



PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD COMBINED REGULAR AND

QUARTERLY - REGULAR SESSION: MILLER PARK PAVILION

1020 S. MORRIS AVE., BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, 5:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order-5:00 pm

2. Roll Call: PRESENT: Board Members-Farmer, Bennett, McFarland, Fish, Woodard

ABSENT: Board Members Bommarito, Taylor

3. Public Comment- Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to: publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

Karla Bailey Smith- Steering Committee for the ACLU Chapter of Central Illinois commented on the IDOT report on racial disparity in traffic stops on minority drivers has been increasing over the last two decades. The report stated that minority drivers were twice as likely as white drivers to be stopped in Bloomington. In 2021 and 2022 black drivers were four times more likely to be stopped than white drivers. Latino drivers were twice as likely to be stopped than white drivers. She referenced Chief Simington's statement from March of 2023 that he was working to change these statistics. She stated that the ACLU is asking for a public discussion about what is being done to address this issue. She called upon the PSCRB to convene a meeting to allow the BPD to explain the disparities noted in the IDOT report. She also wanted the PSCRB and the BPD to hear from black and Latino individuals regarding what they have experienced during traffic stops. She encouraged the BPD to provide training and additional oversight to officers as other communities have done to address their disparities.

4. Consent Agenda- Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2023, Regular Public Safety and Community Relations Board Meeting (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.) Motion- Ms. Fish. Second- Dr. Farmer. All in favor. Minutes approved.

B. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on the taser use report (Recommended Motion: None, presentation, and discussion only.) 4 taser incidents for the month of August. 3 were displays and one was a deployment on a black male DUI who refused to exit his vehicle. There were 6973 calls for service in August of 2022 compared to 6990 calls for service in August of 2023. 19 incidents in August where use of force was used or displayed. 99.7% of all calls for the month of August were handled without the display or use of force.

C. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on an update of complaints received. (Recommended Motion: None, presentation, and discussion only.) 10 complaints currently for 2023. No complaints asking for PSCRB review.

D. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on general department updates (Recommended Motion: None, presentation, and discussion only.) ALPR Update-recovered 3 stolen vehicles in August. recovered 8 stolen vehicles. Used ALPR data and Facebook to identify perpetrators of high value vehicle thefts.

Summer Camp update: presented to city council. 28 participants. Jail and courthouse tours. Picnic and swim outing.

Bearcat was approved at the August 14th city council meeting. Will be a year for delivery in Bloomington.

Communitycrimemap.com is up and running again.

E. Presentation on personnel training and continued education by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) (Recommended Motion: None, presentation only.) For a short time, there were 126 out of 128 officers active. 6 officers recently hired. One was a lateral hire. One was injured so there will be 4 going to the academy. August 25, 2023, 5 new officers graduated from the academy. Minus the officers out on sick leave or military deployment, there are currently 102 officers are available for duty.

F. Consideration and action on future meeting dates, times, location, and topics (Recommended Motion: Board to determine adjustments to meeting dates, times, location, and topics.) Hold public meeting to allow BPD an opportunity to apprise public of update traffic stop statistics. Hold the meeting at a church that has an A/V setup like Mt. Pisgah. The location may encourage more people to attend. Theme of the event "Targeting Violations Not People". Should the public meeting replace our October meeting, or do we hold the discussion at our next quarterly meeting in December? Dr. Farmer suggested not finalizing the meeting until we have all board members present for their input. Discussed changing the time of the quarterly meeting to 6pm to

accommodate work schedules of would-be participants. The next meeting will be held 3:30 pm on October 5, 2023 at the Miller Park Pavilion.

6. Quarterly Public Meeting: Discussion with the public to voice concerns and provide recommendations for improving interactions between the Police Department and the community., as requested by the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: None; discussion only.)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD QUARTERLY SESSION:

Chief Simington (BPD) opened discussion by praising the dedication and hard work of the BPD regarding public safety. No homicides reported in Bloomington this year, though shootings and homicides have increased in surrounding cities. He also provided updates on the work of the BPD to address the racial disparity in traffic stops in Bloomington. He stated that the current reports are incorrect. The frequency of traffic stops for African Americans decreased from 6.2 in 2020 to 4.7 in 2022 and further decreased to 4.0 in 2023. The statistics for Peoria, Normal, Champaign, Urbana and Springfield are higher than the City of Bloomington. Urbana's much touted strategy has backfired and increased the frequency from 4.3 to 6.1. The strategically led policing efforts by the department are yielding results. Traffic was the number one complaint from residents who attended "coffee with a cop" or "custard with a cop". The BPD has created a dashboard so supervisors can share the data back to the officers who before this had no idea what their statistics were. Coaching is really resonating with the officers. Anti-bias training has also encouraged officers to be more aware of their own biases.

7. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn-Mr. Woodard. Seconded by-Ms. Fish. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:13 pm.

Individuals with disabilities planning to attend the meeting who require reasonable accommodations to observe and/or participate, or who have questions about the accessibility of the meeting, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 309-434-2468 or

mhurt@cityblm.org