



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office**  
**Citizen Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
April 10th, 2021  
0900 a.m.-1100a.m.  
301 Goodwin Neck Road  
Yorktown, VA 23690



**Meeting Minutes Approval by Co-Chair/Committee: APPROVED**

**PRESENT:** Melanie O Bond-Artis; Penelope Carroll; Latonia Chavis; Janine Espinal; Debra Goff; David Gorwitz; Beth Hoer; Linda Hutchinson; Jennifer Joyner; Eileen O'Brien; Krysten Reid; D'Shawn Wright

**ABSENT:** LeRoyce Bratsveen; Robert Carpenter; Lauren Dunbar; Andre Gaines; Stephen Roane

**STAFF:** Major Ron Montgomery, Chief Deputy

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Penelope Carroll called the meeting to order at 0900 a.m. via virtual Zoom meeting. Roll call was taken.

**2. Opening remarks: Ms. Penelope Carroll**

Ms. Carroll opened the discussion with the discussion of the trial of Officer Derek Chauvin and how the court case will continue to shape the policy narrative of law enforcement.

**3. Topics of Interest from the Sheriff's Office: General Assembly Laws**

Major Montgomery gave the CAC an update on the continuing initiatives of the Sheriff's Office to include the implementation of de-escalation training for all staff. There has been a change in the Virginia law in regards to the possession of marijuana where a resident of Virginia can legally have one ounce of marijuana without being arrested. This is one of the laws that was passed by the General Assembly, which is a 280 page bill of various changes in the law. In the state of Virginia, there are no legal dispensaries to purchase marijuana. Major Montgomery stated that it is still a Class IV misdemeanor to distribute marijuana. Ms. Krysten Reid also stated that it is still illegal for minors under the age of eighteen to purchase marijuana and that it is difficult to measure impairment of marijuana in minors. Major Montgomery stated that per the Virginia statute it is still illegal to smoke marijuana while operating a vehicle.

Mr. Stephen Roane asked Major Montgomery if de-escalation training is also being incorporated with the new Marcus Law that has been recently passed by the General Assembly. Major Montgomery stated that at least half of the staff have gone through the de-escalation training and all staff will have the training completed. He also stated that there are five regional response teams and for the York-Poquoson area, teams are staffed out of Virginia Beach. The challenge will be how these response teams will be funded because the initial cost of standing up the



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regional response teams is approximately one million dollars. Major Montgomery also stated that most likely the regional response teams will be phased in a two to three year period. The first phase will entail establishing the database for the Marcus Law. Major Montgomery stated that he would continue to keep the CAC posted on the development of phases of the Marcus Law.

Major Montgomery stated that he has been working with the Chamber of Commerce on getting the word out on the Citizen's Academy, which is a 10-week program for citizen's to learn about the law enforcement process. He stated that he would work with Ms. Toni Chavis with the business community on marketing the Citizen's Academy.

Major Montgomery gave an update on the catalytic converter thefts that has been an issue in the area. He stated that the number one crime in the county is theft and stressed that citizens should not leave their personal belongings in the car. Mr. Stephen Roane asked what are catalytic converters (when stolen) used for? Major Montgomery stated that thieves generally steal this for the precious metals contained in the converter. Major Montgomery stated that the Sheriff's office is working in three to four localities where catalytic converter thefts are an issue.

#### **4. Finalizing the mission statement: Dr. Linda Hutchinson**

Dr. Linda Hutchinson led the group for finalizing the mission statement. A quorum was reached by the group for the mission statement and it will be incorporated into the bylaws. Below is the final mission statement that was approved by the CAC:

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) aims to build supportive relationships based on mutual respect, trust and transparency between the community and the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office. To this end the CAC seeks to empower the community through education that enhances a shared understanding with the community and the sheriff's department.

#### **5. Bylaws Sub-Committee: Finalizing the CAC's Bylaws**

Committee Members: Ms. Janine Espinal/Mr. Dave Gorwitz/Mr. Stephen Roane

Ms. Janine Espinal led the discussion with the group in outlining the proposed website structure to include the following components on the Sheriff's Office website:

- Mission Statement
- Committee Members
- Meeting Agenda and Minutes
- CAC Brochure
- Weblink to Facebook
- Calendar of Events
- Bylaws



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The CAC unanimously voted for the approval of the proposed website structure. Ms. Espinal stated that the Bylaws Sub-Committee would coordinate completing the website with the Public Affairs Officer and Webmaster.

**6. Marketing Sub-Committee: Update on the Marketing Plan**

*Committee Members:* Mr. D'Shawn Wright, Ms. LeRoyce Bratsveen, Ms. Jennifer Joyner

Ms. Jennifer Joyner led the discussion for the Marketing Sub-Committee and asked Major Montgomery if the Citizen's Academy/Ride Along was going to be re-instated, since it has been put on hold due to the pandemic. Major Montgomery stated that the Citizens Academy will start in August.

Mr. D'Shawn Wright suggested to post a picture of the CAC members on the Sheriff's Office website. He also asked if there was going to be a national night out and Major Montgomery stated that yes, there was going to be an event in Yorktown Square in the near future.

Ms. Krysten Reid suggested that there be a marketing presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

**7. Next Steps for CAC Budget: Major Ron Montgomery**

Major Montgomery did confirm that there would be funding for the CAC. If there are any requests for printing of marketing materials, he suggested that the CAC contact the Sheriff's Office Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for assistance.

**8. Closing remarks/miscellaneous topics**

Ms. Carroll stated that the next meeting will be on Saturday, 08May2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 1100 a.m.