

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

March 18, 2025

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT March 18, 2025

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Gwendolyn Evans, Vince Cuciti, Christina Hagestad, Jenny Parker and David Harrington

ABSENT: Jody Kamon (Advisor), Dan Maguire

STAFF: Alyssa March, Community Liaison, Essex Police Department

ADMINISTRATION: Ron Hoague (EPD Chief)

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christina Hagestad called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

a. Gwendolyn would like an update from EPD.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Christina asked how someone could get information on an officer and concerns about the officer. The Chief informed Christina that anyone could put in a records request but encouraged the person to reach out to him directly so he can know what is going on and support the person with concerns.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. The Board approved the Minutes for the February meeting.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. David offered a suggestion to do multiple surveys on different topics like the elderly population getting scammed with technology and AI. The Board agreed that a survey a month or every other month as well as training on the survey topic could be the next step after getting the community survey out to the community. The Chief suggested that the training could be online with someone from the PD and PCAB facilitating.

The Board discussed the goals of the public survey with The Chief and Alyssa. The Board then discussed different ways to ask questions to the community and how to word the questions in an appropriate way. The Board reviewed some of the previous questions and suggestions as well as questions on the original survey.

Alyssa informed the Board that she has been working on Microsoft Forms to create the survey for free without needing to use Survey Monkey (due to their pricing).

b. The Chief informed the Board that the PD is still hiring and is hopeful of a couple of people to attend the Academy in August.

Action Steps:

- Alyssa will send a sample survey to Gwendolyn to see if it is ADA compliant.
- Chief and Alyssa will go through the previous survey as well as the new questions made and create a survey to present to the Board next meeting that has the needs from EPD.
- The Board will think of ways to push the survey to the Essex community.

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Christina. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa March
Community Affairs Liaison

1. How are you connected to Essex Town or City?
 - a. Live in Essex
 - b. Work in Essex
 - c. Formerly resided or worked in Essex
2. Based on your definitions of safety, how safe do you feel living/ working in Essex?
(very safe, somewhat safe, neutral, somewhat unsafe, very unsafe)
3. Think of what contributed to your answer above when rating each of the following areas: (Very much, Somewhat, Neutral, Very Little, Not at all)
 - a. Violent Crime
 - b. Property Crime
 - c. Traffic
 - d. Social issues such as mental health or homelessness
 - e. Access to basic needs such as housing, medical care or food
 - f. Other (open question)
4. Please rate your overall experiences with police (in any city, town or state) (Very Positive, Somewhat Positive, Neutral, Somewhat Negative, Very negative)
5. Please rate your experience with the Essex Police Department. (Very Positive, Somewhat Positive, Neutral, Somewhat Negative, Very negative)
6. Please rate the following aspects of your experience with the Essex Police Department:
 - a. Professional (Very much, Somewhat, Neutral, Very Little, Not at all)
 - b. Courteous
 - c. Respected your needs
 - d. Knowledgeable
 - e. Responsiveness
7. Have you experienced or observed racism in Essex?
8. Please indicate the areas of the community where you have experienced or observed racism.
9. Please rate the Essex Police Department in the following areas: (Very much, Somewhat, Neutral, Very Little, Not at all)

- a. EPD adheres to policies that prohibit biased policing
- b. EPD provides its members with training on biased policing
- c. EPD builds positive relationships with the community
- d. EPD builds positive relationships with communities that have historically experienced bias in policing.
- e. EPD informs the community of important information relating to crime, safety and community policing
- f. EPD is effective in solving crimes
- g. EPD is effective in promoting traffic safety

10. How can we improve policing in Essex?

11. What is your approximate age?

- Decline to Respond
- Under 15 (child)
- 15-21 (Gen Z)
- 22-36 (Gen Y)
- 37-54 (Gen X)
- 55-70 (Boomer)
- 71+ (Builder)

10. What racial category do you most identify as?

- Decline to Respond
- African American or Black
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Caucasian or White

11. Choose the answer that best describes you

- Decline to Respond
- Male (biological/cis)
- Female (biological/cis)
- Male Transgendered
- Female Transgendered
- other not listed

12. If you identify as a person with disability (physical, mental, and/or sensory), please share how the Essex Police Department could best support your disability in the event of an interaction:

12. Are you familiar with these resources provided in this area?

Mental Health
Disability Services
Substance Use
Food assistance
Financial support