Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations Minutes
August 13, 2020 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom

The Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations met remotely via Zoom, Thursday, August 13, 2020, with proper notice posted. Chair member Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Member King motioned to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes; seconded by Member Nguyen and Chief Boone. Minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME

The chair welcomed those in attendance and read the Governor J. B. Pritzker’s Executive Orders 2020-07 and 2020-39 on the provisions of the Open Meetings Act to allow members of a public body to be physically present during a meeting on the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on social distancing of at least six feet between persons when City Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, to fulfill the requirements and recommendations to comply with the Open Meetings Act for the Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations that meets at 5:30 p.m., the notice and agenda were posted on the City’s website and other news media outlets with proper notice that the public may email their comments to ckirby@peoriagov.org by 4:00 p.m., August 12, 2020, to be read at the meeting.

The chair welcomed new member Allison Galvan who is filling the unexpired term of Haley Brewer and representing one of the under age 25 positions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Allen discussed contacting the Department of Justice. Member Gougis said that she would reach out to them.

Chair Allen asked Chief Marion if there was any update regarding the hiring process suggestions. The last update from City Manager Urich was that he was going to take the suggestions to Representative Gordon-Booth. Chief Marion mentioned that because of COVID, the September swearing in of the 9 new hires is being pushed back until October. The testing process (both written and physical) is currently in process to gather a new pool of candidates. 10 recruits from that pool would be sent to the academy in January 2021.

Chair Allen discussed having a mock complaint process in September once the process was formalized.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Allen discussed the complaint policy procedure that was drafted by a sub-committee consisting of himself, Vice Chair Zagardo, Members King, Gougis, and Wilson. Chair Allen proposed having a sub-committee with a minimum of 3 members to review complaints. The documents they would like to review is the police report, body camera footage and officer conduct history. Chief Marion clarified that the police report and body camera footage would be redacted. He also mentioned that city legal would need to advise whether officer conduct history could be reviewed since it is personnel file.
Media access to information was discussed. Masum Patel, city attorney, discussed that the Freedom of Information Act has a clause that allows media access to information. For the next meeting, she said she will have more information to address the specifics.

Chair Allen discussed the proposed complaint process and timeline for reviewing. Member Galvan asked if the committee would also be able to interview the officers. It was noted that they are represented by a union. For the Police Department, only formal investigations have an in-person interview where an attorney and a union representative are also present. Members discussed having a union representative come to one of the meetings to start building a relationship with them. Chief Marion noted that the current President will be soon retiring; he will give Chair Allen the contact information of his replacement once they are voted in.

GENERAL POLICE UPDATE

Chief Marion discussed the grand opening of the Madison resident officer house. He also noted that the department’s general orders are now available online on the city’s website. He also credited Sergeant Sherrell Stinson with organizing a donation to the lemonade stand kids. The story of the delivery garnered national attention.

Chair Allen noted that he was invited to speak to the Community First participants which the new police recruits are involved in.

CITIZEN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE – No comments from citizens.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Member King asked about event emails which are sent out through the communication group emails.

Member Galvan brought up community events and donation opportunities that the committee could be a part of. Masum Patel discussed the Peoria Cares website where citizens can post concerns and complaints. Member Zagardo asked if any police complaints are submitted; Masum Patel said that she would follow up.

Member Greaves asked about the complaint policy procedure and if there was a flow chart available. He also asked about ride-a-longs which are currently on hold due to COVID.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chair Zagardo. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Andre Allen, chair

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Loren Marion, member

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Megan Nguyen, member