

**Chief's Advisory Committee**  
**June 11, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.**  
**Administrative Conference Room**

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**Meeting Participants:** Chief Buttice, Captain Bayne, Captain Knudson, Earl Gooding Jr., Noah Leavitt, Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, Terry McConn, Administrative Sergeant Nick Loudermilk, Chalese Rabidue Braman, Emily Thompson

**Absent:** Ruben Hernandez and Mark Higgins

**Chief's Welcome**

**Pursuit law changes – What does this mean for local law enforcement?**

There are two main laws regarding vehicular pursuits by peace officers, specifically RCW 10.116.060 and Final Bill Report SI 2113. On June 6 the senate passed SI 2113 which outlines *“to engage in the vehicular pursuit the officer must have received authorization from a supervising officer, and there must be supervisory control of the pursuit.”* Chief Buttice stated we will not authorize pursuits for other law enforcement agencies. Just because we can pursue fleeing vehicles does not mean we will pursue them. The reward must outweigh the risk to pursue. We are hopeful with the new change in law that it becomes a deterrent in fleeing vehicles knowing we can pursue, but this step is taken with careful consideration. We must evaluate the traffic, weather conditions, pedestrians, etc. The officer can terminate his own pursuit if the risk switches direction and no longer outweighs the benefit. Public safety is the main deciding factor. Chief Buttice was hopeful this law change will improve behavior across the state. The Police Department is drafting a revised internal policy. Once drafted, we will review this with the officers for feedback prior to finalizing the pursuit policy.

**Body Worn Camera update**

Frankee Cannone in Records is our full-time Body Worn Camera technician. A significant amount of time is taken by Frankee Cannone and the City's Attorney Office to interpret the law regarding what gets disseminated and to whom it gets disseminated. There has been a learning curve on handling body worn camera redaction and video dissemination. She ran a report on Body Worn Camera stats. Currently there are 46,576 evidence items in BWC video during the past year. There were 53 public disclosure requests (for BWC videos) submitted from September 2023 to June 2024.

Council Member Moss inquired if the cost of an individual submitting a Public Disclosure Request (PDR) is a deterrent. This is possibly a deterrent; however, we do not require people to pre-pay for the BWC videos, so the cost impact is unknown.

The officer is expected to activate their body worn camera (BWC) anytime a conversation takes place related to their official duties. If the person they are talking with requests the camera be turned off, the officer would consider turning it off. If the conversation is regarding something relaxed like the weather, there is no expectation to turn on the camera.

### **Fireworks ordinance—what can the WWPB do, what are the challenges?**

There was a lengthy discussion on how to discourage illegal fireworks from being used within the city limits. While the presence of law enforcement was always a deterrent, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has historically brought an unusually high number of calls for service. The local consumption of alcohol intake tends to be higher than normal. In addition, there are significantly more reports of DUI's and domestic violence to investigate. All available officers are frequently tied up on earlier calls and not available to check on reports of illegal fireworks.

All available officers work the 4<sup>th</sup> of July—in addition to the regularly scheduled morning and night patrol, anyone having the day off is assigned overtime to work the park detail. How do we find additional resources to assist with the fireworks? Council Member Moss wondered if we could call upon the fireworks stands to help educate the community on what fireworks are legal within the city limits. Utilizing yard signs is also a possibility.

Dick Morgan responded the fireworks stands located within the city limits may comply and help educate buyers on the legal fireworks options; still, many people buy their fireworks at other locations like at tribe firework stands.

Terry McConn does not believe most of our citizens want aerial fireworks used. They are loud and a fire hazard. Maybe Brenden Koch can utilize social media and work with radio stations to get the message out.

Chief Buttice clarified writing tickets for illegal use of fireworks is hard to enforce. Under the current state statute, the officer must see who lit the fireworks to write a ticket or the individual must have admitted they lit the fireworks.

Earl Gooding Jr. noted we must change the attitudes of people who think lighting off fireworks is patriotic. Those individuals just wait until the officer drives by before lighting the next firework.

Captain Bayne is willing to use the loudspeakers to announce to citizens to not light aerial fireworks within the city. He will ask the officers to read off a pre-scripted dialog then to drive on.

Noah Leavitt recommended having citizens submit complaints on the illegal fireworks. Captain Bayne will research if the portal allows a complaint to be submitted. In addition, we will work with the fireworks stands.

### **Domestic Violence and Crime Victim advocacy services at WWPB**

Chalese Rabidue Braman (Domestic Violence Services) and Emily Thompson (Crime Victim Service Advocate) joined the meeting to explain how they help support survivors of domestic violence. Chalese Rabidue Braman appreciates the information and insight gained from watching the body worn camera videos. We are working on creating a process to submit the videos as advocates.

In her 27 years working here, Chalese Rabidue Braman has not found domestic violence has changed. Many victims have successfully left these relationships, but the perpetrators

usually get a new spouse or partner, and the cycle begins again. Unfortunately, we have not put a dent in the perpetrator side of domestic violence. We do not have a process for prevention. Primarily the victims are women rather than men. It's a "boiling the frog" analogy, where the perpetrator starts out being charming and then slowly becomes more controlling and abusive. Unfortunately, the children living in these situations learn the behavior by watching. There is some choice in this—people can decide not to fall into this cycle.

Rather than expecting women not to place themselves in a position where there are more likely to be raped, the message to men should be to respect women and no means no. We need to educate men at an early age, so the discussion is more comfortable.

Since starting her career, Chalese Rabidue Braman is finding women are now more likely now to speak up when they have been sexually assaulted. The "Me Too" movement has made an impact. One in seven boys have been sexually assaulted, and one in three women have been sexually assaulted. It has become less shameful to report what happened.

Jurys want to see evidence, so documentation and rape kits are critical. Survivors can do a rape kit and chose when or if to report the rape. The individual can take time to decide whether to confront the perpetrator.

Law enforcement across the valley recently attended Domestic Violence training related to strangulation. With that training, we are learning what questions to ask in strangulation cases, such as if the victim had an uncontrolled bowel movement while being strangled. It takes twelve to twenty-four months to go to trial, and the delay can be hard on victims.

While both Chalese Rabidue Braman and Emily Thompson housed at the Walla Walla Police Department, they help anyone located within the county. They will help people process a renewal on their protection order. Many of their clients come through outside referrals. Chalese Rabidue Braman's salary is paid by the City of Walla Walla and a small state grant. Emily Thompson's salary is paid by a state grant. Emily Thompson has grant funding to help provide emergency assistance with essentials like diapers and wipes. They frequently receive thank you notes and calls because the recipient client was a thankful mom.

Emily Thompson has been researching human trafficking. This crime is about abuse and money. The victims are often groomed with meals at nice restaurants and then trained to traffic. We have human trafficking here, but we do not have a lot of understanding on how to spot the signs.

Chalese Rabidue Braman stated so far this year we have had 43 sexual assaults reported. Of those 43 sexual assault cases, 21 were juvenile victims. Contributing to the problem is the easy access to pornography. During COVID an adult was left at home with children. Chalese and Emily have worked on revamping the child interview rooms to be much more welcoming to put victims and survivors at ease during interviews at the Walla Walla Police Department.

### **Speeding, tinted windows, no front license plates**

There are different requirements by state, so what is illegal here may not be in another state. One consistent requirement is that a car with a front tinted window is not legal, and we will stop the car. The challenge to us is seeing the license plate to know if it is illegal or not. Washington State requires a front and back license plate. There are a few exemptions due to the type of the vehicle, like a Tesla. A single license plate can justify a stop where the officer checks the license and insurance, then the vehicle is free to go.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Chief's Advisory Meeting – date to be determined—Fulton Community Room.

The June 11, 2024, meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by Deborah Minter