

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2020 @ 4:00PM
(Retired) Milton Lockett Jr., Community Room

Call to order

Chairperson Tyson Begly called to order the regular meeting of the **Public Safety Advisory Committee** at 4:07 p.m.

The following persons were present: Dr. Dothel Edwards Jr., Donald Watkins, Bill Ward, Scott Taft and Tyson Begly.

Absence: Byron Hickey, Geraldine Buckner, Julio Portillo, Pete Temesgen.

Visitors: Councilperson C. Crabb, Andrea Winston, CEO, New Horizon's, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade

Chair Tyson Begley Welcomed the Committee

Chairperson Tyson Begly welcomed the committee. Mr. Begly acknowledge two new members of the committee: Father Noel Danielewicz (District #3) and Lisa Branchcomb (District #7).

A lengthy discussion on current initiatives and topics for 2020, as highlighted below.

- **Marshall/Sheriff consolidation:** We revisited some of the pros/cons that led to our suggestion with some of the new and returning members.
- **Officer Shortage:**
 - Tyson continues to try to work with Captain Rawn for more information
 - Previous pay studies were mentioned, but we do not know how to obtain them
 - Current status has improved due to recent initiatives to shorten the hiring process. Would like to get detailed status update of officer count and of new expected cars.
 - Shortage affects other initiatives (as mentioned below). In future conversations need to understand police force size needed to allocate more officers to bike patrol and community policing initiatives.
- **Lengthy jail times before indictment:**
 - Jail has headcount, but doesn't know the judicial process status of each person
 - Reports show the counts of backlog for each judge, but the judicial process may not be ready for the judge to review
 - Other options to reduce jail population would be to only provide a citation for certain misdemeanors and less
 - Bill Ward and Tyson Begly to research root cause of the backlog further
- **Mental health impact to public safety:**
 - New Horizons spoke to PSAC in November about their services
 - New Horizons would like to speak again in 2020 to specifically discuss their jail services
- **Community Policing:** Discussed the success of Turnaround Columbus, and how it is impacted due to the officer shortage
- **Bike Patrol:** Discussed the importance of patrolling the 36 miles of the Dragonfly trail, but officers have been pulled off due to shortage. Our peer cities such as Carrollton have 8 bike officers on their path
- **Ambulance service:** Discussed whether a private contract for all ambulance services would be cost effective, and whether it is in the scope of PSAC

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Adjournment

Mr. Tyson Begly thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

PSAC Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 4 p.m., in the Milton Lockett Jr., Public Safety Building Community Room.

Deborah Gasaway
Recording Secretary

Submitted by: Deborah Gasaway Approved: April 16, 2020