

## POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

December 17, 2024

### POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT December 17, 2024

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

Absent:

**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 asked to follow up with items from the last meeting.*

#### 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 November meeting.*

#### 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

*a. The Board has two new members that attending the meeting. Jenny Parker is a nurse at UVM and has a close work history with law enforcement and mental health. David Harrington was in law enforcement for 28 years.*

*b. The Chief gave an update about what has been going on in the community with the PD. The PD is currently interviewing for 6 vacancies, but one person will be going to the next academy. There have been multiple applicants, but they are not appropriate for the position. PD is still using social media to get new recruits. The Chief met with other chiefs last week and the other departments shared that they are also seeing a lack of applicants.*

*The Chief also shared that the community is seeing vandalism to property at night, but the auto thefts have gone down in the last month.*

*The PD has been involved in a few community events this month and will continue to do so moving into the new year.*

*The PD had a financial wellness training for the new officers and Chief has been working with Tabitha about conducting another Racial Responsive training. The Chief invited the Board to attend the training in February if anyone was interested.*

c. Gwendolyn reported on the follow up with her friend that had an incident with her service dog and a dog that was off the leash. Her friend did receive a voicemail from EPD and was informed that the owner was issued a citation. Gwendolyn stated that her friend would like to have a conversation and potentially a training or info session about service animals and off leash dogs. Alyssa offered to speak with Gwendolyn's friend. Gwendolyn stated that she would speak with her friend and facilitate the conversation.

David shared that his friend had a recent incident with a dog that got out of a fenced area and went after his dog. David asked PD to follow up with his friend.

The Board discussed the importance of having a community discussion about off leash dogs.

d. Gwendolyn asked if there was any organization or business that could come to a meeting and speak about crime and their police experience. The Chief stated that he knows the owner of The Essex Experience and can reach out to them to see if they are willing to share their experience with PD. PD went to the Essex Experience a few months ago to provide training.

e. Gwendolyn sent Alyssa her new blog.

f. Public Safety Survey Task List: Vince shared the original survey questions with new potential survey questions.

Feedback: members agreed that the survey needs to be more police focused. Discussed potentially adding questions for recruitment into the survey. Discussed how many languages the survey needs to be translated and how to know how many languages there are. The chief suggested the high school might have an answer.

Action items for survey: How to get the surveys to different locations. The Board also discussed how to reach the elderly population in the area. Potentially having a drop box for hard copy surveys, having high school students help the elderly fill out the surveys. Discussed going door to door, doctors' offices, senior centers, a newspaper insert. The Board will provide a list of all the services the PD offers and agencies the PD works with in Essex to add to the survey.

## 7. **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Christina. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa March  
Community Affairs Liaison