

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 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 4:04 p.m.

The following persons were present: Byron Hickey, Father Noel Danielewicz, Donald Watkins, Bill Ward, Julio Portillo, and Tyson Begly.

Absence: Dr. Dothel Edwards Jr., Geraldine Buckner, Lisa Branchcomb, Scott Taft, and Pete Temesgen.

Minutes Approved - 1st Motion by Donald Watkins, 2nd Motion by Bill Ward.

Chair Tyson Begly 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 were discussed.

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:

Chairman Tyson Begly continues to try to work with Captain Rawn for more information.

Previous pay studies have been mentioned, but the committee cannot obtain them at this time.

Status has improved 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.

Discussion on options to reduce jail population. Idea to only to provide a citation for certain misdemeanors or less.

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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 discuss their jail services.

Community Policing:

Discussed the success of Turnaround Columbus, and how it is has been impacted due to the officer shortage

Bike Patrol:

Discussed the importance of patrolling the 36 miles of the Dragonfly trail. A lengthy discussion on the shortage of officers pulled off this detail. Our peer cities such as Carrollton have 8 (eight) bike officers on their bike 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.

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

PSAC Meeting, Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 4 p.m., in the Milton Lockett Jr., Public Safety Building Community Room.

Deborah Gasaway
Recording Secretary

Submitted by: Deborah Gasaway Approved: 2-20-20