

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
November 21, 2023
POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING - Approved
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Gwendolyn Evans (remote), Christina Hagestad, Dan Maguire, Jody Kamon (Advisor).

Absent: Guillamue Teganyi, Arthur Bergeron, Leo Duque, Ta-Tanisha Redditta (Advisor)

STAFF: Anthony Jackson-Miller (Community Affairs Liaison-Essex Police Department)

ADMINISTRATION: Ron Hoague (Police Chief) - Absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lorraine Zalume (community member), Hannah Toof Howard Center Community Outreach), Tabitha Moore, John Dunn (Sargent EPD)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Christina Hagestad called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Agenda Approved. Minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting submitted but not approved as the board did not have a quorum.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Community member Lorraine Zalume addressed the board with concerns related to her son's recent untimely fentanyl overdose death and her subsequent interactions with Burlington law enforcement and other public safety authorities. Ms. Zalume expressed concerns related to how she was treated by those authorities, that "no one has a plan" for dealing with a mounting number of overdose deaths and her intention to "go public" about these and related issues. Vice-Chair Hagestad acknowledged Ms. Zalume's frustration and grief and thanked her for sharing her concerns and that the board was supportive and would be open to further conversation going forward.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Howard Center Community Outreach Supervisor Hannah Toof

Hannah Toof engaged the board relative to what the community outreach team does. The board learned that 9 towns are served and the outreach team works collaboratively with First Call, in addition to clinical backup services, behavioral intervention with children, substance abuse and crises de-escalation. Ms. Toof shared her email address and printed materials.

b. Tabitha Moore, Consultant

Tabitha Moore spoke with the board about fairness in policing and her ongoing work with EPD toward that goal. She discussed data collection and racial disparities in policing. She discussed the creation of the PCAB and referenced the 2021 "Essex Best Report". She acknowledged the EPD are "called for too much" and blamed the "dearth of services" as a contributor. Ms. Moore answered questions from the board as to how the PCAB could be most effective going forward and made herself available for consult going forward.

c. Sgt. John Dunn, Essex Police

Sgt. Dunn addressed the board and answered questions about the fairness in policing policy presently in place.

6. CONFIRMATION OF TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA

Anthony Jackson-Miller advised the next meeting will focus on use of force policy and practice.

The board will also discuss what the procedure will be to replace board members.

requested that if the Board members wanted to include next meeting agenda items that they should be submitted no later than noon on November 17 in advance of the November 21 meeting. He also noted the Board to look for Agenda and Minutes the Friday before the next meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Christina Hagestad made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously seconded by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Maguire
CAB Secretary