

Command Advisory Board Meeting

The following is a summary of the Charlottesville Police Department Command Advisory Board meeting that took place December 17th, 2020. This board will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Meeting Date: 12/17/2020

Minutes: 1400hrs-1600hrs

Present: Chairperson Major Mooney

Co-Chairperson: Sgt. Jake Via

Secretary: Sgt. Todd McNerney

Ofc. Ryan Blackwell (virtual)

Cpl. Declan Hickey

Ofc. Cory Culbreath

Cpl. Eric Thomas

Sgt. Godfrey

Ofc. Arron Arreguin

Cpl. James Fink

Sgt. Jake Via

Det. Annmarie Hamill

Cpl. Jacob Bowlin

Sgt. Shawn Marshall

Records Specialist Mary Yancey

CSO Brain Arndt (virtual)

Absent

Cpl. Jeremy Hoy

Initial Actions – (Mooney)

1. Co-chair selection was made unanimously: Sergeant Jake Via
2. Volunteer for Secretary: Sergeant Todd McNerney
3. Update on Employee surveys: they have been collected, read, and thoroughly reviewed by Mooney. Results have not been compiled and explanation was given as to why.
4. Goals and purpose of the board was reviewed by Mooney. The board belongs to the members of the board, not the Assistant Chief of Police or even the Chief of Police. How it functions, how it succeeds is solely dependent on the members of the board.
5. Discussed the need for the board to be involved in the development of a “Mission” and suggested a “Cause.” A cause is something a department would publicly state as their belief, why they exist, and what their purpose is.
6. Review of the CAB email system.
7. CAB folder to be created for sharing of documents, minutes, etc.

Roundtable Discussion of Members

Cpl. Bowlin

- Getting with IT to create a Command Advisory email.
- Would like to see policy changed to allow beards year-round.
- Asked what the status was with third party complaints. Are we still taking them? Does it stay in the officers file?
 - * Mooney stated that most of the time there is not a specific officer named in the complaint and there is not a specific file to put it in.

Cpl. Thomas

- Advised there is a lot of equipment in storage that needs to be issued out. Stated there are several AED's, less lethal, rifles etc. It was also mention that when people are issued AED's they should get a CPR refresher. It was discussed how the AED's should be issued out. Do officers check them out each shift, should they be issued per vehicle or should certain Officers have one issued to them individually.
- Mooney advised he thinks there are grants out there for AED's and thinks we should explore those options.
- Sgt. Marshall stated Narcan needs to be issued out.
- Has an issue with being denied a specific piece of equipment because it was not relevant to his current work group? His example was he requested to traffic jacket, explaining that he worked a lot of traffic OT at night.

Ofc. Culbreath

- Wants to see more organization within the department. Can we create a file on the "J" drive that outlines who specifically oversees what?
- Asked what the mission for recruiting is.
 - *Mooney advised he has seen a big drop in local community members applying to CPD.

Ofc. Arreguin

- Would like to see more opportunity with more specialty units, SWAT, warrant teams, larceny units. The question was asked what these units should look like (part time units or full time). Mooney advised most of these units if done correctly should be inserted into a problem area (██████████ as an example) for a minimum of 12 months to 18 months.
- These specialty units would help with recruiting, make the department more appealing for new hires.
- Mooney advised the problem you run into right now would be staffing issues.

- Advised it is hard to find an unmarked vehicle to conduct SA's. Either people are taking them home when their vehicles are in the shop or there are no keys on the board.
*Mooney advised he would track down ALL vehicle keys that belong on the board at city yard.
- Asked if O'Donnell could put a schedule together for firearms training days.

Cpl. Fink

- Would like to see more training days. Firearms training, DT etc.

Sgt. Marshall

- Advised ammo is possibly becoming an issue, need to place an order. Advised the issue most of the time is when large hiring classes happen and they typically require 1,500 rounds per person for the academy, which really depletes the stock fast.
* Mooney followed up by asking how ammo we think the department needs for qualifications, for training, and for advanced scenario-based training we envision. To get it, we need to know exactly what we need and budget for it.
- Stated he feels there is a lack of training. Advised there are people that have been here for many years that still do not know how to correctly fill out an evidence tag. Training needs to be consistent and ongoing.
- Advised he needs to hear from a Sgt. on each patrol shift, with a recommendation of officers that would be good candidates to be issued a rifle.

Cpl. Hickey

- Feels there is no oversight when it comes to logistics. He asked how it was decided on who gets what vehicle.
*Mooney followed up saying that Cpl. Hunt has to get approval to issue any vehicle from Capt. Hatter that goes to a patrol officer.
*Mooney also advised CPD is issued \$300,000 per year for vehicles by the city, which has not changed in 10 years. They have asked the City to increase that to \$500,000.
- Asked if we should consider having VSP investigate incidents that are possible criminal matters involving Officers.
*Mooney followed up on this by saying we would need a policy on how we would handle these incidents. Example officer involved shootings etc. It needs to be clear in the policy for the supervisors, what are the questions they would ask an officers right after a critical incident.

Ofc. R. Blackwell

- Would like to see more consideration of what shift a person works before they are issued a specific vehicle. For example, he advised he was very appreciated of his vehicle,

but he works night shift and really depends on his light bar for his alley lights. His current vehicle is a slick top SUV with no alley lights.

- Advised communication while actively working homicides need to be better between officers and detectives. If officers are on the streets and investigations has a lead on a suspect or person of interest, those officers need to know about it for officer safety reasons.

Sgt. Via

- Brought up the footwear issue. Currently there is one boot and one shoe option. He would like to see more options. Advised in the past the only criteria was to stay under \$160 and order them from Galls.
*Mooney followed up on this and advised they are looking into this and said it may be a possibly if only one vendor possible Galls was used.

Sgt. Godfrey

- Asked about the status of the proposal Officer Shifflett wrote up about a possibility of a mental health unit. Mooney advised he has not seen anything about this come across his desk but will inquire where it is.
- Advised he was part of a uniform committee that was started five months ago that met one time. Asked what the purpose of the committee was and what is the status of the committee.
- Asked if there was any consideration to rejoin SPARTAN. Advised a lot of good training comes from that training program.
*Mooney followed up by saying he would consider participating in it again, if we had CPD instructors involved. Possibly host some of the training at our department. Advised some of the issue the first time we participated was the county was recruiting our people and we felt that was not right or beneficial to us to be a part of.
- Asked what the reasoning was for the CSO's getting their take home vehicles taken away. Feels like they work hard and are available for call outs when needed.
- Expressed a frustration with the communication between command level and Officers.

Det. Hamill

- N/A

Records Specialist Mary Yancey

- Advised services is having a big problem with repeat offenders hanging out in the lobby all day and verbal harassing service employees. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] are two common offenders. Is there anything we can do about this?
- Can people be barred from the PD lobby if they do not have a police issue?

- Can the PD get a phone tree? Example press 1 for the Chief of Police, press 2 for the secretary of the command advisory board etc.
- Advised the Taxi test has not been updated in years, since Tom Fitzgerald did it years ago.

Arndt

- Feels it is confusing how CSO's are treated. Mainly talking about when it comes to complaints. Arndt advised he recently felt like he needs to protect himself and felt it was necessary to become a PBA member.

McNerney

- Advised it is frustrating when major incidents happen, and information is put out on social media before CPD members are informed. Not all employees have social media accounts and do not see this information. Is it possible to inform employees first on major incidents and then inform the public?
- When the chief is part of a discussion panel is it possible for CPD employees to have access if it is on social media to watch. She is representing this department and it would be nice to be able to be involved.