?
- Would like to see “plain language” explanation of retention policy for body worn cameras
- Hopes there is a plan to audit officers to verify compliance for using body worn cameras
- Concerned about speeding on School Rd in Oakley
- Concerned about traffic issues during student pick up at Oakley Elementary School  
(chief will speak with Mr. Beech after meeting to answer all questions)

#### Jim Abbott

- Stop the Violence Coalition: seeing the positive results of increased communication
- Pleased that a Housing Resident representative is on CPAC
- Important to get word out that CPAC exists
- How to make clear that 28801 is more than the CBD (Mr. Abbott and Mr. Holt will discuss)
- Thanked Interim Chief Belcher for his service to the community

#### James Love

- Hopes officers are receiving assaultive behavior classes (Chief mentioned that approximately 50% of the full time sworn officers have attended 40 hour Crisis Intervention Training)
- Pleased with new Family Justice Center

**Adjourned: 5:00p**

*Next Meeting Date: July 8, 3:00p*