



MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD COMBINED MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY - SPECIAL SESSION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025, 6:00 PM

The Public Safety and Community Relations Board Combined Monthly and Quarterly convened in special session at 6:00 PM, April 23, 2025. Board Chair Rachel McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Arthur Taylor	Board Member	Present
Sean Murphy	Board Member	Present
Ashley Farmer	Board Member	Present
Rachel McFarland	Board Chair	Present
Yvett Hernandez	Board Member	Absent
William Bennett	Board Member	Absent
Tylian Smith	Vice Board Chair	Absent
Giselle Lee	Board Member	Present
Michael Hurt	Staff Liaison	Present

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.

No public comment was received.

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.

Regular Agenda

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2025, Regular Session Public Safety and Community Relations Board Meeting.

Board Member Taylor made a motion, seconded by Board Member Farmer, to approve the item as amended

Board Chair McFarland directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: McFarland; Farmer; Taylor; Murphy; Lee

Motion passed.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on an update of complaints received.

Asst. Chief Wamsley stated to date there are 7 complaints in 2025 , 4 pending, 1 remains from last year, still in the judicial process. There are 0 complaints for PSCRB review. Calls for service in March 2024. We had 6168. Calls for service in March 2025 5568. 600 less calls for service in March 2025 than March of 2024.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on taser report.

Asst. Chief Wamsley reported there were nine incidents involving the use of a taser. Five of these incidents were deployments and four were displays.

The first deployment was on a black male where officers responded to a disturbance call and were placing a subject in custody he slipped out of his jacket and tried to run away.

The second one was a probe deployment on a white male. The subject that we wanted on multiple warrants. Upon stopping the subject exited the vehicle became very hostile and refused to allow officers to place him in handcuffs. Officers deployed their Tasers and the subject was placed safely into custody.

The third one was a probe deployment on a black male as officers attempted to stop an individual who was walking in the middle of the road. The officers tried to make contact, but the subject continued to walk away in the middle of the road, almost being struck by cars. Officers told the subject they were going to issue a citation. He became very aggressive towards them. The officer deployed the taser and placed him safely into custody.

The fourth was a probe deployment was on a white male. The subject was trying to break into a residence. The officers learned that the subject had already broken into several cars on scene. The subject attempted to get away while his arms in the company won. The officer caught up in the subject. You would not stop and hopefully it was the Tasers. The subject was placed safely into custody and received medical care.

The last was a probe deployment on a black male. During a traffic stop, the subject exited the vehicle as the officer approached and asked for his driver's license. The subject ran, Officers caught up to the subjects as he turned back to run in the other direction. Officers deployed the taser, placed him into custody and he was found to have a small amount of cannabis on his person.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.D. Presentation on personnel training and continued education by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD).

There was no discussion on personnel training.

There was no discussion on personnel training.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.E. Presentation on recruitment statistics by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD).

There was no discussion on recruitment statistics.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.F. Presentation and Discussion by the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) on general department updates.

Asst. Chief Wamsley stated the BPD currently has 128 out of the 133 officers. One resigned last month who was down in the Academy and we BPD terminated one who was in the FTO program. Last month Sergeant Ivy Thornton retired after 22 years. There are currently two in the Academy that will graduate on Friday. We just completed a testing cycle, and we're hoping to send three to the Academy on June 29th. We are planning on hiring a lateral police officer on Monday, so that's going to put us back up to 131 out of 133 officers.

Asst. Chief Wamsley reported that the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) report is combined with some states from last month.

- LPR used for investigation of organized retail theft ring and provided data to identify the subject vehicle and linked it to previously unknown tests and four other jurisdictions as well as a case in Indiana.
- Patrol officers used the downtown camera system to locate an armed subject armed with a knife. Officers then used the direction of travel information to locate the subject and seize the weapon.
- Identified and located subjects in an incident where a citizen was pepper sprayed by the occupants of a vehicle.
- And BPD investigated aggravated domestic battery where the subject fled, driving on the wrong side of the road into ongoing traffic. The vehicle was located with the assistance of the LPR and the subject was taken into custody.

Asst. Chief Wamsley did a presentation on toy guns and bb guns that were made to look exactly like a real gun. He also passed the guns to the audience for their review and everyone remarked about how real the guns looked and realized the difficulty officers have in discerning if the toy or the bb gun is a real gun. He read the transcript from the body cam that occurred during the officer involved shooting of a 15-year-old male. The Illinois State Police investigated the incident and stated, "in our unequivocal opinion, the Bloomington Police Department officers were legally justified in the use of deadly force against this armed subject on February 5, 2025." In their comments the States Attorney stated, "They understand that the officers were faced with one of the most difficult situations that a police officer can encounter, and despite their diligent and admirable efforts, they were forced to make the decision to use deadly force."

Youth Board Member Giselle Lee asked if the BPD was conducting informational meetings in

the schools regarding the dangers of possessing guns look alike. Chief Wamsley emphasized that it is important that the parents hear that presentation in conjunction with the student. She also commented on her experience seeing these look alike guns at school.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.G. Discussion on potential future agenda topics.

Topics for the next meeting: Elect new or retain current chairperson. Review of PSCRB purpose/history for new Youth Members.

New Business

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. PSCRB Combined Regular/Quarterly Meeting.

There was no discussion on PSCRB Combined Regular/Quarterly Meeting.

Adjournment

Board Member Farmer made a motion, seconded by Board Member Taylor, to adjourn the meeting.

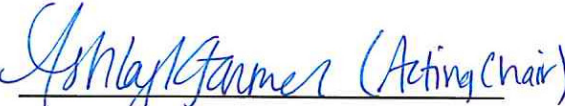
Board Chair McFarland directed the clerk to call roll:

AYES: McFarland; Farmer; Taylor; Murphy; Lee

Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Ashley Farmer (Acting Chair)

Rachel McFarland, Board Chair


Michael Hurt, Staff Liaison

