

Citizens Police Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
DRAFT

Present: Councilmember Keith Young, Chief Tammy Hooper, Chair Larry Holt, Debbie Applewhite, Allen Brailsford, Jayden Gurney, Allison Scott, Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, Cliff Joslin, Lt. Michael Lamb

Staff: Deputy Chief James Baumstark, John Maddux

Meeting: Called to order by Chair Holt at 5:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- January minutes were approved as presented.

APD & City Staff Update: Chief Tammy Hooper

- Showed video clip that has been circulating on social media of incident that occurred in the Montford community on January 30 and picture of bb gun
- Based on the recent gunfire and the fact that in this case APD was responding to a gun call, deployment of a rifle was not inappropriate under the circumstances.
- In process of thorough internal administrative review to determine if officers' actions were compliant with APD policies and procedures
- But bigger issue is gun violence
- Community problem, so should come together to address underlying issues of poverty, education and health care

Presentation: Ian Mance, Staff Attorney, Southern Coalition for Social Justice – APD Traffic Stop data
Suggestions to reduce traffic disparities between black and white motorists by APD

- Prohibit or formally de-prioritize regulatory and equipment-based traffic stops known to disproportionately affect black motorists
- Invoke mandatory written consent to search motorists, rather than verbal
- Conduct routine audits of officer stop and search data
- For more, see attached "Notes From Review of Asheville Police Department Traffic Stop Data / No Cost Policy Proposals"

New Business

2017 CPAC meeting schedule to include dates and locations of offsite meetings

- After discussion, Mr. Gurney motioned to adopt approve 2017, meeting schedule and location as proposed (see attached)
- Motion carried on a unanimous vote
- After discussion, Mr. Joslin motioned to keep the meeting time at 5:00 p.m.
- Motion carried on a unanimous vote
- Ms. Scott asked that schedule be posted on CPAC webpage; Ms. Hallstrom requested assistance from the City's Communications and Public Engagement department in getting the word out

Committee member regional concerns

North: Carol Rogoff Hallstrom

- Participated in women's march on January 21
- Extraordinary turnout
- Terrific support from Sgt. Lisa Taube, Sgt. Tammy Flanigan-Bryson and Councilmember Gwen Wisler, as impact on downtown was much greater than anticipated

South: Cliff Joslin

- Read email from South resident commending APD efforts in deterring nuisance crimes and crimes of opportunity in neighborhood, even though "low on the priority list"
- Also commended officers for working with kids and parents to educate them about resisting peer pressure and making wise choices in the future

East: Debbie Applewhite

- Commended Chief Hooper on her presentation to City Council January 24 – "bravo"

West: Allen Brailsford

- Continue to have issues with car B&Es, but appreciate that they are being worked on by APD on a constant basis

Downtown: Larry Holt

- Buskar experiment going well
- Lots of downtown residents support them
- Appreciate City working with buskars

Housing Authority: Jayden Gurney

- Usually quiet in winter, but not this year
- Echo sentiments of Chief; challenges to figure out as a community

At-Large: Allison Scott

- Incident video difficult to watch; didn't do justice to officers
- But seemed like antithesis of de-escalation
- Glad for details from Chief
- Not criticizing; has nothing but respect for officers
- Thanks to Chief for bringing up

Public Comment:

Missy Reed: Project Director for Changing Together at SPARC Foundation

- At Changing Together, working hard to reduce violence in our community
- Adult clients tell them they wish they had more support when they were young
- Want to work alongside anyone who is interested in change
- Goal at CT is to come together and work together with both community and law enforcement to insure peaceful community
- Want to participate in reciprocal accountability; at CT have done their best to create complete transparency b/c know that is where real change can happen
- Staff in attendance; always available to talk with anyone interested in working together on making our community safer

Dee Williams

- Thanks to Ian Mance, Code for Asheville, and members of the NAACP Racial Justice Committee

- police department cannot be used or be expected to "contain" the ill effects of systemic poverty, in Asheville which has been caused by destruction of homes, businesses, and capital which was caused by Urban Renewal
- Urban Renewal in Asheville resulted in the largest "taking" of land area, of homes and businesses than any other city in North Carolina
- Asheville Housing Authority needs to be retrofitted to produce housing more than merely warehousing poor people in Asheville

Patrick Conant – Code for Asheville

- Thanked Mr. Mance for presentation
- Spoke in support of Mance's recommendations to reduce traffic disparities between black and white motorists by APD
- Critically important for citizens and local governments to work together; common sense strategies
- Should release geographic locations of stops

Jackie Latek – Changing Together

- Everyone in room has same agenda: reduce poverty and violence
- Calls for unity tonight in order to reach those goals
- Heard a lot of disrespect towards Chief and Committee; disrespect creates barrier to bringing everyone together
- Recommends laying ground rules for communication during public comment time
- SPARC in close collaboration with Chief and APD, Housing and others to reduce violent crimes in community
- National recidivism rate is 62%; in Buncombe County is 15% since program began
- If need to blame someone, blame her; as service provider, there is more she can do to prevent crime and poverty
- If want to talk about solutions or share perspective, call her

The following individuals expressed their deep concerns over the January 24 incident in the Montford community: Michael Beech, Bella Jackson (via letter), Delores Venable, Sabrahniha Raven, Javelin Duncan, Jonathon Robert, Melissa Hyman, Michael Crennan, Angel, Calvin, Lauri Newman, Matt Shepard, Patrick Conant, Matilda Bliss

Sentiments expressed included, but were not limited to: anger, frustration, trauma, details of personal negative interaction with law enforcement personnel, that Officer Oza needs to be fired, that these were kids with a toy, and fear for soul of community

Carol Rogoff Hallstrom, North

- Has been member of CPAC for 5 ½ years, with three police chiefs
- Really do believe this Chief serious about efforts to look internally
- Important to work day by day to solve or resolve substantial challenges in community and department
- Thanked everyone for their interest in both the problems and solutions

Future Agenda Items

- Concerns and clarifications of implications of federal orders as it relates to immigration and policing

- Update on training on de-escalation policy

Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: March 1, 5:00 p.m., Grant Southside Center, 285 Livingston Street, 28801

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