

MINUTES - Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Chairman: Jon Reaud

Vice-Chairman: Shawn Javed

Members:

Dwight Benoit, John Dean, Carlos Hernandez, Sohaib Jabbar, Shawn Javed, Glen Johnson, Will Landry, Roy McGrath, Brian Nepveux, Lashon Proctor, Jon Reaud, Rodney Robichau, Frances Graham, William "Bill" Sam, Thomas Sigeo

Call to order by Community Advisory Committee: Chairperson Jon Reaud

March 20, 2024 - 1:00 p.m: A normal meeting of the Police Community Advisory Committee was held in the Beaumont Police Conference Room

Members in attendance:

Dwight Benoit, Frances Graham, Carlos Hernandez, Shawn Javed, Glen Johnson, Will Landry, Roy McGrath, Brian Nepveux, Lashon Proctor, Bill Sam, Jon Reaud, Rodney Robichau

Members not in attendance: John Dean, Sohaib Jabbar, Thomas Sigeo

Members of the Police Department in attendance:

Chief Ocnaschek, Chief Jeffcoat, Chief Plunkett, Capt. Laird, Capt. Tyler, Sgt. Swope, Sgt. Romero, Ofc. Williams, Judi Rawls, Emma Nelson

Guests in Attendance:

Mayor Roy West Councilman Randy Feldschau, Councilman Chris Durio, Vicki Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer – Reverend Dwight Benoit

Moment of Silence for fallen officers

Roll Call – Vice-Chairman Javed

Jon Reaud began by addressing Bill Sam's suggestion for internal department speakers to talk about time sensitive information. This is in contrast to guest speakers who are more educational and topical. The goal would be for the committee to be empowered with information they can take to their communities.

Chief Jeffcoat introduced guests: Sgt. Swope and Sgt. Romero as well as Ofc. Rodrick Williams as guest speaker. Ofc. Williams began by speaking on the recruitment process. He explained that this was a talk they give to schools of all age brackets around Beaumont. He addressed the changes made to the JRAT (Job Related Abilities Test). Will Landry asked for clarifying details about the timeline of the JRAT, LIT, and BPD hiring process.

Ofc. Williams spoke about their presence in high schools. They try to explain that internet is forever, so be careful of what you post. They emphasize that a perfect past is not necessary. He pointed out the need to break barriers with black students who have been taught to

fear the police. Will Landry pushed back on military age being 18, while police is 21. Ofc. Williams explained that the work of law enforcement within cities and neighborhoods is very different than military work. Military is more structured, and police requires different skills. He personally feels like out of high school, young adults are too young and could make immature decisions or feel traumatized. He encouraged the committee to reach out to these young people, as they will often not hear it from parents or family members. Will Landry and Carlos Hernandez began asking specific questions about the police contract, which were answered by Chief Plunkett. Carlos Hernandez inquired about Hispanic officers. Ofc. Williams named several individuals and stated that there were many more. Sgt. Swope then spoke about the school reading programs and how Ofc. Beattie has brought police books in Spanish. Ofc. Beattie has also gone to three or four Hispanic churches for youth outreach.

The conversation about recruitment continued and Jon Reaud asked what would draw people to Beaumont over other agencies. Ofc. Williams explained that BPD's extensive training was one of the major draws, as well as the business. Smaller departments often mainly have simple calls, so this makes negative situations harder. Rev. Dwight Benoit said that he has conveyed to his community what he learned through Capt. Tyler. This was that BPD hires those who can go through the process and are qualified. This includes both the written and physical exams. BPD would love more diversity, but they must hire who makes it through. He knows this now and helps explain it to others. Will Landry asked what area of the department was in most need of help. Ofc. Williams said patrol. BPD is always seeking ways to make the most of their limited patrol manpower and resources. More brainstorming about recruiting outreach took place.

Meeting Ended: 2:25

Next Meeting: April 17, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the BPD Training Classroom

Minutes Taken by: by Emma Nelson/Community Outreach Specialist/Beaumont Police Department/Administration Division