



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SHERIFF JOHN W. MINA

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023

Time Scheduled: 6:00 PM

Started: 6:06 PM

Ended: 7:07 PM

Location: Orange County Sheriff's Office
Central Operations Center
2500 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32804

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Manager John Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>
<u>Committee Members Absent:</u>
<u>Others Present:</u>

Mr. Jay Smith, Mr. Michael Doby, Mr. Kevin Sutton, Bishop Derrick McRae

Pastor Roderick Zak, Ms. Ingrid Morfa, Mr. Eric Kidwell, Mr. Warren Lewis

Manager John Farrell, Captain Antorrio Wright, Lieutenant Sean McCormack, Kimberly Boothe

3. OPENING:

Manager John Farrell opened the meeting at 6:06 PM.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Jay Smith and seconded by Mr. Kevin Sutton for the approval of the May's meeting minutes.

5. HOUSEKEEPING AND OLD BUSINESS:

Last month's meeting there was a presentation conducted by Lieutenant McKenzie from the training unit he spoke about the Mobile Video Systems Unit and of all body worn camera. Earlier today there was a managers meeting that confirmed that all courthouse deputies now have body worn cameras. The next Policy Review Committee meeting will discuss updating the current policy for Court Security and Facilities with revisions which now includes guidelines for the use of the Body Worn Cameras in the courthouses. This policy addition was necessary due to the issuance of BWCs to all court security personnel.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

We received two emails unrelated to the board. One email was from an outside company, who is trying to solicit our advice and asking the committee to register for their conferences and information related to police misconduct and alternative software. The second email was from a pediatrician at Children's Hospital at downtown primary care clinic. He was working to establish a gun safety program at his clinic providing

education to his patient population who have guns within their home. He was inquiring about starting this program. This email was forwarded to Captain Wright to handle.

7. NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION):

Mr. Farrell announced that Bishop Derrick McRae is the new Citizen Advisory Committee chair that was selected by Sheriff Mina. Mr. McRae introduced himself to the committee. Mr. Farrell informed everyone that there is one open availability for a committee member to join and we are still waiting on that role to be filled. Community Relations Section's Captain Antorrio Wright gave a presentation discussing his section and what they do for the community. He began the presentation stating that he will be the new captain of sector six which oversees Disney. His replacement for Community Relations Section's position is Captain Kyle Morse.

The Community Relations Section has made continuous efforts to engage and build relationships with the residents of our local communities with various programs for adults, seniors and the youth. Captain Wright began with explaining the adult programs that are offered to the public such as the Citizen Academy, Spanish Academy, and the Portuguese Academy. The Civilian Police Academy establishes partnerships within the community through education, hands on interactions and cooperation. Participants will have a better understanding of day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office and understanding the challenges faced by law enforcement. The senior programs objectives are to reduce senior victimization, enhance a sense of security and improve senior's overall quality of life. A few of the senior programs are the Senior Abuse Presentation and the Senior Academy. The senior program goals are to identify senior issues, investigate those issues and select a course of action to address them. To achieve this, we must educate, train and involve senior citizens, law enforcement and the community.

The Community Relations Section also has youth programs available to the public such as the Teen Academy, Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) and the Explorer Program. The Orange County Police Athletic League is a juvenile crime prevention organization in which law enforcement officers utilize athletic and recreational activities to influence youngsters to avoid the temptations of crime, drugs and violence. Through its sports and educational programs P.A.L. encourages children to become law-abiding citizens. The primary function of the Explorer Program is assisting the Sheriff's Office through community service projects while learning about the many aspects of the criminal justice system. We hope to provide a sound foundation for the youth who wish to pursue a career in law enforcement. There are special youth program events that have been a huge hit with the local youths in the community which are the Rockin & Reeling Event and the Mobile Gaming Theater that allow deputies to build positive rapport with one-on-one interactions with kids.

The discussion transitioned to the agency's crime prevention strategies. He explained their efforts are to set up neighborhood watch meetings and business watch meetings that give willing participants guidance on maintaining these meetings independently to provide safety tips to others in the public. Captain Wright briefly spoke about the increase in auto theft of Hondas and Kia vehicles in the last few months. The Community Relations Section has been focused on distributing steering wheel locks to owners of these vehicles to prevent them from being victims of these thefts. The presentation continued with the statistical data for the Kicks-4-Guns/ Gun Buy Back Events. Since 2014, there has been 11 of these events and the agency has collected over 1,800 guns that people do not want any more due to various reasons. This has been a great opportunity allowing those in the community a chance to safely discard their unwanted firearms. The agency was able to recover 26 stolen firearms and one lost fire arm that was returned to its rightful owner.

Captain Wright mentioned the special events that are meant to give back to the community such as the Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway and Christmas events. In 2022, the Community Relations team had set up 693 meetings with 10,106 meeting attendees. They conducted 36 residential surveys, 45

commercial surveys, and 355 commercial assessments. They also checked 511 car seats and distributed 394 car seats at no cost to those in the community. The Gaming Trailer had 997 attendees and the Police Athletic League had 7,352 participants that year. Captain Wright mentioned that he has been encouraging his team to recommend new ideas and ways that can increase the engagement of everyone in our community. Mr. McRae inquired about the methods the agency has been using to inform those in the community about these opportunities. Captain Wright stated his team uses social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and the Twitter to advertise these opportunities to the public. Another alternative that is given to the public, is to register with the application called "Next Door" which posts information that are related to crimes in their area. Mr. McRae suggested that the SROs assigned to different schools be tasked to share the opportunities that are available per school.

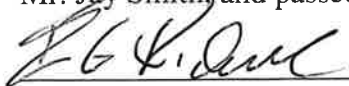
Captain Wright explained that his team does that at their hosted events, especially during their more popular Christmas events which have over 150 kids attending. His team informs their P.A.L. students and also send out flyers to homes in local communities to spread awareness. The SROs send out forms to the administrators to fill out providing the information of families or students that would benefit from being nominated to get these multiple opportunities. Mr. McRae asked if there was any statistical data showing an increase in improving the relationship with the community based on the programs and events offered to them. He stated that when he spoke with the sheriff and undersheriff about how challenging it is to get African Americans to sign up to become law enforcement officers. Captain Wright stated that his team determine engagement by the number of kids willing to attend each program. If the kids did not like the programs or events, they would not be coming back to participate in them. He mentions that based on the current numbers of attendees that the kids enjoy the interactions with the deputies. He continued by saying in the budget proposal for next fiscal year he asked for an increase in staffing for his team to be able to do more. Mr. Sutton inquired how the schools are selected for the sports programs. Captain Wright said that most of the students that attend are from at risk communities, and it also is dependent on the schools that are willing to participate in these programs. Mr. Sutton asked if there was a budget in place to man a school, and if it was possible to create a partnership between different district commissioners to assist aiding in their efforts because the county would be able to help cover the cost. Captain Wright clarified that their main problem with expanding is not the funding to host each events, it is the limitation of staffing to accommodate the expansion. Lastly, Mr. Farrell mentioned in the last five years, there has been an increase of 6.98% of black male deputies. We had an increase of 18% in black female deputies. White female deputies have been decreasing over the last 5-8 years, and a significant increase in Hispanic deputies. Mr. McRae asked if these efforts are still in place to increase more minorities as deputies. Mr. Farrell stated that the CALEA Accreditation really is about maintaining diversity within our workforce so that it looks like the community we serve.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Mr. John Farrell requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Kevin Sutton, seconded by Mr. Jay Smith, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.



Mr. Eric Kidwell
Chairman



OCSO Staff Member