

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

January 21, 2025

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT January 21, 2025

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Gwendolyn Evans, Dan Maguire, Vince Cuciti, Christina Hagestad, Jenny Parker and Jody Kamon (Advisor).

Absent: David Harrington

STAFF: Alyssa March, Community Liaison, Essex Police Department

ADMINISTRATION: Ron Hoague (EPD Chief)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christina Hagestad called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

a. Gwendolyn mentioned Soup Night for the Town.

b. Alyssa invited PCAB members to the City Budget Meal this Saturday, 12PM at the Expo

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the public.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

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

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. The Chief went over the 2024 EPD review and highlighted key take ways. The Chief informed the Board that there were 5 officers that left last year and 4 of them were retirees. The Board discussed the challenges with the applicants and integrity. The Board also discussed different ways to recruit more applicants, and the PD met and formed a recruitment team. The PD hopes to start going to more events that they normally wouldn't to find more applicants.

The chief discussed the crime statistics and trends. EPD had 9981 calls last year which is 300 more calls than the previous year. Property crime has increased, and the PD encourages people to take valuable items out of the car and lock car doors.

Community Outreach was not listed on the review due to not having data. Jody asked about the program and the Chief informed the Board that Community Outreach is losing funding, so EPD has requested more money in the budget to support Outreach. Other agencies in the area plan to increase funding as well.

EPD has a media group coming up next month to film and take more photos. Alyssa asked if there was a member of PCAB that would be willing to speak in the film to share the importance and support that the

PD has in the community. Vince stated that he is apart of a neighborhood blog and would be willing to post about the filming to see any community members would like to say anything about the PD. The Chief reported that there is a public facing portal that will go live soon, and the community could see certain types of calls in a given area. Sensitive calls, such as domestic violence or sexual assaults, will not be listed for privacy reasons.

The chief spoke about future events like Citizens Police Academy that Alyssa will follow up on and get details for. EPD is also working on doing a summer program for kids ages starting around 11-12.

The Board discussed Bike Patrol, and the Chief explained the role and how Bike Patrol is a great pipeline to those individuals moving to patrol. EPD currently has three officers that have been on bike patrol.

b. Public Safety Survey Task List: The Board discussed the survey format, ADA guidelines, Survey Monkey and paper copies and wording.

Action Steps:

Vince to incorporate feedback and share updated documents.

Vince will send out his excel sheet of survey questions to the Board

Next meeting, the Board will go through Vince's/ David's questions to get final survey questions.

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Christina. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa March
Community Affairs Liaison