

**Citizens Police Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 8, 2015  
Asheville Police Department**

**Present:** Chair Jay Gurney, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Fred Cooke, Keith DeBlasio, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Larry Holt, Sgt. Mike Lamb, Interim Chief Steve Belcher, AFD Chief Burnette, Paul Fetherston (Assistant City Manager), Marsha Stickford.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

- June minutes were approved as presented. Ms. Hallstrom voiced concern that the board was not notified of a change in the structure of CPAC; specifically that Sgt Lamb's position was changed in status from voting to non-voting member.
- Mr. Cooke wanted clarification of the board's status as advisory board or a policy board. Mr. Fetherston clarified that the board is advisory only.

**APD & City Staff Update:**

Update from Chief Belcher:

- Chief Belcher invited the CPAC Board and guests to register for the Asheville Police Department Citizens Police Academy (CPA) beginning in September.
- Mr. Gurney encouraged all board members to attend the CPA and also to participate in the ride-along program.

Overview of TIP program from Chief Belcher and Chief Burnette

- Chief Belcher and Chief Burnette explained that the City is going to contract with the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP). TIP is a long standing organization that uses volunteers to provide logistical, emotional and spiritual assistance to citizens during critical/traumatic incidents. The volunteers would work with the chaplains to provide assistance.
- Ms. Hallstrom asked how the program was managed. Chief Burnette advised that there would be a TIP board of directors. Additionally TIP has partnered with over 300 agencies and has been providing assistance for over 30 years.
- Pastor Hardaway asked how the volunteered would be trained and Chief Burnette said that the training is facilitated by TIP and that they have a good history with working with agency's chaplains.
- Mr. Cooke asked if TIP would work with existing organizations like The Compassionate Friends who assists families who have experienced the loss of a child. Chief Belcher said that TIP reaches out to existing organizations to collaborate and provide assistance.

Update on Chief Hooper

- Chief Hooper's first day will be July 20<sup>th</sup>. Chief Belcher will remain for ten days after Chief Hooper starts to assist with the transition.

## **Unfinished Business**

### The Bywater

- Lt. Rollins and CRO Brigman have been working with DOT and COA transportation to provide a long term solution to the parking and traffic issues. The will be a long term project and any questions should be directed to Lt. Rollins.

### Oakley Elementary Parking

- Working with the Buncombe County School Resource Officers to try and solve the situation since Oakley Elementary is a county school.

### Body Cameras

- Chief Belcher advised that the policy on the storage of camera footage is being reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

### Use of Force – Body Camera Public Meetings

- Once the body cameras are implemented there will be a series of public meetings similar to the ones that the Sheriff held. The department will partner with the Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council ABCRC to organize and hold the meetings.

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

### North (28804)

- Ms. Hallstrom is happy with the direction of the Housing Unit under the direction of Sgt. Wells and many of the relationships that he and his team have formed over the last few weeks.
- The Glenn Falls community is interested in the PACE program that is being tested on Kimberly Ave. Lt. Rollins will speak to the board after the program is completed to give an overview and the results of the program.
- Ms. Hallstrom was concerned over the time and money the department spends investigating the break-ins of unlocked cars. Chief Belcher said that the department will be adding a crime prevention position to help educate the community about unlocked cars and many other concerns. Ms Hallstrom suggested using neighborhood organizations and volunteers to help spread the word about locking cars.

### South (28803)

- Speeding concerns in Shiloh. (Follow up with Lt. Eberhardt)
- Traffic congestion along Hendersonville Rd and Sweeten Creek Road

### East (28805)

- Ms. Applewhite: Also concerned about car B&E's to unlocked cars. Her neighborhood uses block captains and spread news concerning the neighborhood. She suggested using block captains to put door hangers on homes reminding residents to lock their car doors and hide their valuables.
- Thankful that the city has set aside money for much needed improvements to the police fleet.

### West (28806)

- Mr. Brailsford: expressed concerns over a home break-in on Joyner Avenue. Also, concerns over a recovering drug addict/parolee living in a home on Riverview. Lots of suspicious activity at the house.

### Central (28801)

- Mr. Holt: Happy about stiffer punishments for graffiti offenders.

### Housing Authority

- Mr. DeBlasio was impressed with the response time, strategies and investigation to the Hillcrest shootings.
- Mr. Gurney expressed concern over violent offenders not being addressed in the court system.
- Ms. Hallstrom then asked about the status of the Violent Offender Initiative (VCI). Sgt Lamb said that the VCI program is going to begin again. The next meeting will be July 22<sup>nd</sup> with a call-in meeting being held sometime in the fall. The Violent Offender Call In has now been set for October 21 at Ferguson Auditorium, AB Tech, beginning at 6:00p.
- Mr. DeBlasio asked for clarification about the housing ban list. Mr. Gurney said that Asheville PD does have the authority to charge trespassing. However if a banned person is on the streets then they are not trespassing because they are on a city street and not housing property.
- Mr. Gurney gave an update on the camera installation in Pisgah View Apartments. He also voiced concerns about the City's "Dark Skies" ordinance, which requires housing to turn off the brighter exterior lights at night. This will reduce the effectiveness of the camera system.

#### ABCRC

- Pastor Hardaway: Looks forward to the partnership between ABCRC and the department to build relationships and hold the forums on use of force and body cameras.

#### Ad Hoc (MADD)

- Mr. Cooke: Excited about the new state regulation requiring ignition interlock systems for first time offenders.

### **Community Outreach**

(Discussed under New Business – Committee Member Regional Concerns)

### **Public Comment**

#### Jonathan Robert

- Expressed concern about the policy on body cameras.

#### James Love

- Concerned about scam artist/drug dealer in town. Passed information along to CID.

### **Final reminder about National Night-Out on August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Adjourned: 5:00p**

*Next Meeting Date: August 5, 3:00p*