

Date: August 16, 2021

To: Steve Schaar, Chief of Police  
Tom Pagel, City Administrator

From: Jim Martinetto, Police Community Advisory Board Member

### Letter of Resignation

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from the Police Community Advisory Board. After attending only two meetings and having reviewed the PCAB mission statement and by-laws, I have concluded this Board doesn't meet the needs of the police department to provide services to our community. The Board can make recommendations, but has no authority of its own to implement changes. The Board meets quarterly in basically a discussion setting with the same small group of people each time.

I believe the intent of the Board is to enhance overall good community relations between the police department and the citizens of our community. I believe good community relations are ongoing now and can be further enhanced. I believe good community relations are better accomplished with varied groups, at varied times and in varied locations.

Some examples of current good community relations that I am aware of are:

- \*Crime prevention efforts
- \*DARE Program
- \*School Liaison Officers
- \*Police Reserve Program
- \*National Night Out
- \*Child Safety Seat Program
- \*Friendly police presence at community events- this is currently a long list
- \*ICC Career Day
- \*Teaching a segment of driver training

Some ways to enhance good community relations are:

- \*Crime prevention efforts- the door hanger program we used to have
- \*"Coffee With a Cop" at various locations in the community with various employees
- \*Encouraging police department employees to serve on local boards/ committees
- \*Requesting to be included in community panel discussions
- \*Public speaking and teaching

The Police Department staff spends a fair amount of time creating agendas, attending meetings, keeping records, providing IT support, etc. for the PCAB. This time and effort could be distributed across many different community relations programs. I believe a good discussion should take place to justify the continued existence of this board.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Police Community Advisory Board. After having a rewarding career with the Grand Rapids Police Department, I still have an interest in how they provide law enforcement services in our community.