



MINUTES: Police Community Relations & Review Commission

Date: September 26, 2024

Location: Oxford Courthouse, 118 W. High St.

Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Aimin Wang, Edna Southard, LaTricia Hillman, Egon Kraan, and Chris Skoglund

Members absent: Daniel Umbstead and Fritz Wellman

Staff present: Chief John Jones and City Manager Douglas Elliott

Approval of Agenda

Because Larry Nadler's term ended, the commission currently has no chair. Douglas Elliott recommended moving the "Election of New Officers" to the start of the meeting, which was agreed upon by the members. Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order, welcomed new commission member Chris Skoglund, and asked for nominations for the open chair position. A motion was made to nominate LaTricia Hillman as chair.

Motion: Edna Southard

2nd: Egon Kraan

Vote: 5-0-0

Since LaTricia Hillman was previously the vice chair, she nominated Egon Kraan to take over that role.

Motion: LaTricia Hillman

2nd: Aimin Wang

Vote: 5-0-0

With the change in the agenda, the agenda was approved.

Motion: Edna Southard

2nd: Chris Skoglund

Vote: 5-0-0

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2024 PCRRC Meeting

Motion: Edna Southard

2nd: Aimin Wang

Vote: 4-0-1

Public Comments

There were no public comments related to items not on the agenda.

Old Business

New Business



1. Approval of Yearly Report to City Council

With the change of the regularly scheduled meeting from August to September, Douglas Elliott reported that he had already distributed the Yearly Report to City Council. He advised that he could redistribute it if any amendments were needed, and/or someone from the commission could present the report at the first City Council meeting in October. Edna Southard wanted to know who wrote the report, to which it was advised that Larry Nadler wrote it. It was decided no changes were needed.

Motion: Chris Skoglund

2nd: Edna Southard

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Updates from Chief Jones

- Two newly hired police officers were currently attending the police academy.
- He has received one complaint against an officer regarding rudeness. After conducting a thorough investigation, part of the complaint was sustained (because the incident could have been handled better), part was unfounded (because the officer did not say what was alleged), and the officer received verbal counseling.
- Chief Jones reported on the arrest of the two subjects involved in the assault in front of Brick Street.
- The Frontline software was purchased and some officers have received training on it.
- Officers are continuing to work on the training plan.
- Officers and detectives are staying busy with the start of the new school year.

Chris Skoglund advised he receives the reports from OPD and noted that it appears incidents of violence are up in the schools, especially at Talawanda Middle School, to which Chief Jones said anecdotally, school threats are talked about a lot more in the media. He advised the department sees more behavioral issues in general. He advised that he thinks the school resource officers do a good job balancing between not being involved in school discipline and being there for safety purposes and supporting administration. Chief Jones said schools are required to report more this day in age and it may just seem like there is more going on. He said he was surprised about how many behavioral issues the elementary schools must address.

Edna Southard advised she attended the Living Room Conversations program that Amber Franklin had talked about and thought that it was worthwhile. Chris Skoglund and Egon Kraan also said they attended. Ms. Southard wanted to know what other communication efforts are occurring, to which Chief Jones advised that officers already do a lot of community engagement and while officers are willing to attend any meeting if invited, the police department is not taking the lead on scheduling anything. Lt. Robinson asked if he could speak on his community policing efforts with Miami University's football team, to which Chief Jones stated Lt. Robinson could



address it. Lt. Robinson said he sees parallels between the types of conversations he is having with the football players and the conversations that occur during Living Room Conversations.

LaTricia Hillman asked about updates on the new marijuana regulations. Mr. Elliott reported on the two dispensaries located within the city limits and Chief Jones reported that there have been discussions with Miami University regarding what message they want to share. Chief Jones reported they are working through the details, but said the department has not received any complaints of anyone smoking in public. He did state that a driver was recently arrested for OVI for being under the influence of marijuana and causing a crash.

LaTricia Hillman asked about suggestions for agenda topics for the next meeting, to which Chris Skoglund advised that he would like to hear more about what the commission can do to work together and partner with the police, and if there is an issue to address, they can help put together possible alternative solutions.

Doug Elliott advised it has been a good economic year for the city, with two hotels, a new tractor supply store, and a new restaurant coming on line. Chris Skoglund mentioned the addition to the OATS trails, to which Chief Jones advised the department got a side-by-side to be used for monitoring the trails. He advised it was recently used in locating a gentleman who had fallen and broken his ankle on Miami University's trails. This led to a discussion about the difficulty of locating someone on Miami's trails and the need for proper signage.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st.

Adjournment