

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
January 23, 2024
POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT
JANUARY 23, 2024

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

Absent: Guillamue Teganyi, Arthur Bergeron, Ta-Tanisha Redditta (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 6:10pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Agenda Approved. Minutes from December 19, 2023 approved. Relative to the CAB mission noted in the minutes Advisor Jody Kamon pointed out that the mission is more completely described as “bi-directional” to include the CAB acting as a communication conduit to the community relative to fair and impartial policing.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No members of the public were heard.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Police Community Advisory Board – Work Plan for 2024.

Board Chair Leo Duque started the conversation by reminding the board of the Chief’s presentation made “day one” aka the board’s first meeting back in August 2023. Chief Hoague reminded the board they are notably citizens of the community who provide communication with the community relative to police policies and procedures and advise accordingly. The Chief suggested and the board adopted the creation of a ‘community survey’ designed to see “how we are doing”. The last such survey was three years ago. In addition, the board discussed “listening sessions” as a communication tool. Anthony offered to share with the board the prior survey as a “jumping off point”. Gwendolyn cautioned that a survey can present challenges to the disabled. The board was supportive and determined that Gwendolyn be given the opportunity to “test out the survey” in that context. Gwendolyn asked about the “Citizen’s Academy” and “getting the word out” about the next upcoming class. Anthony advised that the second class of the academy will initiate in early April. Other opportunities to communicate and outreach the community were discussed such as: alternate formats to include print material usage, CAB presence at the “Showcase” just before

Town Meeting and other such events as well as a social media presence. The Chief offered to see if the Town had space on its web page for a CAB presence and Anthony encouraged the board to “create content” for community outreach designed to reach those residents who might be most receptive, interested and impacted. He suggested that the board could consider meeting more than one time per month. The Chair Leo Duque advised the board should be prepared to discuss at the next meeting whether the board should meet every two weeks. He also wanted the board to have its work plan for 2024 reduced to writing by the next meeting.

Re: reading file – crime statistics.

Anthony and the Chief discussed the troubling uptick in juvenile crime, specifically a spate of auto thefts inspired by certain TikTok videos. The Chief also warned that the traffic statistics showed a rise in car crashes and advised where the hot spots are.

b. Public Meeting Law – Minutes.

Anthony advised that per public meeting law the minutes must be submitted within five days of the meeting.

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

Christina Hagestad made a motion to adjourn which was unanimously seconded by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Maguire
CAB Secretary