Susan Watkins, Chair, HCPD CAC, presiding, brought the meeting to order at 7:04p.

Welcome
- The Chair welcomed the members, applicants, and W.G. Volenick Award winners.

Roll Call
- The Chair asked the Secretary to take the roll; a quorum was noted.

Member Roll Call:

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<th>CAC Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Aaronson</td>
<td>Jim Happel</td>
<td>Tim Pierce</td>
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<td>Steve Bolen</td>
<td>Eileen Harrity</td>
<td>Paul Rivers</td>
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<td>William Brockett</td>
<td>Linda Lee Hickerson</td>
<td>Lewis Saunders</td>
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<td>Denise Brockington</td>
<td>Jeff Kulik</td>
<td>Sami Saydjari</td>
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<td>Larry Buchler</td>
<td>Morris Levine</td>
<td>Raghid Shourbaji</td>
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<td>Sandy Cederbaum</td>
<td>Keith McGuire</td>
<td>Susan Watkins</td>
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<td>Paul Edwards</td>
<td>Adia Moore</td>
<td>Camela Williams</td>
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<td>Lesley Flaim</td>
<td>Pete Newman</td>
<td>Nollie Wood</td>
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<td>Britany Gegor</td>
<td>Chandrakant Patel</td>
<td>Dave Zeleznik</td>
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<td>Andrew Hall</td>
<td>Steve Pidliskey</td>
<td>Jean Xu</td>
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- Applicants in Attendance: Jacquelyn Hopkins (3), Monique Jenkins (2), and David Sames (2).
- HCPD in Attendance: Chief Lisa Myers and Lt. Ed Sprinkle (CAC Advisor).
- Guest Speaker(s): None.
- Other Guests in Attendance: None.
February Minutes and Chief’s Report

- The Chair asked the members if they received the March meeting minutes and the Chief’s Report. She asked if anyone had any questions on either. No comments or questions were heard.

Chief’s Remarks

- The Chief welcomed the Executive Board and W. G. Volenick Awardees and thanked them for attending the meeting in person at the HCPD Gateway Facility.

- The Department has reorganized its command structure, creating a fourth command. The restructuring creates a civilian Deputy Chief position to manage administration and personal affairs for the Department.

- The Department is expanding its internal affairs and professional compliance activities. It will provide officers with additional training. The Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) and Quality Assurance Division (QAD) will perform more advanced auditing of its practices and policing activities.

- The Department is interested in its officers' physical and mental well-being and has identified a wellness coordinator to help improve their health and welfare.

- The Maryland General Assembly (MGA) passed significant police reform legislation this year. The Department will determine how the legislation will affect its policies in areas such as use-of-force, body-worn cameras (BWC), school resource officers (SRO), etc. The Chief will reach out to the CAC to help with community engagement as it works through policy impacts.

- The Department expects to start buying equipment for the BWC program beginning at the start of the county fiscal year on July 1. New personnel will be hired by the end of the year or early next year to support the program.

- The HCPD’s PSB will audit BWC video footage.

- The Chief continues to support the use of SROs in Howard County schools. She noted that the County Executive announced in a press conference yesterday that he will recommend removing SROs from all middle schools.
  - Member Newman asked about the County Executive’s reasons for removing SROs from middle schools. The Chief felt it was partially due to what we see taking place in the national narrative and local demands for police reform.
  - Member Harrity asked if the Chief was aware of the announcement prior to the press conference. The Chief said she was aware of the County Executive's statement.
  - Member Rivers suggested that SROs wear softer uniforms - especially in middle schools, to make the officers less threatening and more approachable to students. The Chief agreed.
- Applicant Jenkins asked if the HCPD had a use-of-force continuum policy. The Chief said that the Department did have a policy and that she would send us the HCPD frequently asked questions (FAQs) that describe the policy.

- Member Moore asked if the number of shootings was going up in Howard County. The Chief said that last month there were back-to-back shootings which might make it look like shootings were up. However, in the previous five years, crime statistics in Howard County have been at an all-time low. Howard County has traditionally fallen below the U.S. national average. In 2020, there were 11 shootings (3 fatal), with three cases still open. In 2021, there were six shootings (3 fatal), with two cases still open. One of the cases was a murder-suicide. The Chief noted that “ghost guns” were becoming a bigger problem here and nationwide.

- Member Buehler asked if the Department follows up on murder/suicide red flag operations. The Chief said the Department does regular check-ins.

- Mr. Rivers asked if the Department has a mental health unit. The Chief said that it did. The Department has one sworn officer, a licensed clinician, and works with a local organizations to support a mobile crisis team.

- The Chief is reviewing the year-end Drone Program report.

- April is National Distracted Driver Awareness Month. Due to the pandemic, fewer people have been driving, but more aggressive driving has been noted. HCPD will be working with the state and other agencies to help curb distracted/aggressive driving.

William G. Volenick Award
- The Chair and Chief Myers presented the 2021 William G. Volenick Award and certificate to Member Larry Buehler. The Chair introduced Larry and invited him to say a few words.

- The Chair and Chief Myers presented the 2020 William G. Volenick Award and certificate to Member Lesley Flaim. The Chair introduced Lesley and invited her to say a few words. (Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Award was not given in person last year.)

(Congratulations, Larry and Leslie!)

Update on the Professional Standards Project
- Member Bolen said that the team had met with Captain Lampe/PSB and Lt. Porter/QAD about CAC’s engagement with the Department. The Department is currently assessing the impact of the MGA police reform legislation on its policies and practices. The Professional Standards Project is on hold until the Department determines the legislation implications and how it can best use CAC to engage with the public.

Update on the Drones Project
- Member Pidliskey said that the team met on March 31.
The Department is studying the Los Angeles Police Department’s program, which has been endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). One of the concerns for the use of drones is citizens’ privacy.

Captain Chambers’ primary focus for CAC is to help educate, bring awareness, and gain public acceptance of the HCPD Drone Program.

The team brainstormed ideas to support the Department. Ideas included holding public forums/townhalls to demonstrate the use of the drones, taking the drones to county activities like National Night Out, Fourth of July parades, etc., working with PIO to get news coverage, and creating a web-presence that describes the Drone Program and answers frequently asked questions.

The HCPD Drone Program is also studying different launch point locations and how to satisfy FAA rules for line-of-sight operations.

The CAC Drone Project will meet again next month.

**Adjournment**

- The Chair asked if anyone had any other questions or business to discuss.

  - Member Happel asked the Chief if it would be helpful for the CAC to assist the Department in identifying potential less-than-lethal alternatives to force compliance. The Chief said that the Department is investigating these options, but it would ask the CAC to help in community engagement and outreach when deploying these types of tools.

Chair Watkins closed the meeting at 8:00p.

The Howard County Police Department, Citizens’ Advisory Council stands in adjournment until **May 19, 2021 at 7:00p.**

Minutes taken by Steven Bolen, Secretary.

Susan Watkins        David Zeleznick        Eileen Harrity        Andrew Hall  
Chair *(Presiding)*  Vice Chair             EB Member-at-Large    Immediate Past Chair