

Chief's Advisory Committee

May 31, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

Administration Conference Room

Meeting Participants: Chief Buttice, Sandy García (via Zoom), Noah Leavitt, Dick Morgan

Absent: Captain Braman, Captain Knudson, Earl Gooding Jr., Kanasha Henderson, Ruthell Martinez, Steve Moss

1) Updates

- **Transition of Chief, Captain Sergeants**—This is Chief Buttice first Advisory Meeting since being promoted from Captain to Chief. In addition, Sergeant Jeremy Maiuri was moved from Patrol to the Detectives unit. And Detective Nick Loudermilk was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Loudermilk's swearing in ceremony will take place in a few weeks to celebrate his success.
- **Staffing**—Our five officers that are attending the Spokane police academy are doing well and will graduate on June 8. After graduating, they will return home and complete twelve weeks of field training at the Police Department.
- **Entry level testing**—Entry-level testing will be held in late June. Applications will be accepted until mid-June. We did a recruitment visit to Eastern Washington University (ESU). Our representatives found approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students in the ESU Criminal Justice Program are male, and $\frac{1}{4}$ are female. When the attendees were asked to raise their hands if they were interested in entering law enforcement, not a single female raised her hand. We are promoting for diversity and female officers. To increase the likelihood of more applicants making it through the recruitment process and onto the civil service list, each candidate will be assigned a mentor to guide them through the process. A mentor is an officer who went through the entire process but will not be sitting on the oral board panel. The assigned mentor will talk about the study guide and the physical test. The study guide is close to the test, so studying it helps in preparation. Completing a "mock" physical test can also be done prior to the real thing.
- **Budget preparation for 2023-2024**—The City of Walla Walla does two-year budgets. We have begun planning the next two-year budget and the process will go into full swing during the summer.
- **Body Cameras**—Our officers were polled and most of them want body cameras. Chief Buttice supports utilizing body cameras if funded correctly, which means also hiring a full-time Public Disclosure Records Clerk.

2) Goals

- **Repairing Relationships**—Chief Buttice is looking to repair the relationship with the community, which was impacted by COVID-19, the local tattoo issue, and the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. If implementing body

cameras will help move us toward that goal, then that is a factor to consider. There is no legislation requiring body cameras be implemented. And the only grant funding available is the \$90,000 Department of Justice grant we already were awarded. It is now on the City Council's shoulders to decide the City's priorities for the available funding. Chief Buttice has been open about his goal to repair the relationship with Whitman College and the Walla Walla Union Bulletin. We were invited to do security for this year's graduation ceremony at Whitman College. We were not invited to participate in last year's.

- **Exploring social media and what platform would be best**—We closed out our old social media platform. Now we are considering what platform to use to get the message back out there. We hope to have a platform(s) selected within a month.
- **Community connection events (neighborhood events)**—We plan to continue participating in previously sanctioned events, and we are open to suggestions for new connections.
- **Walkabouts**—The message needs to get out that we value all community members. We plan to visit the locations in the city where we do not have the best reputation and relationship.

3) Expectations

- **Expectations of the Advisory Board members**—The Advisory Board members are the voice of the community. The goal is for the members to be a conduit for the community questions and to relay back the answers.
- **What does the committee want to see (policies, training, etc.)?** While Chief Buttice does not plan to bring minor policy changes to the meetings, he does plan to share policies changes on high-liability areas. The lobby of the Police Department is open again, and the Fulton Community Room is available for our community partners to utilize. Since COVID-19 has been flaring up again, ride-alongs are limited to potential officer candidates only. Noah Leavitt pondered when community requests for ride-alongs with officers can be implemented again. This time of observing is a good opportunity for transparency.
- **Who else should be a part of the Advisory Committee?** The group pondered who could potentially fill the slots to reach the widest perspective and get a cross-section of the community.
 - i. Sandy García would like to see a representative of BMAC and the Veterans Affairs Administration get involved. She will invite a contact at the Walla Walla Veterans Center to join the committee.
 - ii. SSVF was mentioned as a possible organization to reach out to depending on the overall new composition of the group.
 - iii. Chief Buttice will reach out to Superintendent Wade Smith of the Walla Walla School District to see if they would like a representative on the committee. Chief Buttice will also reach out to Roberto Rodriguez to see if he knows of any high school student he would recommend filling his now vacant spot on the committee.

- 4) **When to meet?** The committee member's time is valuable and appreciated. Chief Buttice recommended meeting quarterly and schedule additional meetings as needed to address topics that need a faster response.
- 5) **Next Meeting**—Assuming there will be quarterly meetings going forward, the next meeting will take place on August 30, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 at the WWPD.

The June 2, 2022, meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.
Submitted by Deborah Minter