

Camden and Wyoming Chief Advisory Board 5/28/2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Chief Marcus Whitney

Chief Richard Baker

Fleur McKendell

Dr. Corey Miklus

Bishop Carol Boggerty

Maryanne Faust

Mike Morasco

1. Agenda and updated Code of Ethics handed out
2. Meeting called to order 6:06pm by Fleur McKendell
3. Welcome remarks given by Chief Whitney that he is grateful for everyone showing up consistently, and that meetings will dwindle as we get more settled.
4. Code of Conduct: Mr. Marasco moved and Dr. Miklus seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Minutes approved: Mr. Marasco moved and Dr. Miklus seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Chief Baker says there is an increase in domestic violence, and a lot of that involves mental health component- responses have included hospital transport for evaluation.
7. Chief Whitney says increase in domestic violence and slight uptick in sexual offenses and decrease in homeless contact could be due to weather being nicer. Keeping eye on homeless bill of rights. Example 15-year-old female with 32-year-old boyfriend. That constitutes statutory rape. Chief referenced Romeo and Juliet law where 15-year-olds can have sexual relations with someone up to age 19. Child aged 16 can have sexual relationship with someone up to age 29 and it is lawful. Age of consent in Delaware is 12.
8. Maryanne mentioned Barclay Farms is having issue with kids coming over from Tamarac. Officers called and kids were gone before they got there. Last year this same group of kids were doing the same, and an older Black resident opened door and told them to stop and they called him the N word. Chief Whitney advised that anytime racial epithet is used to notify police so hate crime can be investigated.
9. Chief Whitney mentioned that Homeless Bill of Rights legislation's language can be an issue as it makes it harder for law enforcement to make contact with homeless

and to remove their property. The Law Enforcement community is working on language with legislators and other involved organizations/individuals.

10. Chief Whitney spoke to the 20 hours in first year training requirement and wants everyone to start working toward the requirement as soon as possible. Touring of police department is a part of training, and it also gives board members an idea of the lay of the land and how the police department operates when people are brought in.
11. Chief Whitney discussed Internal Affairs process and advised that the department works to confirm or deny allegations from the very start, and one of the last parts of the process is to bring officer in for questioning. Administrative suspension (with pay) is typically done from the start for almost every complaint. This ensures there is no punitive action taken towards officer without potential harm to department if the officer is not found in wrong during Internal Affairs investigation.
12. Chief Baker stated that Wyoming PD follows the same basic procedure. Explained he was subject to a complaint and had another officer investigate because he can't investigate himself. He did not suspend himself with pay, however, as they felt they could continue working without harm. The complaint was because he and another officer had her transported to Bayhealth for evaluation due to mental breakdown she had. After multiple attempts to contact complainant, Chief Whitney had officer go to her home and statement was provided. The Internal Affairs investigation is in final stages of completion.
13. Student Subcommittee: Bishop Boggerty and Chief Baker recommended we use student leaders from Caesar Rodney to help build this committee. The student government or another student group is usually a good place to look for student leaders. Dr. Miklus will work to help identify students for recommendation to Subcommittee. Chief Whitney says major challenge over last few years is community understanding of police purpose. Bishop Boggerty recommends that we ramp up engagement with student community. Chief Baker and Chief Whitney says the subcommittee should be no more than 5 students. Student would be chair and an adult would serve as an advisor. Students can obtain letters of service from Chiefs also.
14. Next meeting August, 2024 6pm.
15. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm