

City of Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee

April 13, 2023 Minutes APPROVED

**1) ROLL CALL:**

Committee Members Present: Peggy Higgins, Chair, Stan Zirkin, Eunice Pierre, Mary Thomas, Steve Mirsky; Present via phone for vote on PSAC request to view Plateau Place shooting: Mary Thomas, John Ottina

Staff Liaison: Dawane Martinez; Also in Attendance: Bill Orleans

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Peggy Higgins

**3) AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Eunice Pierre made a motion to approve the April 13 agenda. The motion was seconded by Stan Zirkin and unanimously approved.

**4) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Steve Mirsky made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Eunice Pierre and unanimously approved.

After the list of meeting attendees was corrected for the February 2023 minutes, Stan Zirkin made a motion to re-approve the February 2023 minutes. Laura Kressler seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**5) OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Continuation of discussion of PSAC request to view officer shooting at Plateau Place

As a foundation for discussion, the committee again reviewed the March 16 email from Interim City Manager Tim George, Chief Bowers and City Attorney Jason DeLoach expressing concerns about PSACs request to review the video of the officer-involved Plateau Place shooting.

In his March 16 email, Mr. George stated concerns for the overall well-being of the officers involved and cleared in the shooting, department morale and the possible legal/financial consequences if PSAC issued “a report, finding, or even an opinion memo” following review of the officer-involved shooting at Plateau Place. Mr. George and City Attorney DeLoach proposed that PSAC “withdraw your request to review the video, or affirm that you will not issue any statement, finding or memo either publicly or sent directly to Council regarding the incident at Plateau Place [unless viewing the shooting was] “for your own edification and to better understand police procedures...but no finding or opinion can come forth.”

The committee fully discussed balancing these concerns within the context of PSAC’s responsibilities and purpose. Following discussion, Stan Zirkin first made a motion that PSAC make the request that PSAC be able to view the Plateau shooting. John Ottina seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 2. Stan Zirkin, Eunice Pierre, Steve Mirsky, John Ottina and Peggy Higgins voted yes. Laura Kressler and Mary Thomas voted no.

Stan Zirkin then made a motion that PSAC was willing to adhere to the conditions as laid out by the Interim City Manager so as to view the video. The motion was seconded Eunice Pierre. Voting yes was

John Ottina, Laura Kressler, Steve Mirsky. Stan Zirkin, Eunice Pierre, Mary Thomas and Peggy Higgins voted no. The motion failed.

b. Update Status of Security Cameras since PSAC August 2017 Report

Laura Kressler and Stan Zirkin provided background information about the PSAC's 2017 work on this issue. In addition to the use of stationary cameras as described in the report, the department currently uses mobile license plate camera readers which can be operated from individual police cars.

At a recent meeting, the Chief expressed an interest in the department purchasing an additional type of license plate camera readers at an approximate cost of \$20,000 each. These readers are able to be both temporarily stationed at exit/entry points of a Greenbelt neighborhood and also can be moved to different locations.

In order to understand crime trends and the department's current needs in preparation of updating the report to council, Chief Bowers will be invited to the May PSAC meeting.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

a. Weekly Police Activity Reports

Following review of the two weekly police reports and determining one of them wasn't necessary, Stan Zirkin made a motion for PSAC to receive the detailed, police activity spreadsheet. Laura Kressler seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Eunice Pierre proffered that the committee should determine its purpose and plan upon receiving this information. Her questions generated a discussion which concluded that these determinations would become clearer upon receipt of the weekly reports and identification of themes. Following that review, coordination with the police department as how PSAC could help and complement their work could be initiated. To assist in this effort, a review of the police activity reports would be a standing agenda item.

b. Community Policing Report

The department's May 2022 report was accepted.

Each police department in the state is required to annually submit a community policing report to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC). MPTSC directives regarding the report are to respond to identified key points which "address the Guiding Principles of Community Policing, as well as the Six Pillars identified in the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report" and includes an appendix with examples of best practices in community policing. Greenbelt Police Department submits their annual report in May. Upcoming Greenbelt Police Department CALEA accreditation  
The Greenbelt Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2006 and undergoes review of 446 standards of professional excellence at 3-year and now 4-year increments. The department's 2023 review is currently underway. The suggestion was made to ask the Chief how PSAC can help and complement the CALEA process.

c. PSAC 2023 \$1900 budget and 2024 proposed budget

Upcoming expenses: PSAC shirts need to be ordered for new PSAC members Steve Mirsky and John Ottina and a quote for possible purchase of committee hoodies or windbreakers.

Laura Kressler has the contact information for Linda, the individual who previously made the shirts. Dr. Kressler and Peggy Higgins agreed to put together a swag order for upcoming National Night Out and fall events.

Following discussion Steve Mirsky made a motion for the purchase of the \$190 membership in International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The motion was seconded by Stan Zirkin and unanimously approved. IACP provides a monthly magazine to its members highlighting police issues.

The proposed budget for PSAC remains \$1,900. The city's public safety budget hearing is May 2,

## **7) UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, May 4

June, July, August – Dates To Be Determined

## **8) MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Eunice Pierre made a motion to adjourn. Stan Zirkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Peggy Higgins, Chair