



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SHERIFF JOHN W. MINA

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023

Time Scheduled: 6:00 PM

Started: 6:06 PM

Ended: 6:57 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. McRae called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

Committee Members Present:

Bishop Derrick McRae, Mr. Michael Doby

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Warren Lewis, Ms. Ingrid Morfa, Pastor Roderick, Mr. Kevin Sutton, Mr. Jay Smith, Mr. Eric Kidwell

Others Present:

Captain Terri Piwowarski, Lieutenant Sean McCormack, Lieutenant Rob Branch, Sgt. Sean Murphy, M/D Mike Kleinfelt, Kimberly Boothe, Heather Dublonsky

3. OPENING:

Mr. McRae opened the meeting at 6:06 PM.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick McRae, and seconded by Mr. Michael Doby for the approval of May, July and September's Meeting Minutes.

5. HOUSEKEEPING AND OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on the November training session at the Analytics, Intelligence and Monitoring (AIM) center.

Update on Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) – A CAC charge a few years ago requested the OCSO to try and get all sworn CIT certified.

- We now have over 1,000 trained CIT deputies. Currently all SRO's, almost all of Uniform Patrol and Court Security are certified
- 1,668 total sworn. (89 Lieutenants and above) (68 Reserve Deputies) This leaves about 511 still left to get trained
- We are moving towards the remaining sworn members and adding key civilian personnel

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

An email was sent to us about a vehicle complaint regarding parking concerns. The email was forwarded to the Parking Enforcement Supervisor Mr. Schenck in Specialized Traffic to address. Mr. Schenck said he will contact the person directly.

7. NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION):

A presentation was conducted by the Aviation Section's Sgt. Sean Murphy and M/D Mike Kleinfelt about Drones. Sgt. Murphy explained the importance of Drones in Law Enforcement. Drones allows versatility and efficiency in its search and detection capabilities. Drones can be utilized during night operations and have shown to be effective in conjunction with the principles of containment and coordination among specialized units. Drones provide real-time intelligence and gives the tactical advantage in critical and high risk incidents that is paramount in the operational planning and decision making by incident commanders. Drones are less expensive to operate than helicopters or airplanes and they can fly in areas that traditional aircrafts cannot reach. Currently, the Aviation Section's Unmanned Aerial Systems Program maintains 17 UAVs of varying capabilities with FAA certified Remote Pilots working in numerous assignments. The units that have Drones in their possession are Uniform Patrol Division, Forensics Section, and the Aviation Section. Uniform Patrol has 12 Drones. The Forensics Unit has 2 Drones that assist them at crime scenes. Sgt. Murphy mentioned that UPD will have another 6 Drones in the upcoming weeks. The goal is to have Drones spread out evenly throughout the county for every shift and rotation in each sector to have a drone easily assessable to them.

Selection and Training

One of the requirements to have a drone is to be assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division. The candidate has to attend PUAUV Informational meetings to learn more about drones and what the expectations are to obtain one. All candidates must be recommended by their Sector Captain to the Aviation Section. It is expected that candidates complete the UAS Program's Drone Familiarization Exercise and must be able to obtain and maintain FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate. The Aviation Section must receive a final recommendation of the selected candidates by the Sector Captains. All candidates must successfully complete the UAS Program's 40 hour "Basic Remote Pilot Flight Training Course". The selected candidates must receive a minimum of 10 hours of flight instruction under the supervision of a Flight Instructor. The Aviation Section reserves the right to remove any Remote Pilot candidate who fails to meet agency standards or is deemed unsafe from the PUAUV or any UAS Programs. Reoccurring training is expected every 2 years and all remote pilots must attend UAS Program's Quarterly Trainings.

Legislation

In accordance to Florida Statute (934.50) drones are permitted in high risk terrorist attacks. Drones can be used in pursuant to a search warrant signed by a judge authorizing its use. Also, when reasonable suspicion indicates that swift action is needed to prevent imminent danger to life or serious damage to property, escape of a suspect, destruction of evidence, in the search of a missing person, assisting in traffic management, assist in the collection of evidence and in the assessment of damage caused by natural disaster. Drones provide an aerial perspective of a crowd of 50 people or more. These measure are to ensure the agency drones are used responsibly and ethically. M/D Kleinfelt shared a story about a case that involved a drone assisting on scene deputies in a high risk incident. The drone was used to view and determine that a suspect had a firearm. Mr. Doby inquired about the incident and if the suspect was able to see the drone.

M/D Kleinfelt clarified that the aerial capabilities of the drones' can make them undetected in many situations and in this case the suspect did not see the drone.

Noncompliance Drones and Long Term Plan

In August 2023, the agency purchased replacement drones from Skydio which are deemed to be Florida compliant. Currently, we have 16 Skydio X2E drones in inventory. This is a very advanced drone technology that has 360-day obstacle avoidance, live stream capabilities, and thermal cameras. The Aviation Section is expecting to have 6 new Skydio X10 drones which is the latest drone product with more capabilities. Mr. McRae inquired about what happened to the agency's noncompliant drones. M/D Kleinfelt explained that to address the agency's noncompliant drones, FDLE received state funds to offset the costs of updating unmanned aerial system for Florida law enforcement agencies. Funds allocated for Drone Replacement Program was \$25,000,000. Noncompliant drones before January 2022 would be reimbursed at a percentage of the total initial purchase. The Aviation Section identified 18 drones and 26 UAS accessories which were not in compliance. Agency noncompliant drones were surrendered to the state of Florida. Some of those drones will be used in our war efforts overseas and others will be sent to the University of South Florida to be researched to produce a study. Total funds received by OCSO from the Drone Replacement Program was \$148,641.84. The Aviation Section plans to expand PUAV program to provide drone capabilities to front line responders. The plan includes to increase the drone program in patrol by 24 additional remote drone pilots bringing the total to 36 in patrol. The UAS Program's long term goal is to bring the concept of Patrol-Led Drone First Responder to OCSO to allow remote pilots to virtually respond immediately to incidents from anywhere at any time.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Mr. McRae requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Doby, seconded by Captain Piwowarski, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.


Mr. Eric Kidwell
Chairman


OCSO Staff Member