

Community Policing Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2015

I. Call to order

Major Jerry Stokes called to order the regular meeting of the Community Policing Advisory Board at 4:30pm on September 28, 2015 at the GLTC Transfer Station.

II. Roll call

Major Jerry Stokes conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Rhonnie Smith, Shaun Spencer-Hester, Dean Matha Thornton, Major Todd Swisher, Mark Sheehan, Haden Swisher, Dr. Tim Chung, Dr. Kim McCabe, Dr. Jim Camm, Synda Maynard, and Billy McBrattney,

III. Announcements

- a) New Chief Announcement: Chief Raul Diaz
- b) Body Camera Grant – Should be in use by June 2016.
- c) Will call on board for future policy regarding the use of Body Cameras.

IV. New business

- a) Lynchburg Demographics:
 - b) Arrests Data and Graphics Provided: Charts
 - c) Dr. Camm questioned if maps were available. Major Stokes provided maps that were previously presented to City Council. The maps indicate that Mid-Town: 12th, Grace, White Rock, Diamond Hill, and College Hill represent a large number of crime, arrests, and calls for service.
- d) Drug Offense Arrests: Trends and Graphics provided.
- e) Ms. Spencer-Hester had a question regarding Population and Race. Graphics indicate Lynchburg has a higher population of Caucasian residents, but a higher arrest rate of African American. Poverty plays a large role in this trend.
- f) Dr. McCabe had a question about crime rates falling. Statistics show that crime is on the decline. This is a nationwide trend. Lynchburg's

population is on the rise. A higher rate of crime is seen in ages 16-22. While Lynchburg's population increase is primarily in ages 24-35.

- g) New Search Policy enacted February 2013.
- h) Mr. McBrattney questioned why are crime trends reducing? Major Stokes explained that this is a nationwide trend. Major Swisher also stated that typically these trends ebb and flow over time. 2014 saw a 14% drop in calls for service and arrests in Lynchburg.
- i) Mr. Smith and Dr. Camm had questions regarding department turnover. Did pay affect the turnover rate? Also, the need for a buffer in the amount of employees.
- j) Some concerns were raised by Dr. Camm as to reaching out to these communities so impacted by crime in Lynchburg. The need for Prevention. Mr. Sheehan concurred, but indicated Prevention is a hard aspect to prove. Dr. Camm and Ms. Spencer-Hester indicated the need to address poverty in these areas, education, and an increase in Community Engagement Activities.
- k) Ms. Spencer-Hester indicated that low income / Section 8 housing played a significant role in crime in certain areas. She researched Pierce Street from 5th Street to 16th Street. Of the properties along that street, 80% are Section 8.
- l) Mr. McBradley also brought up how poverty is directly affected by non-intact families and intact families. Statistics show that intact families are much less likely to fall victim to poverty than non-intact families. There needs to be a new focus on keeping families together.
- m) Major Stokes presented current Community Engagement Activities and Programs.
- n) Recruitment Demographics: Statistics and Graphics provided.
- o) A request was made by Dr. Camm to provide sample Personal History Statements at the next meeting. The time involved with returning the personal history statement, as statistics show a significant amount on no returns on the document or disqualified recruits based on the document.
- p) Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month. More talks on Recruitment and Hiring Practices. And a request was made for "Like City" comparisons.

V. Adjournment

Major Jerry Stokes adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Steven Wood

Minutes approved by: JP Stokes