

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

**Present:** Jayden Gurney (Chair), Larry Holt (Vice Chair), Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Fred Cooke, Keith DeBlasio, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Cliff Joslin, Chief Tammy Hooper, Sgt. Mike Lamb, Paul Fetherston (Assistant City Manager), John Maddux (Assistant City Attorney), Alex Carmichael, Christina Hallingse

**Guests:** Ruth Christy, Jim Abbot, Dorothy Stradder

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

- August minutes were approved as amended.

**APD & City Staff Update:**

Update from Chief Hooper:

- Chief Hooper stated that the Evidence and Property Room continues to be among her top priorities. The City has funded two new positions, which are undergoing background checks right now, and the Department is assigning two sworn positions. APD conducted a large destruction of over 500 items last month.
- Mr. Brailsford asked if the sworn officers were assigned to the Evidence Room now. Chief Hooper replied that they are, as temporary assignments during the purge and destruction process.
- A committee looking into the promotional process met once last month and is scheduled to meet again.
- Additional officers were assigned to Lee Walker Heights, Pisgah View, and Hillcrest over the weekend.

Update from Christina Hallingse:

- The City has conducted a two month trial of Next Door in the Biltmore Park and Five Points Neighborhood. Next Door is a neighborhood-focused private social network. The City conducted a user survey on its volume and content of messaging, which had a 21% response rate. Overwhelmingly respondents reported that messaging was beneficial and at just the right amount. The City will go live with Next Door in all of Asheville's 55 neighborhoods on September 14.

**New Business:**

Election of Chair:

- The elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Citizens Police Advisory Committee (C.P.A.C.) will be held at the October regular meeting.

#### Committee Member Regional Concerns:

##### North (28804)

- Ms. Hallstrom shared that 'No Parking' signs have been placed on Riverside Drive near the Bywater. Riverside Drive is a D.O.T. road, but she appreciated the help of the City staff. She remains concerned over the lack of crosswalks or other pedestrian tools.
- Ms. Hallstrom again raised concerns about the physical configuration of the meeting room, noting that it is difficult for guests to hear. Chairman Gurney stated that he is working with City staff to identify other locations that would better accommodate the meeting, such as the room in City Hall used by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Hallstrom introduced her guests, Rondell Lance, President of the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.), Lodge 1, and Marty Milton, Vice President. Mr. Lance said that the F.O.P. is the oldest police organization in the country. It was founded in 1915 in Pittsburg, PA by two officers and now boasts 325,000 members worldwide and 5,600 in North Carolina. There are 300 members of the local chapter. The F.O.P. has a very active legislative program at both the state and national level, with full time representation in both Raleigh and Washington. Two of the main reasons officers join the F.O.P. are legal defense and death benefits. The F.O.P. sponsors a variety of youth programs, including camps, sports outreach, Special Olympics, a kid I.D. program through National Night Out, and scholarships.

##### South (28803)

- Mr. Joslin expressed his regret for missing the first "Coffee with a Cop" event with Chief Hooper in the South. Chief Hooper reported that approximately 100 people attended the event, along with a number of officers.

Mr. Joslin shared about a traffic situation on Hendersonville and Sweeten Creek Roads, where scrapping has created significant potholes. Both roads are maintained by the State.

##### East (28805)

- Ms. Applewhite shared a card that a CRO gave to her as a tool for communicating about car break-ins. Chief Hooper noted that door hangers with the same information are being printed, and it is getting pushed out through social media. She offered additional cards to Committee members for distribution.
- Ms. Applewhite shared that she is delighted to work with Lt. Hawkins, and that she will work with the Community Resource Officers (C.R.O.) to disseminate the break-in information.
- The Beverly Hills neighborhood will host a picnic next week. Volunteers will go door-to-door to distribute invitations and will include the break-in informational cards.

##### West (28806)

- Mr. Brailsford expressed that he was glad to hear about the increased police presence in Pisgah View. He also expressed that Next Door is a great tool for communities.

#### Central (28801)

- Mr. Holt shared that things appeared to be picking up in downtown around the clock, including assaults, increased graffiti, and roof top climbing and jumping – which is not only dangerous, but causes significant property damage.

Chief Hooper reported that APD was checking roof tops regularly, and that a couple of people were currently being held as a result.

#### Housing Authority

- Mr. Gurney stated that he hoped the increased enforcement in Pisgah View will help to resolve the crime issues. Chief Hooper reported that APD has pushed officers' hours in Pisgah View back to 4:00AM. Mr. Gurney expressed concern over making Pisgah View an assignment officers would not want.
- Sgt. Mike Lamb noted that the increased violent activity was a product of ongoing gang related conflict. Most of the calls the Police receive for gang events are property damage calls because gangs tend not to report attempted murders. Pastor Hardaway asked Sgt. Lamb what churches and the community can do to help. Sgt. Lamb said that the best thing they can do is to help fight against the message of retaliation.
- The Committee discussed the difficulty of taking anonymous reports, which do not create probable cause and require step-by-step corroboration.
- Ms. Hallstrom asked the Police Department to come and speak about potential roles of faith groups at one of the September meetings of "Stop the Violence," an interdenominational alliance.
- Mr. DeBlasio asked to have the CPAC meeting location added to the header of the agenda.
- Mr. DeBlasio also asked about the banned list for Pisgah View. He stated that having the list available without having to go to the Housing Authority Office would help. Mr. Gurney reported that the banned list changes so frequently that it becomes outdated quickly. When they published the list in the past it caused confusion and people would use the out of date lists to challenge arrests. Mr. DeBlasio said that having the lists and better ability to report trespasses might prevent some of the shootings that are occurring. Mr. Gurney noted the Authority's progress towards updating the list and getting it back on the website. He also discussed new processes for removing one's name from the banned list when they obtain employment or with a resident who vouches for the individual.

#### ABCRC

- Pastor Hardaway asked how the Department would get Next Door messages to those without access to the internet. Christina Hallingse replied that they would continue to utilize the

networks of the City's Neighborhood Coordinator, Marsha Stickford, as well as the landline emergency notifications system, Everbridge.

- Pastor Hardaway expressed appreciation for the Chief's "Coffee with a Cop" events.

#### Ad Hoc (MADD)

- Mr. Cooke reported that Buncombe County has the highest conviction rate for D.W.I.s in Western North Carolina.
- Mr. Cooke also reported that an officer was t-boned by another driver in Waynesville and subsequently rolled her car. The officer is ok. The driver was impaired but not drunk.
- Texting while driving now causes more accidents than drinking while driving.

#### **Community Outreach**

##### Round Table/ Shared Experiences:

- Ms. Hallstrom asked the Chief if the current lieutenant assignments would be temporary or consistent for the foreseeable future. Chief Hooper answered that they would be consistent.
- Mr. Joslin asked about the status of the body camera program. Chief Hooper reported that the policy is under review and the process is moving forward.
- Mr. Joslin asked if the problems surrounding the homeless in Pritchard Park are increasing. Mr. Holt stated that they were. Mr. Holt noted the recent assaults in the downtown. He encouraged everyone to call the police when confronted by aggressive panhandlers or other issues. Chief Hooper reported that APD has increased its activity around Prichard Park. She has met with the City Manager's Office and the Parks Department to discuss environmental improvements. APD is looking at ways to disperse its presence and adding overnight checks. Mr. Holt reported that the Downtown Area Residential Neighborhood (D.A.R.N.) is ready to help.

#### **Public Comment**

##### Ruth Christy

- Ms. Christy reported that the public in the room was unable to hear the Committee members. She asked if the Committee could have microphones.
- Ms. Christy also expressed concern over the effects of the 'war on drugs' and the use of military equipment by law enforcement on the black community. She also expressed concern that the language used to describe law enforcement should be "demilitarized."

##### Jim Abbot

- Mr. Abbot said he finds meetings such as this helpful and expressed appreciation to Chief Hooper for giving equal attention to each community within Asheville. Mr. Abbot encouraged the Committee to continue to hear from groups such as the F.O.P.

##### Dorothy Stradder

- Ms. Stradder came as a guest of Ms. Hallstrom's. She is visiting from Germany and is interested in the work of the Committee.

**Adjourned: 4:32PM**

*Next Meeting Date: October 7, 3:00 p.m.*