MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS
September 12, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations was held Thursday, September 12, 2019, in Room 404 at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois with proper notice posted. Acting chair Zagardo called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Present: Ali, Allen, Boone (5:44 p.m.), Burch, Burnside Draper, Ford (5:36 p.m.), Green, Jackson, King, Marion, Nguyen, Parks, Wilson, and Zagardo. Absent: Begner (excused) and Brewer. Acting chair Zagardo acknowledged a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Member Allen motioned to approve the August 8, 2019 minutes; seconded by member King. Minutes unanimously approved.

WELCOME the newest member At-Large representative Rev. Tyson Parks III.

GENERAL POLICE UPDATE –
Chief Marion reported on the Quarterly Complaint Report. There were a total of 31 complaints that consisted of 18 citizens and 13 internal. He explained to the newest members that one complaint can generate multiple policy violations. Also reported a total of 41 policy violations. Out of the 41 violations, there were 18 sustained, 22 not sustained, and one currently pending. Of those violations, 20 were citizens and 21 were internal. Out of the 20 citizens, 5 were sustained and 15 not sustained. Out the 21 internal violations, 13 were sustained and 7 not sustained, and one (1) pending. He defined sustained sustain when the investigation disclosed there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation made in the complaint. He defined not sustained when the complainant has insufficient evidence to establish a violation of policy or law has occurred.

Chief Marion informed that the Peoria Police and Fire Departments made a presentation to the City Council, Fire & Police Commission, and NAACP on the demographics and hiring for 2019. The Police Department’s overall minority of police officers was at 19% and overall protected class at 26%. The police department wants to reflect the community and the minority community in Peoria was about 32% and continues to work towards diversity hiring. The past two years the department seen a 4% increase of male minority applicants and a 17% increase of female minority applicants. He told the committee a police sergeant was assigned from the Neighborhood Services Unit to focus on recruiting. Recruitment efforts made were: opened a substation at Northwoods Mall staffed on a weekly basis to have positive interaction with the mall community, distribute recruitment materials, and to explain the application process; created a personalized website www.peoriapolicejobs.com, public service announcements, billboard ads; established a special career day at Western Illinois University (WIU) and ICC just for the Peoria Police Department; updated recruitment cards with current salary and benefits; teamed up with the Athletic Department at Illinois Central College (ICC) to assure police recruits are able to pass the police academy’s physical; contacted and mailed recruitment materials to historical black college unions; emailed recruitment material to every student in the criminal justice program at WIU and ICC; distributed recruitment materials to area African American barber shops.

Chief Marion informed two African American male cadets are already on the department. One has been offered a conditional offer of employment. Currently, that cadet is going through the hiring process and anticipate to hire in January 2020. Also hired five (5) new police cadets (1-AA/F; 2-W/F; 2-W/M). No African American males applied.
The police department’s annual Trick or Trick Open House would be Friday, October 25th from 8-4 p.m. Last year attendance was approximately 1400 participants. Members were welcomed to come help pass out candy.

The Citizens Police Academy to be held 6:00-9:00 p.m., every Wednesday from October 9th through November 20, 2019 at the Peoria Police Department. Individuals interested should contact Police Officer Dotson at (309) 620-2047 for an application or apply online at http://www.peoriagov.org/peoria-police-department/neighborhood-programs. Applicants must be 18 years of age and pass the background check. Applications are to be submitted by October 4, 2019.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Acting chair Zagardo announced vacancies have been filled on the committee.

**Election** – Member Draper addressed the acting chair and voiced her concerns about the August meeting where members nominated themselves and found it hard to swallow. She never served on a committee where anybody running for an office nominated themselves. She believed it could bring credibility issues for the committee and should not be accepted as a standard to a nomination process. She made it known that if the committee continue to vote for those that nominated themselves, she would abstain her vote.

After some discussion, acting chair Zagardo made a recommendation to reopen the floor to accept nominations for chair and vice chair. Member Jackson motioned to reopen the floor to accept nominations for chair and vice chair; seconded by member King. Motion was unanimously approved.

Members Burch asked for the definitions or duties of the chair and vice chair.

Member Marion defined the chair as the presiding officer of an organized group such as a board or committee. The vice chair, in the absence of the chair, performs the duties of the chair.

Acting chair Zagardo reopened the floor to accept nominations for chair. Member Jackson nominated Terry Burnside for chair; seconded by member Zagardo. Acting chair Zagardo asked three times for other nominations. Hearing no other nominations, acting chair Zagardo motioned to close the nominations for chair; seconded by member Allen. Motion was unanimously approved.

Acting chair Zagardo opened the floor to accept nominations for vice chair. Member King nominated Janice Zagardo; seconded by member Jackson. Member Draper nominated Lorene King; seconded by Zagardo. Acting chair Zagardo asked three times for other nominations. Hearing no other nominations, member Jackson motioned to close the nominations for vice chair; seconded by member Allen. Motion was unanimously approved.

Acting chair Zagardo asked for a show of hands to elect for chair:

**Burnside: Yeas-10; Nays–3; Abstain-2**

Acting chair Zagardo asked for a show of hands to elect for vice chair:

**King: Yeas-9; No-1; Abstain-2**

**Zagardo: Yeas-1; Abstain-2**
Member Draper left meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The acting chair and committee acknowledged Terry Burnside as the chair of the Advisory Committee on Police Community Relations.

Mission Statement – The chair, member Burnside, asked member Zagardo to update the committee on the mission statement. Member Zagardo brought the members up to date. She requested Mrs. Jackson to make sure members receive a copy of the documents.

Member Allen motioned to table the mission statement to give the new members the opportunity to thoroughly read the documents to discuss and establish goals at a later meeting; seconded by member Wilson. Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS - Member Ali informed she made contact with Mr. Ken Bergeron from the U. S. Department of Justice who had committed to attend the meeting, but due to unforeseen circumstance was unable to attend. She stated he would try to attend the October regular meeting.

Member Jackson stated if Mr. Bergeron is unable to attend a regular meeting, a special meeting could be called to accommodate Mr. Bergeron’s schedule and hear his opinions on the mission statement.

CITIZEN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE
Rev. Kay Berry a citizen of Peoria, a member on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for Citizens with Disabilities commented both committees have a lot in common.

ADJOURNMENT – The chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Allen motioned to adjourn the September 12, 2019 meeting; seconded by member Marion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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Terry Burnside, chair

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Andre Allen, member

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Karen Wilson, member