

Community Policing Board
August 21, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Edmond City Hall
City Hall Conference Room A
22 E. Main Street, Edmond, OK

Minutes

1) Call to order.

- a) Time: 18:32
- b) Present: J. Alsup, A. Edmonds, D. Deuel, L. Ferguson, S. Tohlen, H. Varacchi, S. Whipple, J. Younger; Grayson Briley (guest), Amy Dudleson (guest), Melissa Green (guest), Sami Hare (guest), Sandra Hodgerson (guest), Moriah Norman (guest), Faithanna Olsson (guest), Lauren Riepl (guest), Donna Sanchez (guest), Chrisy de la Torre (guest)

2) Discussion and Consideration of the approval of the May 15, 2025 Community Policing Board Meeting minutes

- a) Motion to approve L. Ferguson, H. Varacchi seconds.

3) Chief's Update

- a) In reference to EPD Annual Report 2024, Chief noted crimes against people are down (-10.16%) and crimes against property are down (-14.67%). Current downward trend may be due in part to encouraging people to take valuables and belongings inside rather than leaving them in their vehicles. Titles ('Crimes Against People', 'Crimes Against Property', and 'Crimes Against Society') are designated by the Fed Bureau of Investigation. In 2024, average response times were below that of peer cities: emergency calls (3:25), non-emergency calls (4:58). In reference to EPD Quarter 2 Report, Chief noted the numbers for both crimes against people and property trending down, below the 5-year average. Small numbers can make big percentage swings, hence why EPD pays attention to the 5-year trend.
- b) Question from L. Ferguson, are response times changing as population expands towards city limits. Answer from Chief, as more people move to peripheries of Edmond, response times may be impacted.
- c) Question from S. Tohlen, will EPD help patrol interstate per announcement of Oklahoma Highway Patrol shortage. Answer from Chief, EPD has a great partnership with OHP, is paying attention to the

situation, and is waiting to verify legality of commissioner's request. While OHP responds to more than crashes, EPD is waiting for crash data and Attorney General's opinion.

- d) Follow up questions from J. Alsup, will Oklahoma follow suit with funding per mileage as in experience with Colorado Highway Patrol, and will drug and human trafficking interdiction duties fall to EPD. Answer from Chief, waiting to see impact on funding formula, and scope of request accounting for other ripples such as functions in construction zones. OHP should maintain all relationships with federal task forces.
- e) Follow up question from S. Tohlen, who will above mentioned data be provided by. Answer from Chief, Oklahoma Department of Public Safety.
- f) Follow up question from H. Varacchi, who provides satellite map updates. Answer from Chief, internal IT department.

4) Discussion and Consideration of Blue Envelope Program

- a) In reference to item introduced at CPB's April 2025 meeting, D. Deuel provided update that Chief Younger has discussed program implementation with metro area chiefs. As of August meeting, seven primary agencies have signed on and are engaged in the initial planning stage. Program set to kick off in October.
- b) Comment from J. Alsup, fully supportive of the program.
- c) Comment from Chief, the addition of this program is consistent with existing initiatives.
- d) Motion to formally endorse program J. Alsup, H. Varacchi seconds.
- e) All approve, motion passes.

5) Discussion and Consideration of the Implementation of "Teen Driver & Traffic Stop"

Information Card (e.g. what you need to do/have if you get pulled over)

- a) In reference to item reintroduced at CPB's May 2025 meeting, L. Ferguson noted that this remains a good idea to implement as a resource.
- b) Comment from D. Deuel, board could collaborate with EPD marketing and SROs.
- c) Recommendation from Chief, engage Lt. Kendall Miller and Lt. Todd Strader in discussion.
- d) Motion from D. Deuel to collaborate with EPD marketing and SROs towards further research and implementation of information card.
- e) Motion to approve A. Edmonds, S. Tohlen seconds.
- f) All approve, motion passes.

6) Discussion of the Faith & Blue weekend initiatives

- a) D. Deuel noted that as part of Faith & Blue weekend, Victory Church of Edmond (Danforth and Kelly) intends to engage EPD with their Trunk-or-Treat event. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (9th and Boulevard) to celebrate a Blue Mass in September.
- b) Question from J. Alsup, what is the Faith & Blue initiative. Answer from Chief, a national initiative to create opportunities for engagement between police departments and houses of worship.

7) Discussion and Consideration regarding “Safe Deal Zones”

- a) D. Deuel introduced suggestion from J. Alsup for EPD to facilitate a Safe Deal Zone: a public area, often located at a police station, designated as a secure, monitored location for face-to-face transactions for items bought and sold online. There is existing safe zone signage on the west side of Littler, obstructed by an overhanging tree.
- b) D. Deuel recommends moving signage to a highly visible, well-lit area with exterior-facing cameras, and marketing the initiative online.
- c) Question from J. Alsup, will there be designated parking spaces. Answer from Chief, defers to board for recommendation.
- d) Question from L. Ferguson, will there be an awareness campaign on social media. Answer from Chief, yes, pending board approval.
- e) Motion by D. Deuel to offer positive relocation and subsequent social media campaign.
- f) Motion by J. Alsup, H. Varacchi seconds.
- g) All approve, motion passes.

8) Discussion of future public safety staffing needs for the City of Edmond:

a) The growing trend civilianizing traditional sworn police positions.

b) The opportunities to leverage the knowledge and skills of retired personnel.

- a) D. Deuel introduced as suggestion from J. Alsup. Chief noted EPD currently has 189 filled positions, of which 135 are sworn and 54 are civilians. Of the 54 civilians, 3 are part time in Animal Services. As EPD grows their services with the needs of the community, they will consider which positions are best filled by civilians with advanced degrees and technical skills versus sworn officers. Hiring civilians in positions of support allows sworn officers more focus on their duties. There is a continual assessment of all factors that go into the evidence-based equation about how staffing determinations are made.

- b) Question from J. Alsup, is there demand for cold case investigations. Answer from Chief, at time of question, all homicide cases are resolved and EPD maintains a partnership with OSBI for ongoing sexual assault cases.
- c) Question from L. Ferguson, are there roles for retirees. Answer from Chief, the city is contracting security for city hall and court. Must consider pension and benefit concerns for part time roles.
- d) Comment from J. Alsup, favors being proactive rather than reactive citing Boise, Idaho police ambassador program that evolved from unsolved homicides. Comment from Chief, the discussion has merit. Surrounding departments have implemented ambassador-style roles based on need.
- e) Question from H. Varacchi, about pension years and retirement age. Answer from Chief, eligible for pension after 20 years and retirement after 30 years.

9) Discussion and Consideration of annual Community Conversations event

a) Topic: How our public schools and local law enforcement work together to keep your children safe

b) Proposed Name of Event: “Partners in Protection”

c) Proposed Date of Event: October 2, 2025

- a) D. Deuel introduced proposed location and panel invitees; asked board for assistance in delivering collateral, disseminating information, and selecting 8-10 questions for panelists.
- b) Question from J. Alsup, possibility of extending invitation to representatives from juvenile corrections and child services to speak on panel. Answer from Chief, defers to board to determine scope of conversation.
- c) Question from H. Varacchi, will public school focus account for concerns of private school parents. Answer from D. Deuel, conversation will highlight the partnership between EPD and community on the broadest scale.
- d) Motion to approve by L. Ferg; S. Tohlen seconds.
- e) All approve, motion passes.

10) Debrief of 2nd Annual Junior Police Chief Essay Contest

- a) D. Deuel noted the success of the contest, citing enthusiasm from schools, participation from students, and content of essays.
- b) Comment from L. Ferguson, recognition ceremony during Heard on Hurd also successful.

11) Report from Community Policing Board Members.

- a) Comment from J. Alsup, shared article from Edmond Life & Leisure: UCO & EPD forge new partnership to enhance careers in law enforcement (July 21, 2025).
- b) Comment from H. Varacchi, appreciation for Flock Safety transparency portal page on city website.

12) Discussion and Consideration of upcoming Board Officer election

- a) D. Deuel proposes board officer election schedule mirrors board term schedule.
- b) Motion to approve J. Alsup, S. Tohlen seconds.
- c) All in favor, motion passes.

13) Citizens' Comments

- a) D. Deuel invited comments in compliance with Meeting Rules of Edmond City Council. Request an item be added to the agenda by email: contact.epd.chief@edmondok.gov
- b) Comment from M. Norman, expressed disapproval of EPD's handling of her police report, from not being provided victims' rights to reports being released without redaction. Proposes a documentation step to confirm citizens are provided their rights; recommends EPD implement a third-party review of processes, including support and compliance.
- c) Comment from L. Riepl, expressed disappointment in the handling of an incident she reported to an SRO officer 17 years ago; recommends compassionate training.
- d) Comment from D. Deuel, encouraging citizen emails to add as agenda items to future CPB meetings.

14) Adjournment

Time of adjournment: 19:50