

Washington County Police Accountability Board (PAB)
Law Enforcement Officers Quarterly Meeting
Open Minutes
October 18, 2022
3:00 P.M.

Members Present: Chair Steve McCarty, Robert Bowman, Timothy Hafer, Ronald Humbel, Brett McKoy, Amber Smart, Danielle Weaver

Members Absent: N/A

County Staff Present: County Attorney Kirk C. Downey, Deputy County Attorney Kendall A. Desaulniers, Legal Secretary Dawn L. Marcus

Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) Present: Washington County Sheriff, Doug Mullendore; Washington County Sheriff's Office Attorney, Andrew Bright; Hancock Police Department, Rich Miller; Smithsburg Chief of Police, Rob Marker; Hagerstown City Chief of Police, Joey Kifer

Call to Order: Chair Steve McCarty called the PAB's quarterly meeting with LEOs to order at 3:08 P.M. in Room 1115 of the County Administration Building, 100 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, MD 21740.

New Business: Following introductions, Mr. Downey gave an overview of the Maryland Police Accountability Act enacted to address public allegations of police misconduct. This first meeting of the PAB with LEOs will focus on policing trends and future meeting schedules.

Summary of LEO Discussion:

Sheriff Mullendore reported trending changes of more street violence, increased service calls, significant increase in traffic violations since the pandemic, and decreased compliance by inmates and the public with commands. Prior to the pandemic and the legislative changes, citizen complaints rarely exceeded four annually.

Sergeant Miller reported trending changes of increased public information requests and visits by First Amendment Auditors.

Chief Marker reported trending changes of increased public complaints in response to issued citations and increased public information requests.

Chief Kifer reported that the most notable changing trend has been increased violence especially gun violence on the streets and in school settings. He specifically cited youth on bicycles and the violence at South High for the past two years. In the last four months two officers have been attacked at South High. Chief Kifer reported that in the past 60 days a special task force created to deal specifically with violence has made over 100 arrests and has pulled guns off the street without complaint. He also reported a significant increase in traffic violations and blatantly antagonistic behavior towards LEOs in the form of dirt bike and four-wheeler riders driving around patrol cars and throwing dirt and debris onto the officers. He also reported negative and emboldened public behavior such as arguing, taunting, antagonizing, and First Amendment Auditor visits. He also noted a spike in officers being assaulted in the last several months. As a result of the

legislative changes and the nature of society, Hagerstown Police Officers are more mindful of what they do in their police work.

Attorney Bright reported that, as a result of the trending changes mentioned, there will be an increase in the cost of maintaining and operating body cameras. An increase in complaints will also result in a burden and delay of retrieving stored data and redaction of HIPAA- protected information and uninvolved bystanders.

Next Quarterly LEOs Meeting: The PAB scheduled the next quarterly LEOs meeting for Monday, January 23, 2023, at 3:00 P.M. and every three months thereafter. The meetings will be in the County Administration Building.

Convene in Closed Session: Ms. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Smart, moved to convene in closed session at 3:46 P.M. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals) in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions § 3-305(b)(1). The motion passed unanimously.

Present during closed session were Mr. McCarty, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Hafer, Mr. Humbel, Mr. McKoy, Ms. Smart, Ms. Weaver, Mr. Downey, Ms. Desaulniers, and Ms. Marcus.

In closed session, the PAB members discussed the appointments of specific individuals over whom the PAB has statutory appointment power and gave staff further instruction regarding those matters.

Reconvene in Open Session: Mr. McKoy, seconded by Mr. Hafer, moved to reconvene in open session at 3:54 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Member to Administrative Charging Committee (ACC): Mr. McKoy, seconded by Ms. Weaver, moved to approve Chuck Kauffman to the ACC. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Monthly PAB Member Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment: Mr. McKoy, seconded by Ms. Weaver, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:54 P.M.