

POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Ron Lantz, Greg Jenkins, Sean Reeves, Diantha McKeel, Ned Gallaway

Meeting called to order at 9:00am

John Springett made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021, meeting minutes and Brian Williams 2nd the motion. The February 9, 2021, meeting minutes have been approved.

Everyone welcomed Ned Gallaway, the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and represents the Rio District, to the meeting this morning.

Matters from the Public:

No matters from the public.

The Department would like to remind everyone that the best way for public comment or to reach the Chief of Police, is to use the following email address askthechief@albemarle.org which is located on the Citizens Advisory Committee website and the Police Department's website at www.albemarle.org.

New Business:

There is a concern from the citizens of Albemarle County about the public safety issues that the City of Charlottesville is having spilling over into the County, specifically the shots fired cases. Our detectives are working closely with the City Police Department to help them with a number of their shots fired cases. We are helping by running ballistics (shell casings) through NIVEN to make sure they are not linked with any cases in the City. The FBI Safe Streets Task Force has dedicated one detective to the Albemarle County Police Department to help be proactive and prevent violence in Albemarle County.

BOS McKeel brought up the topic of body cameras. The committee decided that this discussion would be tabled until the next meeting on June 8, 2021.

Presentations were done by Major Jenkins and Major Reeves in reference to the Annual Report.

Chief Lantz updated the committee on staffing issues. The department is currently 9 sworn officers down. We currently have 3 individuals in the final stages of the hiring process and 2 individuals in the consideration phase. Unfortunately we are in a time where individuals do not want to be police officers anymore.

Due to the Building Closure Policy, which is still in effect, the volunteer program has been suspended. The department is in need of Spanish speaking volunteers. We do have a Spanish speaking employee in our Victim/Witness division, but the need is for our patrol officers when they are out in their sectors. Ms. Boucher would like to help and asked the Major Reeves and Major Jenkins get in touch with her. We currently have two auxiliary officers that are fluent in Spanish as well.

BOS Gallaway asked how teleworking was going for the department. The Detectives worked on a rotation schedule, Services division staff were required to be in the office due to the 24/7 operation of the police department, and civilian staff worked from home. All meetings were done via Teams or Zoom. The police department employees have adapted very well to the new way of doing business.

Major Reeves updated the committee on COVID-19 in the County. The new COVID center is being relocated to the Fashion Square Mall in the old JC Penney's portion of the building. They did their final walk through last week and they will have their own private security on site but we will also provide officers as well.

Major Reeves talked about how the citizens of Albemarle County support the police department because of community policing. We have open and honest dialogue with the community, we strive to build community trust, and the importance of having the same officers in the same areas. He wanted to emphasize that we are not Windsor and that we do not support those types of actions. We have a much higher standard for our officers and a very strict hiring process.

It was suggested that the department reach out to the NAACP to get on their agenda to talk about today's 21st Century Policing.

Mr. Williams asked if over the course of COVID have we identified any practices that will live beyond COVID. Yes, we have identified what is and what is not working.

Agenda item The Status of Deceleration Training: Crisis Intervention Training...Lethal Force will be tabled for another meeting.

Brian Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Springett 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.