

SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

February 8th, 2022

All attendees were participating virtually.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee members present:

Betsy Ray, Mayoral
Diane Kulik, At-Large
Carol Ann Naipaul, District #2
Sonny Bass, District #5
Gary Davis, District #3

Absent

Kevon Gainer, District #1 (joined late)

City Staff Members present:

Police Chief Mark Holtzman, Staff Liaison
Sgt. Michael Staffelbach, Staff Liaison
Billie Jo Viverette, Board Secretary
Assistant City Attorney Donald K. Phillips
Camillia Smith, City Clerk's office
Det. Justin White, Greenville Police Dept.

Carol Ann Naipaul called the meeting to order. Billie Jo Viverette called the roll call. All members present except Kevon Gainer.

Carol Ann asked if any corrections were needed to the agenda. Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sonny Bass. Billie Jo Viverette called for the roll call vote on the approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Carol Ann asked for a motion to approve the amended December 14, 2021 minutes, and for the January 11, 2022 minutes. Diane Kulik made the motion, seconded by Carol Ann Naipaul. Billie Jo Viverette called the roll call vote for the approval of the minutes. Motion carried.

Carol Ann Naipaul read the mission statement. She then asked Sgt. Staffelbach to introduce the guest speaker.

Sgt. Staffelbach introduced Officer Justin White, with the Gang Unit and thanked him for making time to speak with this committee.

Officer White briefly discussed the various characteristics of gang members. Betsy Ray asked if he knew how many gangs there were; and how many females were in gangs, if any. Officer White stated that they have approximately 356 files on gangs. He stated that many females

have association with gangs that are predominately men. He also stated that some females can hold a high position within gangs. There was discussion on whether gangs were more prevalent at certain schools than others; and on whether gang members actually graduate from high schools. Officer White stated that gangs are evenly spread throughout the city, and that most gang members do graduate. He then stated that some gang members even become business owners.

Sgt. Staffelbach asked him to explain how someone is validated as a gang member. Officer White stated that they classify someone as a gang member because of certain criteria; clothing, tattoos, social media posts and associations. He stated that however they look for proof such as social media documentation, photos, and in their communication content. Officer White stated that once someone is classified as a gang member, that status stays with them for 5 years.

Carol Naipaul thanked Officer White for the information that he shared with everyone. She asked what the age range is for kids in gangs. Officer White stated that the numbers for kids between the ages of 5 to 12 years old in gangs is very, very low.

Since there were no more questions, Carol Naipaul thanked Officer White for coming and presenting this information.

There was discussion on what the topic for the meeting would be. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that Detective Signs would be giving a presentation on Teen Dating. He stated that we need to come up with more topics for the rest of the year though. He encouraged everyone to meet with their communities and ask for topics they would like to see discussed. He stated that it's possible that we might be meeting in person in either March or April. Carol Naipaul stated that she sent a list of topics to Sgt. Staffelbach that we could possibly cover. Diane Kulik asked that the topics be sent to everyone on the committee to review. She stated that she would still like to do the K9 training in May, possibly at the church in her neighborhood. Sgt. Staffelbach stated that May or June would be good and that he would make contact with the K9 officers.

Diane Kulik asked Chief Holtzman if he would like to pick a topic. Chief Holtzman suggested maybe having an open mic night where the community could just ask any questions that they had.

Carol Naipaul just thanked Chief Holtzman, Sgt. Staffelbach, Donald Phillips, and Billie Jo Viverette for all the work that they put into this committee. She then asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Kulik made the motion; Betsy Ray seconded the motion. Billie Jo Viverette called roll call for the vote to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.