



CECIL COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB)

Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Open Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

Attendance:

Present:

PAB Members: John Gainey (Chair), Robert McKnight,
and John Thompson

Office of Law: Kevin Jensen (Assistant County Attorney),
Kayla Maldeis (Legal Administrator),
and Caitlyn Reeves (Paralegal)

Absent:

PAB Members: Jamila Mettee

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

Roll call - 3 members present, representing a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Gainey.

Agenda Approval:

Robert McKnight motioned to add a section D to the agenda designation of John Thompson to the ACC, seconded by John Gainey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Robert McKnight motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by John Gainey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

Robert McKnight motioned to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2024, meeting, seconded by John Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Presentation by Chief Stephen Yates of the North East Police Department:

Chief Yates stated as of July 1st, the North East Police Department (“NEPD”) added 2 new officers bringing their staffing up to 14.

Chief Yates stated the NEPD consistently have anywhere between 55 and 75 calls a week for service and that stays pretty consistent throughout the year.

Chief Yates asked in addition to the individual chiefs and sheriff’s coming once a year could we also add a meeting where all chiefs and sheriffs attend together.

Chief Yates congratulated John Gainey on his appointment as chairman of the Police Accountability Board.

Attorney Jensen thanked Chief Yates for coming in and asked Chief Yates if he still had concern with the juvenile justice system and an increase in juvenile crime as he stated last year. Chief Yates responded yes, until Annapolis does something that’s going to continue to occur.

Attorney Jensen asked Chief Yates with the legalization of marijuana and the difficulties that presents with calls for searches, grounds for searches. Have you seen a decreases in drug arrests or handgun arrests or anything affiliated with that sort of has that still been a challenge for you guys? Chief Yates responded yes, because we can’t go off of the odor of marijuana for probable cause. That does handcuff us in some situations, but officers are adjusting to it.

Attorney Jensen asked Chief Yates if fentanyl and xylosine were still an issue? Chief Yates responded it’s a steady and continuing issue.

Presentation by Chief Carolyn Rogers of the Elkton Police Department:

Chief Rogers agreed with Chief Yates that she thinks it would be great for all the agencies to get together to talk about discipline and personnel matters.

Chief Rogers stated that Elkton Police Department (“EPD”) received a grant to add 2 more officers. That will put them at 52 officers. They currently have 48. With that being said there are officers out on leave, in the Academy and elsewhere so there are not always 48 currently on duty. Chief Rogers stated and it has always been this way since she has been there which is 30 years.

EPD has a minimum of 3 officers at a time on the road which is a little crazy and the reality is the officers do overtime and everything else to try and keep at least 4 officers on at a time. Chief Rogers hasn’t officially but she is on the cusp of making it 4 officers at a time on the road.

Chief Rogers shared 2 weeks ago there were 232 calls and last week there were 277 calls at EPD. In the whole county last week there were 816 calls and 277 of them were here in Elkton.

Chief Rogers stated there have been 16 fatal overdoses in the county so far to date

this year 9 of those have been in Elkton's jurisdiction, so we are extremely busy.

Chief Rogers said she knows the PAB probably gets the most cases from EPD than any other agency but a lot of those are generated internally.

Chief Rogers stated she is very proud of her officers, EPD has higher calls for serious/violent crimes and the officers handle them all.

Chief Rogers stated last year EPD had 1 officer involved shooting. It was not fatal, and no officer was injured.

Chief Rogers commented EPD is still trying to figure out the use of force definition in the State of Maryland and how that's changed.

Review of Complaint summary:

The Office of Law provided the PAB with a summary of all PAB complaints submitted since the last PAB meeting.

On record the PAB chairman Mr. Gainey has designated Mr. Thompson to serve in his seat on the ACC, the next two months.

Next meeting:

The next PAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Elk Room of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD.

Adjourn:

On motion made by John Gainey, seconded by Robert McKnight, and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 AM.