Howard County Police Department (HCPD)  
Citizens’ Advisory Council (CAC)  
Monthly Member Meeting  

Minutes  
October 20, 2021

Opened: 7:00p  
Closed: 7:55p  
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

David Zeleznik, Vice-Chair, HCPD CAC, Presiding Officer, brought the meeting to order at 7:02p.

Welcome
- The Presiding Officer welcomed the members and HCPD personnel.

Roll Call
- The roll was observed; the Secretary noted a quorum.

Member Roll Call:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAC Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry Aaronson (E)</td>
<td>✓ Eileen Harrity</td>
<td>✓ Tim Pierce</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Steve Bolen</td>
<td>✓ Linda Lee Hickerson</td>
<td>✓ Paul Rivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Brockett</td>
<td>✓ Jacquelyn Hopkins</td>
<td>✓ Lewis Saunders</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Denise Brockington</td>
<td>✓ Monique Jenkins</td>
<td>Sami Saydjari</td>
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<td>✓ Larry Buehler</td>
<td>✓ Jeff Kulik</td>
<td>Raghid Shourbaji</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Sandy Cederbaum</td>
<td>✓ Morris Levine</td>
<td>Susan Watkins</td>
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<td>✓ Paul Edwards</td>
<td>✓ Keith McGuire</td>
<td>Camela Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Lesley Flaim</td>
<td>✓ Adia Moore</td>
<td>✓ Nollie Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Britany Gegor</td>
<td>✓ PeteR Newman</td>
<td>✓ Dave Zeleznik</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Andrew Hall</td>
<td>✓ Chandrakant Patel</td>
<td>✓ Jean Xu</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Jim Happel</td>
<td>✓ Steve Pidliskey</td>
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(E) Denotes Emeritus Status

Applicants

✓ Ed Sprinkle (31)

- HCPD in Attendance: Chief Lisa Myers and Lt. Adrienne Thomas (CAC Advisor).
- Special Guest(s)/Presentation: Police Reform Legislation; Chief Myers.
- Other Guests in Attendance: None.
Presiding Officer Remarks/Announcements

- Vice-Chair Zeleznik announced that Chair Watkins would be absent from the meeting. Chair Watkins appointed, and the Executive Board (EB) concurred, Vice-Chair Zeleznik to act as the Presiding Officer at the October meeting.
- The Presiding Officer announced that the meeting was being recorded.
- The October meeting agenda was reviewed.

Induction of New Members/Applicants

- Monique Jenkins was inducted into the CAC.
- Ed Sprinkle has applied to join the CAC.

September Minutes and Chief’s Report

- The Presiding Officer asked the members if they received the September meeting minutes and Chief’s Report; no member indicated they had not received the documents.
- The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had comments or questions about the documents; none were heard.
- The Presiding Officer called for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Member Rivers moved to approve the minutes; Member Flaim seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. The September meeting minutes were approved.

Chief’s Remarks

- The Chief announced the County Council approved the release of funds for the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program effective October 4. On October 5, the Department reconvened its BWC Committee. The Committee consists of three groups: Policy, Technology, and Social Media.
- The Chief said that the Department wants to keep the community informed about what is happening with the BWC Program.
- The Department’s Child Advocacy Center finished its three-year accreditation process and was recertified. The Center is nationally recognized for its excellence and received very high marks during recertification. The Chief plans to invite the CAC to visit the Center.

Presentation

Police Reform Legislation

- The Chief stated that the Department needs to review 62 provisions of the law for policy and budge impact. Examples include:
  - Redefining the definition of paraphernalia.
  - Signing onto a “Sanctity of Life Agreement,” which the Department already has in its policy.
  - Not being able to disqualify officer applicants based on past marijuana usage. The Department is working to make sure its policy will be consistent with other Departments in the region.
  - Providing mental health screening to all police officers every two years. The screening is an unfunded mandate. The Department anticipates the cost to be about $150K every two years. Instead of outsourcing the screening, the Department is considering hiring a mental health practitioner to serve on staff.
- Starting in October, MPIA (Maryland Public Information Act) requests can be used to obtain an officer’s internal personal records.
- Executions of search warrants will need to be reported annually to the Governor’s Office on Crime Prevention. The Department has already been keeping detailed data of its search warrants. There will also be provisions placed on no-knock warrants.
- Police officers involved in a shooting or an in-custody activity that results in a serious injury or death will be referred to the State’s Attorney General’s Office for investigation.
- The Department is now required to provide retirement support for K-9 dogs. The provision mandates up to $2,500 in veterinary treatment per year with a lifetime cap of $10,000 per dog. This also applies to dogs that are already retired.
- The Department is prohibited from acquiring surplus military equipment. Currently, the Department does not acquire this type of equipment.
- The legislation mandates the standup of an accountability board. The board will have oversight of police misconduct investigations. The board will be required to have a current or retired administrative judge to preside over its function. The County will be responsible for expenses for the administrative judge and expert witnesses. Any officer charged with misconduct can request a board hearing.

- Member Rivers asked who would serve on the accountability board. The Chief said the Department would not have a role in the board. There is a proposal that the board will consist of five members and that members be twenty-five years old and have a working knowledge of how the police department or other similar organizations function. The County Executive and County Council will appoint members. The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) will provide training to board members. Each jurisdiction in Maryland will determine the requirements for its board which may be different than Howard County. The Chief will pass information to the CAC about the board for members interested in serving on it.

- Member Rivers stated he thought it would benefit the Department to hire a mental health professional on full-time staff. That professional would be more accessible and be more familiar with the officers. The Chief said that anytime an officer is involved in a traumatic event, they are provided mental health services before returning to duty.

- Member Brockington asked if the officer health screening could occur with half of the officers one year and the other half the next. The Chief thought it could be done, but to start, all officers need to be screened by 2022.

- Member Harrity asked if officers need to have a mental health screening when they are hired. The Chief said that the Department requires a background check, polygraph, and mental health screening before hiring an officer. Along with the new two-year mental health screening mandate, there will also be a physical agility screening.

- Member Harrity asked if the legislators considered the funding aspects of the reform legislation before the bill was passed. The Chief said that budget was not considered.

**Elections**

- Member Pidliskey provided an overview of the biannual elections.
• The next election will be held during the January 2022 meeting.
• The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Board Member-at-Large positions are up for election. All members are encouraged to run for office.
• Member Pidliskey will send an email prior to the November meeting with the Election Bylaws and nomination template. Members can nominate themselves or another member.
• Nomination forms will be collected at the December meeting (or can be emailed to Member Pidliskey prior to the meeting).
• Lt. Thomas will act as the third-party election judge to collect and count the ballots. Ballots can be submitted (emailed) prior to the January meeting or during the meeting.
• A person who wants to run for office must be a member in good standing for two years and meet other in-person activity requirements (e.g., attend a ride-along, complete the Citizen’s Police Academy, etc.). Due to the pandemic, in-person activity requirements will probably be waived this year. The Executive Board will decide prior to the November meeting whether to waive these requirements.

Discussion of Bylaws (Section J)
• The Presiding Officer asked if the members had received the proposed wording for Section J of the Bylaws. No member indicated they had not received the language for Section J.
• The Presiding Officer thanked all the members who participated in providing feedback for this section.
• The Presiding Officer opened the floor for discussion.
• Per Section J.a., Member Pierce asked if there was a definition of “orderly” conduct, etc. The Vice-Chair said that we serve at the pleasure of the Chief and that ultimately, the Chief will decide if a member’s conduct violates this section.
• Per Section J.e.a, Member Pierce asked if prohibited groups were defined. The Vice-Chair said that the groups are as defined by law enforcement.
• Per Section J.e.b, Member Pierce asked if the section had been reviewed so as not to infringe on a person’s right to free speech. The Secretary said that speech not prohibited by law is acceptable.
• The Presiding Officer called for a motion to approve Section J of the Bylaws. Member Kulik moved to approve Section J of the Bylaws; Member Wood seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. Section J was approved as submitted.
• The CAC will take up discussion and vote on the complete Bylaws at the next member meeting in November.

Other Business
• Member Pidliskey commented that police cruisers were illuminated with blue/red lights and asked if this was a new policy. The Chief said that the cruisers were illuminated so that the public could see them better. The most complaints the Department received last year was on traffic enforcement. It helps remind motorists to obey traffic laws. Member Rivers added that it also helps the public know that there is a police in the area if they need help.

Adjournment
• The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had any other business to discuss. Hearing none, he closed the meeting.
The Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 7:55p.

The Howard County Police Department, Citizens’ Advisory Council stands in adjournment until 
**November 17, 2021 at 7:00p.**

Minutes taken by Steven Bolen, Secretary.

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