



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

**Minutes
June 15, 2022**

Opened: 7:10p
 Closed: 8:25p
 Location: Hybrid: Gateway Facility/Virtual (Zoom)

Eileen Harrity, Chair, HCPD CAC, Presiding Officer, brought the meeting to order at 7:10p.

Welcome and Call to Order

The Presiding Officer welcomed the members and HCPD personnel including Alex Rosensweet, new Internal Communications officer (note: he's also good with IT).

Roll Call

Member Roll Call:
 June 15, 2022

	CAC Member		CAC Member		CAC Member
	Larry Aaronson (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 Buehler	✓	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		
✓	Andrew Hall	✓	Steve Pidliskey		
✓	Jim Happel	✓	Tim Pierce		
✓	Eileen Harrity	✓	Jerry Wykoff		

(E) Denotes Emeritus Status

	Applicants	
	Eric Clark	(3)
✓	Elke Pieters	(2)



- HCPD staff in Attendance: Chief of Staff Jones, Alex Rosensweet. Lt Thomas was away at a conference.
- Special Guest(s)/Presentation(s): Tami Bulla, Body Worn Camera status and comments on the Officer Accountability Board and HCPD Budget.
- Other Guests in Attendance: Elke Pieters, CAC Applicant.
- Sami Saydjari informed the Chair that he plans to resign. He is moving from the state.
- Eric Clark informed Jim Happel that he would be absent to attend his son's school promotion ceremony.

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.
- CAC members were meeting in-person and virtually this evening.
- The Chair welcomed Jerry Wykoff as a full member of the CAC.
- The Presiding Officer again acknowledged new applicant Elke Pieters who partners with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Approval of the Minutes

The Presiding Officer opened the floor for discussion on the May 18, 2022 Minutes. Sandy Cederbaum was added as attending and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chief's Report (provided by the COS)

Wayne Jones

- The Department will hire 24 new patrol officers within the next fiscal year. These were budgeted by the County Executive, the first positions approved in 10 years.
- The next Academy class will start in July and will have 20+ cadets. After six months of classes they will continue training in the field with patrol officers.
- HCPD is currently offering sign-on bonuses for both entry level and lateral moves.
- HCPD pay is competitive with Anne Arundel county being the closest competitor.
- The written Chief's Report content is currently under review for including more information including crime statistics as requested by some CAC members.
- In order to read the HCPD Crime Statistics by quarter go to:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/police/crime-statistics>

Old Business

New Member Status:

- Applicant Jerry Wykoff was recognized as a full member of the CAC.



- Nancy Wu expressed an interest in joining CAC. Jim Happel emailed background information to her.

CAC Presentation Topics

- The Chairperson presented the survey results on presentation topics. The survey results are included as an attachment.
- Jim Happel noted that the Crime Analysis topic was not quite the same as general Crime Statistics.
- The list presents the top voted subjects in order of votes, and will be used by the HCPD liaison's to schedule future speakers.

CAC 30th Anniversary Celebration

- The 30th Anniversary Celebration survey results were presented by the Chairperson. The results are attached. After some discussion about the format of the event (Celebration only, Service/Celebration), Andrew Hall suggested a Celebration with a collection (e.g. Food bank, Grassroots). He further noted that a low energy approach (collection) would likely encourage a better turnout and would also encourage attendance by guests with less logistical issues. Other organizations for target donations such as HC Police Foundation were suggested.
- The Chair put the joint celebration/collection concept to a vote by the membership and it passed unanimously.
- Wayne Jones will address the possible funding support from HCPD.
- The Chair will reconvene the committee after Wayne Jones speaks to the Chief about the funding ,a to begin identifying a cause, and suitable date and location, and all details.

Member Attendance

There was only one volunteer, Camela Williams, for an attendance policy revision committee. There will be a meeting on July 29 to draft the revised policy.

CAC Website

The final draft of the CAC website is under review by HCPD Public Affairs. The committee with meet with Public Affairs on Friday, June 24 for a final discussion. The website changes will be sent to the CAC members prior to the next meeting and feedback solicited outside of the meeting since in July we will have two presentations.

Election of CAC Secretary

Tim Pierce accepted the nomination for CAC secretary and was elected in an online vote overseen by Steve Pidliskey. The Chair announced his appointment.



New Business

Body Worn Camera (Tami Bulla)

Tami encouraged community interface and liaison recommending face to face contact and not social media. She also suggested that CAC could help with this. She also recounted the tremendous help CAC provided in the research on Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and their recommendation for a pilot project in 2017. The CAC was tasked directly by the Howard County Council.

The HCPD technical review for the use of BWC looked at other organizations and how they used the cameras. Two cameras were used in the pilot, Axon and Utility by Body Worn Utility. HCPD also brought on a professor from Loyola University to assist with the evaluation. The key advantage of the cameras is to provide irrefutable evidence.

She outlined three barriers to overcome in the value added employment of the cameras:

Cost

Need for added personnel

Need for more physical space.

It takes a great deal of work to get a camera system up and running and there are many “moving parts”.

In terms of the recorded video, structure and format are important and hand editing is a major requirement to redact data for privacy or security issues. In spite of the barriers, the overall transparency of the camera use is very good. So far there are few officer complaints.

Downloading, storing and interfaces are critical to maintaining an effective system. Ten new personnel have been hired to manage the system. This includes personnel to oversee data downloading, personnel to do necessary editing, physical logistics and proper handling of digital evidence. Double the number of cameras needed have been purchased so that when a camera is returned after a shift for download, the officer can leave with a fresh camera for his or her next shift assignment. Officer training has now been completed and cameras for 300 officers have now been purchased with a target of 509. It is important to note that during this initial rollout, patrol officers will be equipped with the cameras. Eventually, SROs and detectives (including undercover when in uniform) will also be equipped. The cameras purchased also exceed the capability of those used in the pilot program and are considered 3rd generation cameras. For tactical officers, a helmet-mounted camera will be used vs. the cell phone sized camera for patrol officers.

Policy and process documentation has been done. An example of policy is that officers are to announce (if possible or as soon as feasible) that first contact interaction is being recorded.

Cameras are going to be replaced at 2.5 year intervals and are very sturdy and shock resistant. One of the CAC members asked about concealed cameras. It was noted that they are very expensive (about 4 to 5X the cost) and that the public would likely prefer more visible cameras.



In time, CAC will get a demonstration on the camera system. HCPD plans to go live near the end of June.

Police Accountability Board (Tami Bulla)

Tami gave an overview of the status of the new PAB. Seven citizens have been named to the board by the county executive and approved by the county council. It is a diverse group. HCPD sees this board as another tool in law enforcement. Once Internal Affairs completes an investigation, it then goes to the Accountability Board for review and recommendations. There will be a full time liaison between HCPD and the board. She suggested that we may see more trial boards. The board goes live on July 1.

HCPD Budget News (Tami Bulla)

Tami reiterated that 24 new patrol officers will be added this fiscal year with one more added for the BWC program. She also spoke of the number of officers to be outfitted initially and the total once the system is fully deployed. Undercover officers and detectives will be equipped in the second phase of deployment, as well as more citizen personnel to manage the redaction, etc. All the budgetary requirements for this fiscal year have been approved.

Zoom software issue

The chair brought up the issue of the Zoom software. To date, CAC has been using a personal copy of the software to support the meetings but this is not a workable idea going forward. Ideally, CAC should have its own purchase copy of the software that can be used by the chair or their designee for meetings. Again, there is no budget for such a purchase. Alex Rosensweet suggested possibly using Teams and noted that Webex is the tool of choice by HCPD. So there is a need to determine what virtual meeting package we will use going forward and need to own it as a permanent solution. The chair mentioned that a TEAMS link was provided by Adrienne but in a trial, did not enable the board to meet, instead all were outside in the "waiting room". Alex Rosensweet will follow up with the Chair to problem solve and pursue the best alternative and move forward quickly.

Adjournment

The Presiding Officer asked if anyone had any other business to discuss. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

The Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 8:25p.



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

Minutes taken by Jim Happel, Member at Large.

Eileen Harrity
Chair (*Presiding Officer*)

Steve Bolen
Vice-Chair

Jim Happel
Board Member-at-Large

Susan Watkins
Immediate Past Chair