

## POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 08, 2020

Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Ron Lantz, Greg Jenkins, Sean Reeves, Diantha McKeel, Ann Mallek, Jim Hingeley, Sonny Saxton

Meeting called to order at 9:01am

Brian Williams made a motion to approve the October 13, 2020, meeting minutes and Brent Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The October 13, 2020, meeting minutes have been approved.

### New Business:

Welcome and introductions were made to Board of Supervisor Ann Mallek, Commonwealth Attorney Jim Hingeley, and Director of ECC Sonny Saxton.

### Chief's Updates:

- There have been no complaints or inquiries since the October 2020 meeting.
- Chief Lantz discussed the article on homicide rates. Albemarle County has had a total of 6 homicides year to date where we typically only have 2-3 a year, 6 individuals have been identified and there have been 5-6 arrests made.
- The spike in homicides in the County and City could be related to COVID-19, mental illnesses, domestic disputes or just a different time during the last year.
- The police department continues to follow the COVID-19 guidelines and we have not had a case in the department in a while.
- Ms. Boucher mentioned the geo-policing model and how citizens are not afraid to talk to law enforcement. With this model it allows the same officer to be in the same area every day.
- Chief Lantz mentioned that the best way to contact him is through the [askthechief@albemarle.org](mailto:askthechief@albemarle.org) email.

Introductions were made to the Director of ECC Mr. Sonny Saxton. Mr. Saxton has been with the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) for 14 months, but spent 25 years as a firefighter/medic. Some of the challenges they face at this time are retention of employees (mostly new hires) and because the positions are stressful and one must be able to move between multiple computer programs, this causes a high turnover rate due to compassion fatigue. Mr. Williams commented that maybe a peer support group would be helpful during these types of situations.

Introductions were made to Commonwealth Attorney Jim Hingeley. Mr. Hingeley has spent 45 years as a lawyer in various capacities. One of his goals is reducing mass incarceration; he would like to see more of community based treatment, intervention services, removing barriers, use of evidence based practices and reducing sentences because lengthy sentences are costly to the community. Ms. McKeel wanted to thank Mr. Hingeley for working closely with Mr. Kumar, Jail Superintendent.

The Commonwealth Attorney's office located at Court Square in the General District Court building, in the basement. Due to COVID-19 the office is closed to walk-ins, but please email or call us to make an appointment should you need to talk to us. You can find our information on the [www.albemarle.org](http://www.albemarle.org) website.

Brent Hall made a motion to end the meeting and Richard Hewitt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 am.