

DRAFT

CITY OF FORT PIERCE

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular Meeting - Thursday, October 17, 2019 - 3:30 p.m.

Fort Pierce City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 100 N US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL

Present: Melvin Jones, Sr.; Charles Hayek; James Edwards; Dr. Pinkie Hendley

Absent: Henry Duhart

Staff Present: Chief of Police Diane Hobley-Burney
Sergeant Jason Braun

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. OPENING PRAYER

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 8, 2019 meeting.

Motion was made by Melvin Jones, Sr., seconded by James Edwards to approve minutes of the August 15, 2019 meeting.

AYE: Charles Hayek, James Edwards, Melvin Jones, Sr., Dr. Pinkie Hendley
Passed

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please sign the sign-up sheet in order to speak. Please limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Police Community Advisory Board will not be able to take any official action under "Comments from the Public" section.

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

a.

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on setting community meeting dates to start after the first of the year. Establish the structure of the meetings and identify locations to hold the meetings.

Staff Hobbey-Burney suggests doing three meetings in the City, one for Lincoln Park, South side of the City and Beach area respectively, so community can get to know committee members and also to implement training and have share moments. Introduced possibility of doing citizen academies, which would be at the Police Department. Member Hendley concurs with a meet and greet with citizens prior to each session, with a possibility of citizens from each area interacting. Member Hayek would like to see a slideshow of pictures that were taken during the citizen ambassadors training.

Member Hendley addressed her concerns over the misinformation in the community regarding policing, and that it is different from community to community. Would like to give the community an opportunity to ask questions of the police, with both citizens and Police present. Staff Hobbey-Burney suggests back to back meetings so it stays consistent overall. Members discussed their availability for meeting days. Member Hayek proposes meeting at the beach where Crime Watch meetings are held, so Committee members can get comfortable interacting with citizens. Other possible meeting locations discussed were the Fenn Center, the old PAL Center, the YMCA Building or the Women's Center.

- b. Discussion on setting a mission and agenda for the Committee as we move into 2020.

Member Hayek and Staff Hobbey-Burney discussed meeting direction so far and the possibility of the upcoming community meetings giving the Committee more direction on discussion topics. The Mission will be revisited.

Member Hendley and Staff Hobbey-Burney discussed Committee Members getting contact information for Shift Supervisors and shift schedule, also spoke of Officers checking in with businesses as time allows on their shifts, to build community relations and support.

- c. Review of Marcy's Law and the Department's procedure for handling the new law.

Staff Braun discussed Police Department's handling of Marcy's Law, a new Constitutional Amendment providing enhanced protection for victims, and that also states certain protections that are not automatic- victim has to make request. Members were provided with the Insert Template included in Victim's Rights pamphlet- Officers hand out these pamphlets on scene.

d. Update on the Department's block training.

Staff Braun answered Member Hendley's request regarding Department's training for active shooters, that training is done in three phases. Community based training, for entities that request it, covers initial un-armed response, what the individual does when confronted with a situation in their immediate surrounding; Officer response, in how they approach these scenarios and incidents; Save training, rescue and recovery phase once a threat is no longer active.

Member Jones inquired about the Department's Policy on a Welfare Checks, a-kin to the incident in Texas. Staff Braun answered that each situation is case by case situational dependent, but noted that Officers did not announce in Texas incident. Department addresses these types of incidents regularly. An example given was a recent story in the media regarding a citizen that attempted "suicide by cop", but was talked down by the Officer.

e. Review of the Department's monthly report.

Staff Hoble-Burney presented Members with an overview of call volume and types of calls the Department handled for the past thirty (30) days, that this can be made a part of each of the meetings. Members will be given a copy of the Department's zone map, to be better familiarized with the different beats/zones.

Member Hayek inquired about comparison charts done by month, to the year before. Staff Hoble-Burney informed him that there are weekly intelligence meetings, where major cases, calls for service and such are discussed. Also covered is the follow up by Crime Prevention to give safety tips and other information. The City Manager and City Commissioners gets an overview of everything every month. Also discussed was the physical growth of the city, by properties being annexed, while the Police Force has not grown to match, spreading the Officers thin, as the City grows the Department has to grow too.

f. Discussion on how the deployment of electric rental scooters have affected the community.

Staff Hopley-Burney putting together complaints and concerns from Citizens to bring to the attention of the Owners and the City. Although a license is needed to rent/ride the scooters, children have been seen riding them. Riders have also been seen at night, and the scooter do not have lights on them. Department will be checking on status of the scooter rental business that was supposed to have been closed. Staff Braun spoke of riders that appear to taunt drivers and run, and that do not obey traffic rules, that it becomes a safety issue for everybody. Officers have been instructed to not pursue motorcycle/riders. Staff Braun asked to be emailed if any Committee Member gets complaints regarding the scooters.

- g. Review of upcoming community events the Department will be hosting.

Trunk or Treat, Officers decorate their trunks and go to different areas of the city. It was a hit last year, there were people that followed the cars from location to location. There will be Thanksgiving Dinner deliveries throughout the community, this is done every year, Members were asked to give out contact information for people that would like to be on the delivery list.

The Jessica Clinton free heart screening, provided for children fiver (5) to twenty (20) years old. In memory of Jessica Clinton that had a heart attack while competing. There was a lot of participation from Fort Pierce, but our efforts need to be stepped up. There were a number of peopled registered but did not show up, this year we can stress that citizens need to register and show up.

Santa Cop & Shop with a Cop. Santa Cop is held at the Police Department and children come and collect gifts and have a picture taken with Santa. Shop with a Cop is held at Wal-Mart, a child is partnered with an Officer, they receive a gift card and then they go shopping. We try to reach out to the children that have been affected by crime and to children in families in need to participate. Staff Braun gave Members the name of the person to contact at the Department with the names of children that would like to participate, Audria Moore-Wells, Public Affairs Manager.

Member Hendley asked for information to be forwarded for if there were any Officers that would be interested in doing a walk/run for First Responders in Martin County, on November 2nd. She would like to see our Officers run against them.

9. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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None.

10. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff Hobbey-Burney informed Members of an EOC complaint filed by Ralph Keith Holmes against the City, the Department and the Chief. Mr. Holmes also filed a complaint alleging Chief Hobbey-Burney was illegally hired, and she in turn illegally hired Deputy Chief Norris and other individuals that came from Tampa. Members were informed that reporter Megan Roberts will be doing a story on these complaints/allegations.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

a. Member Hendley provided staff and other Members with a program for People with Disabilities Who are Victims of a Crime, that talks about doing disability training for law enforcement agencies, including mental illness.

In response to Member Jones inquiry, Member Hendley spoke of a recent settlement of the liability involved if there is no security present at an establishment. That maybe there can be some education towards this.

b. Member Edwards asked Members to remember the family of Elijah Cummings who passed earlier in the day.

c. Member Jones inquired about the recent shooting and deaths, and about what can be done to “close this place down”, regarding the area the incident took place.

Staff Hobbey-Burney responded that the business was looked into and is operating within the rules.

d. Member Hayek commented on a precedence, another business that was declared a public nuisance and the building was torn down, in response to Member Jones inquiry and Staff Hobbey-Burney response.

Member Hayek spoke of an upcoming event at Lawnwood Stadium, “A Line to See Jesus”. There will be a live nativity, with a number of churches involved, tents will be available. Presents will be collected for Toys for Tots and The Fort Pierce Police Department. Member Hayek asked that the word be spread in the community for this event.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Melvin Jones, Sr., seconded by James Edwards to adjourn at 6:01 PM.

AYE: Charles Hayek, James Edwards, Melvin Jones, Sr., Dr. Pinkie Hendley
Passed

