

**POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD:** Gwendolyn Evans, Leo Duque, Christina Hagestad, Dan Maguire.

**Absent:** Guillamue Teganyi, Arthur Bergeron, Ta-Tanisha Redditta (Advisor), Jody Kamon (Advisor).

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

**ADMINISTRATION:** Ron Hoague (Police Chief)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dawn Hill-Fleury (remote)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Leo Duque called the meeting to order at 5:59pm.*

**2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

*A motion was made to add consideration of a new statewide domestic violence policy specifically involving law enforcement or individuals in positions of power. It will be discussed in depth next meeting. Lt Rob Kissinger will be in attendance to answer any questions the board may have.*

*Anthony Jackson-Miller updated the board and answered questions regarding the ongoing process to fill vacant seats on the board.*

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Agenda Approved. Minutes from January 23, 2024 approved.*

**4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

*No members of the public were heard.*

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

*a. Hannah Toof, Community Outreach, Howard Center.*

*Ms. Toof detailed the interactive involvements her organization has with law enforcement. The board learned about First Call, local demographics, as well as the impacts and challenges of "houselessness", mental health and substance abuse. Despite staff shortages services are provided across the county 24/7.*

*b. Work Plan 2024.*

*The board continued to develop its work plan for 2024. As a threshold it was agreed that "getting the message out and encouraging others to get involved" was paramount. The CAB will have a presence at the "showcase" held the evening before Town Meeting and the CAB will have a place on the Town's website - independent of the police department. Gwen offered and the board welcomed her offer to write a blog about her ongoing experience as a CAB board member. The Chair asked for and received a "rolodex" of contacts from Anthony that the board could consider reaching out to in efforts to "get the message out".*

*c. Domestic Violence – new statewide policy involving law enforcement or individuals in positions of power.*

*The Chief shared the new statewide policy with the board. It will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. The Chief suggested the board review the EPD's current domestic violence policy in advance of the next meeting.*

*d. Chief's updates*

*The Chief advised that the Citizen's Academy has 8 applicants, and the program looks good to go. At that moment Gwen advised she had also applied, so that there are now 9 applicants.*

*The Chief spoke of the importance of "wellness" and the ongoing implementation of a "wellness response" initiative. The response included peer support, psychological help and confidentiality. He reported that the initiative has been well received and the Union leadership has been supportive.*

**6. CONFIRMATION OF TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA**

*Anthony Jackson-Miller advised the next meeting will include further discussion relative to the board's Work Plan for 2024.*

**7. ADJOURN**

*Gwen made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously seconded by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Maguire  
CAB Secretary