

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT
May 21, 2024

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Chair, Leo Duque, Gwendolyn Evans, Dan Maguire, Vince Cuciti and Jody Kamon (Advisor)

Absent: Co-chair Christina Hagestad, Ron Hoague (Chief); Ta-Tanisha Redditta (Advisor), Anthony Jackson-Miller (Community Affairs Liaison-Essex Police Department)

STAFF: Lt. Rob Kissinger, (EPD)

ADMINISTRATION: Det. Sgt. Paul Courtois, (EPD)

OTHERS PRESENT: Essex Community Justice Center

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leo Duque called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes to the Agenda.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Agenda Approved. Minutes from April 16, 2024 were approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No members of the public were heard.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Agenda Approved. Minutes from April 16, 2024 were approved.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Essex Community Justice Center

The Board heard from Jill Evans, Director as well as coordinators Susanna Weller, Essex Restorative Justice Panel Coordinator and Stacy Jones, Community Connections Coordinator. The Board learned that the ECJC, which serves Essex, Colchester, Milton, Jericho, Underhill and Westford, is a Vermont forerunner of restorative justice. The ECJC envisions safe, expansive and resilient communities in which response to conflict and crime is restorative and healing, enhances community and reduces further harms. A video presentation explained in plain terms what restorative justice is all about. Director Evans and the coordinators explained the referral process and detailed the various services and programs offered to both crime victims and offenders. The ECJC is funded by the Department of Corrections and a significant majority of their cases are via law enforcement referral. Some concern was expressed that referral numbers have recently dropped. In 2022, 50 referrals were made to the ECJC. In 2023 that number had dropped to 40 referrals. So far in 2024 there have been 24 referrals. The Board was concerned that should a declining trend continue how might that be reversed.

It was made clear, the success of ECJC can be attributed to its volunteers who make it all go. The Board was encouraged to visit their website: <https://essexjc.org/>

b. Statewide Domestic Violence Policy for LEO's – Discussion

The Board revisited the proffered DV policy and anticipates that EPD will adopt the new policy.

c. Essex Public Safety and Racial Justice Data Summary – Discussion

The Board tabled this important discussion as meeting time was running out. It will be taken up at the next meeting.

6. CONFIRMATION OF TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA

Essex Public Safety and Racial Justice Data Summary – Discussion

Jody Kamon (Advisor) discussed the Board's "work plan" and the utility of a new survey to build upon the Essex Best survey several years ago. The Board was receptive, and the discussion will be continued.

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made and unanimously seconded by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Maguire
CAB Secretary