



## Howard County Police Department (HCPD) Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) Member Meeting

Minutes  
November 18, 2020

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Opened: 7:00p

Closed: 8:38p

Chair, Susan Watkins, presiding, asked the Secretary to take the Roll. Noting a quorum, she brought the meeting to order.

Member Roll Call:

	<b>CAC Member</b>		<b>CAC Member</b>
✓	Larry Aaronson	✓	Jeff Kulik
✓	Tom Beach	✓	Morris Levine
✓	Steve Bolen		Keith McGuier
	William Brockett		Adia Moore
✓	Denise Brockington	✓	Pete Newman
✓	Larry Buehler	✓	Chandrakant Patel
✓	Sandy Cederbaum		Steve Pidliskey
✓	Paul Edwards	✓	Tim Pierce
✓	Lesley Flaim		Lewis Sanders
✓	Britany Geger		Raghid Shourbaji
✓	Andrew Hall	✓	Susan Watkins
✓	Jim Happel	✓	Camela Williams
✓	Eileen Harrity		Nollie Wood
	Linda Lee Hickerson	✓	Dave Zeleznik

Applicants in Attendance: Sami Syadjari (2) and Jean Xu (3).

Applicants not in Attendance: Paul Rivers (1).

HCPD in Attendance: Chief Lisa Myers and Lt. Ed Sprinkle (CAC Advisor).

Special Guest(s): Lt. Michael Johnson, HCPD Education and Training Division  
(*Briefing: Police Weapons & Defensive Tactics*)

**Meeting Notes:**

- Chair Watkins invited Chief Myers to speak.
- Chief Myers noted the County Executive's press conference on Monday. The County is witnessing an increase in COVID-19 and has imposed new COVID-19 restrictions on congregate gatherings: No more than ten persons indoor and 25 persons outdoor. HCPD will seek voluntary compliance first; enforcement will be used as a last resort. The Chief asks us to be safe during the holiday season and remember to wear a mask and keep physical distancing.
- On Tuesday, Chief Myers said that HCPD participated in a Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) forum on the use of School Resource Officers (SROs). HCPD presented its position; the Chief stated that she is a strong supporter of the SRO program.
- Chief Myers said Delegate Atterbeary mentioned that the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) is introducing legislation to remove SROs from Howard County schools. Chief Myers said that Montgomery County is considering removing SROs from their schools, too.
- Chair Watkins asked the Chief what the motivation was for removing SROs in Howard County? The Chief said that it could be a reaction to what people see in the national media. She said that she has also heard anecdotal stories that some students feel anxious about their school's armed officers.
- Several CAC members asked about the role of SROs, who was sponsoring the MGA bill to remove them, and the bill's status. The Chief said that she was not sure who the sponsor was, but it was going forward in the MGA. The Chief noted that the Howard County SRO program operates for the students' safety and to build trust in the community.
- Montgomery County is also investigating defunding their police through attrition. Under this plan, the County would not replace an officer who leaves the department. Instead,

it would reprogram funding for that position to other departments. Chief Myers told us that she would let the CAC know if similar proposals come forward in Howard County.

- Chair Watkins introduced Lt. Johnson to present on HCPD Use-of-Force, Police Accountability, Officer Training, and Community Outreach. Lt. Johnson's presentation charts will be made available to CAC members.
- Lt. Johnson said he meets quarterly with academy training directors from across Maryland to share information on diversity training, biased-based policing, and community outreach, etc. HCPD is always looking at how to improve its training.
- CAC Member Beach asked Lt. Johnson to define "verbal judo." Verbal judo is analogous to physical judo that uses an opponent's energy to throw them to the ground. In verbal judo, the officer uses non-physical, verbal tactics in a similar way to de-escalate a situation.
- CAC Member Happel asked Lt. Johnson if he was aware of the "byrna" pistol. The pistol is a non-lethal option powered by compressed air (CO2) to shoot a purely kinetic or chemical projectile. The department has a "pepper ball" gun similar to the byrna. The byrna would be considered an impact weapon that can only be used in an assaultive situation and would require additional training.
- HCPD has started a pilot program using the JPX Jet Protector to deliver a targeted stream of liquid irritants, which is not considered an impact weapon.
- CAC Member Edwards asked Lt. Johnson if HCPD does LEOKA (law enforcement officers killed assaulted) training. The program provides relevant, high-quality information to police officers on why an incident occurred as opposed to what occurred. HCPD does provide a similar type of training to its officers.
- CAC Member Newman asked Lt. Johnson if the department studied lessons learned from incidents we see in the national media. HCPD does study these incidents and tries to adapt training and tactics to improve policing in Howard County.
- Chair Watkins thanked Lt. Johnson for his presentation.
- Chief Myers said that she would like to invite CAC to a demonstration of the JPX Jet Protector when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.
- Chair Watkins stated that Paul Edwards had met all of the requirements for induction into CAC. He is now a member of the CAC. (Congratulations!) Chair Watkins invited him to say a few words about himself.

- CAC Member Newman asked the Chief about HCPD plans for charitable donations this year. The Chief said that *Shop-With-A-Cop* would not take place this year due to the pandemic. Youth Services will perform a drive-by in neighborhoods to drop off treats and gift cards.
- More information to follow on the Youth Services drive-by and donations to the Police Foundation.
- Chair Watkins noted that CAC Member Newman is a member of the Police Foundation and the CAC.

Chair Watkins asked if anyone had any other questions or business to discuss. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting.

Notes taken by the Secretary, Steven Bolen.

Chair, Susan Watkins  
Presiding