

CITY OF FORT PIERCE
POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Regular Meeting - Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 3:30 p.m.

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

Present: Melvin Jones, Sr.; Bob Burdge; Charlie Hayek

Absent: Betty Bradwell; Quincy Barr

Staff Present: Chief of Police, David Smith
Acting Deputy Chief, Caleb Gillette
Deputy City Clerk, Lisa Gittens

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. 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.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Minutes from February 12th, 2026 Police Community Advisory Committee Meeting.

Motion was made by Melvin Jones, Sr., seconded by Charlie Hayek to approve the Minutes of the February 12th, 2026 meeting.

AYE: Bob Burdge, Charlie Hayek, Melvin Jones, Sr.

Passed

6. OLD BUSINESS

Bob Burdge expressed concerns about residents paying city taxes and the potential of still being charged for enforcement services within HOA communities.

Chief David Smith noted that the traffic enforcement agreement is still under review. It remains unclear whether the police department has the authority to enforce traffic laws within HOA communities, given that these roads are privately owned.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Charlie Hayek to the Committee.

Staff and committee members congratulated and welcomed Charlie Hayek to the committee.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

The Chief shared that he is still in the process of assessing and acclimating to the city, and emphasized the committee's role as a vital liaison between the community and the police department. He noted that committee members bring valuable insight and credibility, enabling them to effectively share information with residents while also relaying emerging concerns back to the department.

He also stated that the police department is planning to host district-based town halls, targeted for April, to enhance community engagement and promote greater transparency.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Charlie Hayek asked Chief Smith whether there had been any discussion about reviving a Citizens Police Academy. The Chief expressed support for the idea, noting it could help improve public understanding of policing challenges and decision-making.

Melvin Jones inquired about the department's interactions with First Amendment auditors and how officers responds. Caleb Gillette explained that officers are trained in de-escalation techniques and in upholding constitutional rights during such encounters.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.