



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

Minutes
March 16, 2022

Opened: 7:00p
Closed: 8:24p
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Eileen Harrity, Chair, HCPD CAC, Presiding Officer, brought the meeting to order at 7:00p.

Welcome and Call to Order

- The Presiding Officer welcomed the members and HCPD personnel.

Roll Call

- The roll was recorded; the Secretary noted a quorum.

Member Roll Call:

	CAC Member		CAC Member		CAC Member
	Larry Aaronson (E)	✓	Eileen Harrity	✓	Paul Rivers
	Vivian Bailey (E)	✓	Linda Lee Hickerson		Lewis Saunders
✓	Steve Bolen		Jacquelyn Hopkins		Sami Saydjari
	William Brockett		Monique Jenkins		Raghid Shourbaji
✓	Denise Brockington	✓	Jeff Kulik	✓	Ed Sprinkle
	Larry Buchler	✓	Morris Levine	✓	Susan Watkins
	Sandy Cederbaum	✓	Keith McGuire		Camela Williams
	Paul Edwards	✓	Adia Moore		Nollie Wood
✓	Lesley Flaim	✓	Pete R. Newman	✓	Dave Zeleznik
✓	Britany Geger	✓	Chandrakant Patel		Jean Xu
	Andrew Hall	✓	Steve Pidliskey		
✓	Jim Happel	✓	Tim Pierce		

(E) Denotes Emeritus Status

	Applicants	
	Jerry Wykoff	(3)
	Eric Clark	(1)

- HCPD in Attendance: Lt. Patrick Arnone, Lt. Adrienne Thomas, Tami Bulla, and Tammy Halligan.



- Special Guest(s)/Presentation(s):
 - New HCPD Organizational Structure/Tami Bulla
 - Removal of the 60 College Credit Hour Requirement for Hiring Police Recruits/Tami Bulla
 - Police Accountability Board/Tami Bulla
 - Update on Body-Worn-Cameras/Tami Bulla
 - Accreditation/Tami Bulla
 - What is a Citizen Advocate?/Tammy Halligan
- Other Guests in Attendance: None.

Presiding Officer Remarks/Announcements

- The Presiding Officer welcomed members, guest speakers, and HCPD personnel to the meeting.
- The Presiding Officer announced the meeting was being recorded.
- Vice-Chair Rivers was asked to introduce Applicant Eric Clark to the Council.
- Eric Clark was invited to introduce himself to the Council. He is a professor at Howard Community College and holds Ph.D. in Criminal Justice.
- The new Member Directory was sent to the members.
- The Council will be conducting overview briefings of the CAC to HCPD officers and to students at the Citizens' Police Academy. More information to follow.
- A two-minute video of the last HCPD police academy was presented.

Approval of the Minutes

- The Presiding Office opened the floor for discussion on the February 16, 2022 Minutes. Hearing none she called for a motion to approve the minutes without amendment.
- Member Newman made a motion to approve the Minutes; Member Kulik seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Chief's Report

- The Chief's Report was sent to the members.
- Lt. Arnone presented the Chief's Report.
 - Chief Derr has a new Chief of Staff: Wayne Jones. Wayne is a thirty-year veteran of the Department of Natural Resources as a police major and with the University of Maryland Hospital System as an investigator.
 - Recent officer promotions include: one major, one captain, two lieutenants, two sergeants, and two corporals.
 - Member Moore asked if the Chief's Report could include gun violence. She noted that social media is reporting that homicides are up. She thinks the community may not understand that crime is not up as much as believed.
 - Tami Bulla said the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is posted on the HCPD website quarterly.
 - The Chair will find out if the UCR statistics can be sent to the members before the meeting.
 - Member Rivers asked if HCPD has noted an uptick in violent crime. Compared to neighboring counties, Howard County is still low.
 - The Chief is working on a crime prevention plan that will include making officers more visible in the community.



- Tami Bulla stated that the Hovers gang has recently been apprehended. When crime rate is low like it is in Howard County, one gang like the Hoovers can have significant impact on the local crime rate.
- Member Pierce asked if the Council could have more discussion on the crime statistics including homicide.
- Member Moore asked if anything had been done about the theft of catalytic converters. The HCPD is partnering with Senator Lam to address the spike in theft such as passing legislation to make it more difficult to sell catalytic converters.

Presentations

New Organizational Structure/Tami Bulla

- Chief Derr made changes to the Department's organizational structure when he took office. One of the significant changes was to establish a traditional Chief of Staff (CoS) position. The four Commands will update the CoS who will ensure that there is cross-communication and coordination among the Commands.

Removal of the 60 College Credit Hour Requirement for Hiring Police Recruits/Tami Bulla

- The Chief is removing the 60 college credit hour requirement as a condition to hiring new police officers. This will make the County more competitive with other counties in hiring new recruits. Howard County is competing with 50 other law enforcement agencies in its recruitment efforts.

Police Accountability Board/Tami Bulla

- The County is accepting applications to the Police Accountability Board. The Chief encourages members of the CAC to apply. Deadline to apply is March 25.
- Member Pierce asked if the County was having challenges recruiting people to serve on the Board. There are some challenges as it will take people who are willing to commit to the time to serve.

Body-Worn Cameras/Tami Bulla

- Funding has been approved for implementation.
- Vehicles will be outfitted with the AXON signal device by March 21 to make sure BWCs are turned on.
- Body worn cameras are still being delivered.
- The Department will seek input from the public on policy usage for BWCs.
- Member Harrity asked what circumstances would keep the cameras from being turned on. One example would be when officers are in a hospital setting. The cameras would be turned off to preserve the HIPPA rights of patients otherwise not involved in an incident.

Accreditation/Tami Bulla

- The Department is nationally accredited and is undergoing routine accreditation. The Department is asking if members of the CAC would like to testify about how well the Department is doing to meet its professional quality standards.



What is a Citizen Advocate?/Tammy Halligan

- The Citizen Advocate is a new position in the Department as required by the police reform legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly last year.
- The position serves as a victims' rights advocate for persons who have a claim against a police officer.
- The advocate will act as a liaison between the claimant and a trial board.
- Member Rivers asked if the advocate was there to help shepherd claimants through the process. Yes, that is role of the advocate.
- Member Harrity asked if the claimant was not satisfied with the outcome if they could appeal the trial board's decision? It was thought that the determinations of the trial board were final.
- Member Watkins asked how long it took to go through the trial board process. The time is variable. Howard County rarely has a trial board, though; possibly only three last year. The Department typically does not have many outside complaints. (Only 13 complaints last year.)

Old Business

Amendment to the Bylaws to Add Electronic Voting

- The Presiding Officer asked the Secretary to present the language to be added to the bylaws related to electronic voting. The subject language to be added:

“At the discretion of the Executive Board, if it is determined that non-attributable voting is possible, online, in-person, or a combination of online and in-person may be implemented in a manner that will protect the privacy of the members’ votes. Instructions and details of the voting process will be provided to the membership before voting takes place.”

- The Presiding Officer opened the floor to discussion on the proposed language. Member Happel asked to strike the word “possible” and replace it with the word “needed.” The Presiding Officer asked the Secretary to read the language with the updated wording. The amended language read as follows:

“At the discretion of the Executive Board, if it is determined that non-attributable voting is **needed**, online, in-person, or a combination of online and in-person may be implemented in a manner that will protect the privacy of the members’ votes. Instructions and details of the voting process will be provided to the membership before voting takes place.”

- The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had any other changes to the language. Hearing none she called for a motion to approve the update to the bylaws as amended. Member Rivers moved to approved the language as amended; Member Levine seconded the motion. The updated language to the bylaws as amended was approved by unanimous vote.
- The Presiding Officer asked the Secretary to amend the bylaws and distribute them to the members.

The CAC Page on the County’s Website



- The Presiding Officer said that the County would allow the CAC to make some edits to our website. We will not be able to change the format, but we can make changes to the content. The Presiding Officer thanked Members Flaim and Patel for volunteering to serve on a team to update the website and asked for other volunteers to help.

New Business

- Member Levine is arranging for members of the CAC to take a tour of the Department's Community Outreach office in Columbia.
 - The Presiding Officer invited Member Levine to talk about the tour and his recent experience attending "Coffee with a Cop."
 - The tour will take place Friday, March 18 at 9:00a. Members interested in the tour should contact Member Levine.
 - The Presiding Officer thanked Member Levine for attending "Coffee with a Cop" and arranging the tour.
- The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had ideas for future presentations to the CAC.
 - Member Moore asked that the previous list of topics be distributed to the members.
 - Member Happel asked that we coordinate the list of topics with the new HCPD organizational structure.
 - The Vice Chair asked that members send their suggestions to the Executive Board to coordinate the briefing topics.
- Tami Bulla announced that the Oracle Building will reopen on April 4.

Adjournment

- The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had any other business to discuss.
 - Member Hickerson asked for the floor. She thanked everyone for all the kind words, cards, and for reaching out to her during her recent incident.
- Member Rivers moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Hickerson made a second to the motion. The motion was carried.

The Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 8:24p.

The Howard County Police Department, Citizens' Advisory Council stands in adjournment until
April 20, 2022 at 7:00p.

Minutes taken by Steven Bolen, Secretary.

Eileen Harrity
Chair (*Presiding Officer*)

Paul Rivers
Vice-Chair

Jim Happel
Board Member-at-Large

Susan Watkins
Immediate Past Chair