

## POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 11, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: John Springett, Brian Williams, Olga Boucher, Richard Hewitt

Others Present: Ron Lantz, Gregory Jenkins, Diantha McKeel

Meeting called to order at 9:00am

### New Business:

The Committee did not have any new business to discuss.

Chief Ron Lantz welcomed all new committee members to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The election of the Chair and Vice Chair took place. Brian Williams made a motion to elect Richard Hewitt as Chair of the committee and John Springett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. John Springett made a motion to elect Olga Boucher as Vice Chair of the committee and Richard Hewitt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Citizens Advisory Committee now has a Chair, Richard Hewitt and Vice Chair, Olga Boucher.

### Chief's Updates:

Chief Lantz gave an update on Covid-19 and how the Albemarle County Police Department and the County of Albemarle has responded to the pandemic. In March 2020 during the local state of emergency the organization adapted quickly; any staff member that was capable of working from home were doing so, social distancing procedures throughout the buildings were implemented, and PPE gear was issued to all employees of the police department that were required to work from the office. The police department currently has 50 employees that are teleworking.

When Phase 2 was implemented, the police department started educating citizens on what to expect from the police, covid screenings were implemented, buildings were still closed, but meetings could take place outside of the buildings. Face masks were still mandatory and social distancing was still in place. The police department started using the transport van, so they could maintain social distancing when transporting individuals to the jail. All training was frozen with the exception of online training and the use of the Academy. Roll Calls are now done virtually and the Ride Along Program has been canceled at this time.

When Phase 3 was implemented, the County started a tracking system for all employees that enter the building. They must use the testing centers located at certain entrances to the building and then log in the information once they get to their work locations. In the police department, out of 184 employees only 4 employees have confirmed positive covid tests. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that face masks were mandatory in all buildings, gatherings could only be 50 or less people, and restaurants could only be at 50% capacity. The ambassador program was implemented to go out and educate the local stores and restaurants on the ordinance and how important it is to follow the procedures.

The Board of Supervisors has been great during this pandemic and has supported the police department in so many ways.

Chief Lantz updated the committee on the recent protests all over the Country. Every email, phone call and letter that came into the police department got a response. Most questions revolved around policing and how we handle certain situations. We discussed with these individuals about geo-policing, de-escalation training, crisis training, fair and impartial policing, and cultural diversity training.

The police department also has a strict hiring process for those that would like to become an officer with the Albemarle County Police Department. We only take the best of the best.

All citizen complaints are handled by the Office of Professional Standards, which falls directly under the Chief of Police. The position first consisted of a first line sergeant until it was upgraded to a Lieutenant's position. The department has purchased a program that does a better job of tracking officer complaints and will notify those involved if it sees a pattern evolving. All internal affairs complaints are reviewed by the Chief of Police.

The citizens of Albemarle County have shown great support for the police department in many ways. They have provided lunches and dinners for the officers, sent in letters of encouragement and the Foundation has done a great job working with the community and police department.

Chief Lantz updated the Committee on the Deputy Chief of Police process. Interviews will take place Wednesday and Thursday this week and hope to make an announcement next week.

An update was given in regards to the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. The police department currently has 5 SRO's in the program and they have sense been placed back in patrol. The department is currently working with Mr. Haas and the school board during this time to discuss how things will proceed.

There were no matters from the public. It was requested that the police department's annual report, when finished, be distributed to all of the supervisors.

John Springett made a motion to end the meeting and Olga Boucher 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.