

**Police Advisory Committee Meeting
December 2, 2020, 7pm**

Present and attending by Zoom: Annie Crane, Erica Linden, Susan Smith. Melanie MacDonald, Jackie Smith, Margay Blackman, Karen LoBracco, Bob LeSuer. Mark Cuzzupoli and Steve Mesiti. Howard Ward , Orlando Benzan, Katy Wilson

Annie Crane presided over the meeting,

Discussion of handout on Police Training

Bob—on MCC programs they have examinations and passing requirements. Is that true for other courses?

Steve—the vast majority if not all have proficiency attachments, either written or skill assessment by instructor, or both.

Bob—can you comment on rigor? Steve—for firearms, you have to take a test before you can take the course. You can fail before you even do the class.

Mark—Officer John Vadas is drug recognition expert. He had to interview in front of a panel to even go to the course; he was chosen. You have to do a proficiency test on all sort of drugs that people have taken. There is not a lot of drug recognition expertise in the county. The training is very intense.

Re scheduling training—2 person minimum for a shift per the Stetson Club contract. If 3 are on a shift, we can take one of them and detach them to a training day, leaving 2 people on the shift. It is better to do an 8-hour block of different training topics. Staffing is a key thing. We have currently lost one officer to a transfer

Bill—Is it preferable to have 8 hours of training as opposed to a couple of hours?

Mark—Doesn't have to be on same topic but 8 hours is beneficial. Can then detach someone for full 8-hour day of training.

Karen—how much if any training is done with other departments, like Ogden?

Mark—Yes, we train with other agencies in the spring. They make it so there's not too much of one agency in a training session. They make it as realistic as possible so that you work with other agencies as you do in the real world.

Bill—how many 8-hour days would have to be set up to get thru the whole force.

Steve—we can get it in 3 8-hour days to get everyone thru.

Mark—e.g. (re proposed training on undocumented immigrant farmworkers) Emma could do training over more than one day even at different times.

Draft community survey of the Brockport Police Department

Bob—had sent out a response to the draft. “I am not wedded to my suggestions.”

Bob—responses need to be fine grained to make sure your questions/responses are drawn from your community and reflect that accurately.

Howard—(re the question on educational background) assumption is that the more educated you are you know how to respond when you’re stopped by the police. That response can dictate how you respond.

Howard and Bob’s conclusion—stick with the 6 levels of education in the questionnaire

Bob—six responses are about standard from looking at other surveys.

Erica explained how we did the comprehensive plan community survey—online, in SN, at the college, insert in village newsletter, fill out at Village Hall.

Erica—maybe another question re 911 and people’s reluctance to use it.

Melanie—suggested the following: How comfortable are you using the 911 system?

Bob—I know to call 911 when I need to get in touch with the police

Karen—asked if we were doing a village newsletter soon in which we could distribute the survey

Erica explained, No.

Orlando—suggested reaching out to the school district to see if they could promote the survey, and reaching out to church groups. Would help bridge gap between school district and the village, esp including underrepresented people,

Bill—we should encourage clergy to send out weekly newsletters to promote this.

Karen—condensing place of residence—school district?

Melanie—city of Rochester?

Mark—concern is them knowing who they dealt with—what agency. Need to clearly state in the survey BPD,

Erica—my goal would be to drill down if we can.

Bob—emphasize each and every time, Brockport police.

Mark—the open-ended question as the last one.

Add Native American back in as an option under race

Mark—4 main areas that people generally come into contact with the police: Victim, suspect, traffic stop, motor vehicle accident. See question 2 on the survey—needs rewording. Request for police service thru 911 call.

Bob—bringing awareness to the community of this committee—we are responding to concerns, issues. Raise awareness of the issues.

Researching, organizing and writing the Report

Annie—Bob's email after the last meeting was helpful.

Karen—explained how the Tax Relief Task Force report went.

Bill—need to understand how the report is going to be organized.

Annie we do have 14 points from executive order.

Karen—much of that is marginally relevant to us.

Discussion ensued on how to begin collecting ideas—agreed that everyone will send chairs/Erica what they think are the most important topics/points to consider and chairs will aggregate and organize them and send it out.

Community Policing

Bill—sent Margay a pdf from Community Oriented Policing, US Department of Justice on community policing. Margay will email pdf to the committee. Community policing is a partnership; the onus is not just on the Chief of police. Recommended a small group of citizens meet with police quarterly to help get closer to goal of community policing, with police buy in. A lot of communities have a heavy emphasis on oversight. This instead is a community partnership.

Annie—Not an accountability board but a proactive approach to how can we work together.

Mark—it gives us more constructive feedback. He discussed some of the things the Dept does with citizens, and will talk more about it next meeting.

Steve—recommended a community supper, with everyone bringing a dish that represents who you are, your culture. Food is a good way to bring people together.

Bill—The emphasis should be bringing people together.

Howard—mentioned that he wants to do training on Black History for the police/committee. Wants to talk about stereotypes, common threads, symbols, food, music. Walk through a history lesson on policing and the community.

Annie—the immigration lawyer, Emma Buckthal, will be having a Zoom meeting with the chairs, Erica, Bill Plews, Chief Cuzzupoli and Steve Mesiti on December 15th. The participants will report on that meeting on the 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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