

Public Safety Advisory Commission – Columbus, GA
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/17/2022
Location: Virtual Meeting
Start time: 4:00 PM
Adjournment time: 4:50 PM
Next meeting: April 21, 2022
Meeting Recorder: Annalisa Shelling

Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Rohwedder, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Watkins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pete Temesgen, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Swiney |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Hickey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Branchcomb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belvin Millner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexander King |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Taft | |

There were not enough members present for a quorum. The February Meeting Minutes were not approved due to not enough members in attendance. The members present discussed the following:

- **David Rohwedder** mentioned the City Council Meeting that Lt. Ralph Dowe (FOP President) spoke at. He stated that he wants to see Chief Blackmon succeed and have all resources available to him. He stated that he would follow up with Mayor Henderson in reference to the PSAC conducting a survey. He stated that he would like to call a special meeting before the April 21, 2022 meeting to discuss the survey further. He stated he thinks the survey maybe part of Anker's plan.
- **Byron Hickey** stated that Lt. Ralph Dowe told him that he tried to reach out to Mayor Henderson multiple times and could not get a meeting with him. He stated that the council meeting presentation was unfair because the Mayor and City Manager deflected the actual issues and turned Dowe's presentation into something it wasn't. Byron stated that retention issues have never been this bad at CPD. He stated that he thinks the Public Safety Advisory Committee conducting a survey of CPD employees is an excellent idea. He stated that the race card was pulled at the City Council Meeting. He stated that the officers and the citizens are not safe. He stated

that sometimes the city council must hear the truth to actually get the information out. He also stated that the city has done multiple pay studies and they never follow through with them. He stated that the reality is CPD has 488 allocated sworn positions and approximately 302 of them are filled. He stated that some shifts only have approximately 11 to 15 officers patrolling the city. He stated that the Mayor was given the FOP survey information approximately a week prior to the council meeting and that Mayor Henderson stated “he did not completely review it”. Byron stated that the PSAC must be careful of any influence from the City Government. He stated for the survey to be fair that we must be sure that there is no influence on the questions.

- **Stan Swiney** stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to get CSU to assist the Public Safety Advisory Commission to conduct a survey. He stated that it would be good to find the commonality of why some people are staying? He stated he would like to see what the PSAC can do to assist with retention. He stated he would like to see the survey done before the election. He stated that some members of the city council do not care about public safety.
- **Scott Taft** stated that if the Mayor and City Manager did not have time to review the FOP’s survey they still had time to create replies and a PowerPoint Presentation in response.
- **Lisa Branchcomb** stated that she thinks the PSAC should meet with city council representatives to discuss ideas and suggestions that the commission has. She stated that she has been on the PSAC Board for 3 years and she has not seen a real change except that the PSAC now receives copies of incident reports. She stated that she would like to see change and see the city be safe.

End of Meeting – 4:50 PM