

Albemarle County Police Department

Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

09:00 am

Committee Members Present: Richard Hewitt, John Springett, Tanishka Cruz, Maureen Deane

Others Present: Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Ned Galloway, and Colonel Sean Reeves

Richard Hewitt called the meeting to order at approximately 09:00 am

Supervisor Ned Galloway talks about his employment history.

Mr. Galloway is the Hub Manager for CarLotz in town; this is the second year of his second term on the Board of Supervisors, and he sat on the Albemarle School Board from 2011-2015.

Richard Hewitt motions to approve November 8th CAC minutes. Maureen Deane approved the motion, John Springett seconded the motion, and all were in favor. November 8, 2022, minutes were approved.

Matters of the Public:

Col. Reeves -Mental Health needs service.

Mental Health Team: Was organized due to the hundreds of hours mental health calls took on service. There is a misconception that all mental health calls are violent. Only 1% of our mental health calls involve violent situations.

Our department has attempted to assist a repeat caller within our department. We contacted outside services with little assistance; the citizen needed to meet the criteria. He then emailed the Fire Department, the Board of Supervisors, and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

We responded to a veteran in crisis, Hesitant from bad past experiences with law enforcement; our officers took time to speak with him to get him assistance without rushing in and taking him into custody.

Assisted Living Centers/ Nursing Home staff members have obtained Emergency Custody Orders (ECO) for dementia patients becoming violent with staff members. Once the paperwork is issued, our officers have no choice but to take the patient into custody.

Tanishka Cruz- Our public needs to be educated, and 911 needs to be given the complete issue of the situation when calls come in.

Richard Hewitt - where do we stand on the 988 system? He heard a local radio station announcement about the 988 system that morning. What is the procedure for the 988 system? How and who decides where the call is sent? How is it tracked?

Col Reeves- We have partnered with ECC, DSS, ACSO, UVA Hospital, Reg 10, and the CA's office to create a mental health response unit. This is an active unit Monday- Friday; it is not 24/7. After hours there will be a referral system for follow-up the next working day.

A person can call 911 and be transferred to the 988 system at the dispatcher's discretion. Col Reeves will follow up with Sunny in ECC to verify their procedure and if the number of mental health calls can be tracked through the 988 system. This system turns local law enforcement into a support role to provide proper care to a subject in crisis.

Getting a citizen needing mental health care to a facility or person who can get them the care they need is more cost-efficient than a law enforcement response.

Maureen Deane- There are so many different issues; some callers don't realize they have a mental illness and believe what they are experiencing is happening to them or others.

Col Reeves-The mental health system is a broken system in our country. The number one issue is there are bed space issues.

The juvenile mental health system in Virginia has one state hospital. The court order Temporary Detention Order (TDO) states that we hold them until a bed is available. Our officers have had to rotate to sit at the hospital for four days after executing a TDO on a juvenile while waiting for an available bed.

There has been a law suite in another jurisdiction for a violation of juvenile civil rights after officers executed a TDO but had to wait for a bed to be available to transfer the juvenile. Officers are in a no-win situation.

Bea LaPisto-Kirtley- What is the % of real 911 Vs. 988 Calls

Col Reeves- It is too early to get an accurate % for our jurisdiction. The 988 system is based out of Arizona, and they have stated that 88-90 % of mental health calls were referred to 988 instead of 911.

Our Mental Health Unit still needs staff from the Albemarle County Fire Department and Police Department. DSS is fully staffed; they just hired a manager to be the central person of this unit. It is projected that it will take months to run at total capacity.

Ned Galloway- Asked where our state Juvenile mental Health facility is located.

Col. Reeves – Staunton is the location of the VA Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents.

The UVA Tragedy:

Col Reeves: The University of Virginia sits on Albemarle County property, the City of Charlottesville property, and the University of Virginia property. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University Police Department that they are responsible for policing on UVA grounds. We will assist whenever they need it.

Our patrol covered City 911 Calls and assisted with closing side streets down; our homicide detectives were on the scene and in contact with Chief Longo. The Virginia State Police and City Pd were also on the scene. All Command was on location to assist in any way needed.

Due to the multiple jurisdictions involved, the VSP took the lead with the aid of our department and detectives since the incident was on county property.

VSP took the suspect into custody in Henrico County. Albemarle County Commonwealth Attorney's office will be prosecuting the case.

Gun Violence:

John Springett- Have resources increased shootings and gang issues?

Col Reeves- Our shootings have increased, along with some gang issues.

We have seen an increase in juvenile gun violence and gang activity. Many juveniles grew up in the city but now live with family members in the county.

- There is little remorse from the offender.
- There is little fear of consequences due to our juvenile intake and court systems.
- Juveniles are released to their parents when they are involved in a crime
- parents or family members advise juvenile victims not to speak with the police and decide to take the situation into their own hands.

The firearms in these incidents have been stolen from stolen vehicles, unlocked vehicles, or vehicle break-ins.

Not all our gun violence is stemmed from juvenile gang violence

Bea LaPisto-Kirtley- Disturbing juvenile issues. Since gangs are now more juveniles and not adults, the SRO program needs to be addressed with the school board.

Col. Reeves- There have been meetings with Dr. Haas about the SRO program. The police department is working on our relationship with the school board and our role.

Taniska Cruz- touched base on the concerns from within the Hispanic and Latino communities of ICE coming into the community.

Richard Hewitt- Time is 10:03, motion to adjourn the meeting by John Springett, seconded by Tanishka Cruz; meeting adjourned at 10:08.