



MINUTES: Police Community Relations & Review Commission

Date: May 18, 2023

Location: Oxford Courthouse, 118 W. High St.

Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Larry Nadler, Daniel Umbstead, Fritzi Wellman, and Egon Kraan

Members absent: Aimin Wang, LaTricia Hillman, and Edna Southard

Staff present: Chief John Jones

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Egon Kraan

2nd: Fritzi Wellman

Vote: 4-0-0

Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2023 PCRRC Meeting

Motion: Fritzi Wellman

2nd: Daniel Umbstead

Vote: 4-0-0

Old Business:

Fritzi Wellman announced she attended the Citizens Police Academy and found it to be eye opening and informative.

New Business:

A. Presentation of Yearly Data Report

Chief Jones pulled up the 2022 Data Report PowerPoint and presented the data. To begin, Chief Jones pointed out that due to system upgrades, the statistics do not begin to be counted until February 2022. Fritzi Wellman wanted to know the difference between criminal citations and arrests, to which Chief Jones explained that arrests are the physical arrest of a person and criminal citations are the number of violations a person is charged with. Egon Kraan wanted to know the correlation between the slides, using the example of eight (8) Asians were arrested and Asians received 111 citations. Chief Jones explained that the number of citations included both traffic and criminal citations. Larry Nadler wanted the chief to remind everyone about what the difference is between a minor misdemeanor and a misdemeanor, to which Chief Jones explained that a minor misdemeanor is not an arrestable offense and is punishable by a fine only. Egon Kraan also



wanted confirmation that the race listed was based on the officer's observation, to which Chief Jones confirmed that and stated that race is not listed on a driver's license.

Chief Jones advised that the Traffic Stop Zip Code Data slide needs to be corrected and will be updated prior to being uploaded to the city's website. There was some discussion about the validity of the zip code data because of the student population having both a home address and a school address and what zip code is actually listed when reporting the data. Daniel Umbstead suggested pulling the data from arrests, to which Chief Jones said he could look at that to see if the new upgrades to RMS allow that report to generate.

Egon Kraan said that he liked the report on the Social Services Liaison (SSL) position and thought it was helpful. He suggested that next year's data include the number of families that were connected with resources. He said he is hoping to see this function take away the burden from the officers.

Larry Nadler advised if OPD does not receive the grant from McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital that we apply for a grant from the Oxford Community Foundation. He believes it is important for the SSL position to have discretionary funds to help those in need.

B. Public Participation

Dr. Ratliff wanted to know if we had the racial breakdown in the felony charges to which Chief Jones stated we do not. Dr. Ratliff said they think the breakdown should be included in future reports.

Dr. Ratliff also wondered if the decrease in the number of arrests for 2022 could be partially attributed to the role of the SSL.

Furthermore, Dr. Ratliff pointed to the Arrest and Citations Trends data and questioned the decrease in the number of Asians arrested/cited between 2018/2019 and now, to which Doug Elliott advised that the Asian student/International student enrollment has drastically decreased since 2018/2019. Chief Jones replied that when officers encounter international students it is usually for traffic offenses.

Dr. Ratliff would still like census data to include Butler County data and Miami University data.

They noted that one of the commendations mentioned an incident involving an officer performing CPR where the patient did not make it and they wanted to know what type of aftercare was available to the officer. In response, Chief Jones said that officer wellness has been a hot topic in recent years and as a result, peer support systems and critical incident stress debriefing teams are in place. He noted that just this week one of our supporters gave each officer a book called "Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement" in



honor of Police Week. They wanted to make sure officers receive care after trauma so that they can be patient and clear-headed when dealing with community members.

Dr. Ratliff said that thinking about traffic stops and the at-fault and no-fault traffic crashes benchmark data, when an officer initiates a stop, in 11% of the stops, the person was black and with traffic crash data, 5% were black, which means officer initiated stops of black people are double than what is seen in benchmark data. Dr. Ratliff wanted to know how Chief understands that. Chief said the numbers have been consistent and he does not see an uptick in the trends. He said the officers are good at analyzing behavior and finding probable cause and not using other factors as a reason for a stop. Dr. Ratliff said just because the numbers are consistent does not mean there is no implicit bias. Dr. Ratliff said that it is important to keep an eye on and be aware of.

Larry Nadler admitted there are so many logistical challenges with benchmark data. He said at the next meeting they will discuss ways to assess data more effectively.

Lt. Geoff Robinson advised that using body worn cameras is an important thing we do to ensure transparency and noted that six terabytes of video are stored on our servers. He reported that the videos are randomly viewed to make sure the product we are putting out is a quality product and that we are treating our citizens with integrity.

Dr. Amber Franklin acknowledged we are having conversations that others are not having and as difficult as they are, we are doing important work.

C. Updates from Chief Jones

Chief Jones thanked the city for allowing him to attend the FBI National Academy and appreciated everyone holding down the fort while he was away.

Chief Jones thanked Officer Wagers and everyone who helped make the Citizens Police Academy successful.

Chief Jones reported that we are in the process of hiring a police officer and he would like a member of the PCRRC to sit in on interviews with three candidates. He advised he will email members to gauge interest.

He reported that at the last city council meeting Mayor Snavelly presented him with a Proclamation recognizing May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Larry Nadler asked about something he saw on Facebook on School Resource Officers and Chief Jones confirmed that due to funding, the Talawanda School District would not have SROs at any of their elementary schools next year.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2023 at 7 p.m.