

**POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

Zion Baptist Church Annex, 92 Greenfield Avenue, Ardmore, PA  
April 25, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

The Police and Community Relations Committee meeting was held on Monday, April 25, 2016, at Zion Baptist Church, in Ardmore.

In attendance:

Superintendent Michael McGrath  
Captain Frank Thomas  
Commissioner Steven Lindner  
Christine Dixon-Anderson  
Rev. Carlos Bounds  
Rev. Albert Davis, Jr.  
Rose Johnson  
Linda Jackson  
Tom McDaniel  
Maryam Phillips

Also in attendance:

Art Levy	Cathy Dolan	Betty Jackson
Anita Holland	Crystal Blunt	June Coleman
Adrian Seltzer	Marifa Winfree	
Rev. James A. Pollard	Diana Robertson	

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Christine Dixon-Anderson.

**Minutes of the January 25, 2016 Meeting**

The minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting were approved, on motion by Reverend Davis and seconded by Maryam Phillips. So moved.

**President's Report**

Christine reported that on April 17th, Judge LaDoris Cordell, from California, lead a presentation on systemic racism at the Central Baptist Church in Wayne. Christine stated that the presentation was very well done and informative. She asked Superintendent McGrath if the

Police Department's duty manual is available for the public. He stated that, at this time, it is not available; however, the manual has to be reviewed and edited first. He will let everyone know when it is completed and it will have information that is pertinent and it will be posted on the Township's website which is currently being updated and hopefully it will be done by early July. Crystal Blunt asked if there will be a printed version and Superintendent said that the police department would research it. Adrian Seltzer stated that she is willing to volunteer a couple of hours a week to help with this project.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent McGrath gave an update on recruitment. The Police Department has 12 vacancies. This past summer a police entrance exam was given and over 300 people took the test and 29 were certified. Some of those certified were hired by other police departments. He is hoping the department will have a test on September 17th. Notice of the examination will be heavily publicized, as always. The department will start the recruitment campaign over the summer. Christine Anderson asked if the department was aware of a job fair that will be held at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. She will get the information to Superintendent McGrath.

Superintendent McGrath gave out the flyers for the Camp Cadet Program which will be held in August.

Superintendent McGrath stated that Tuesday, April 26th, is the deadline for businesses interested in the Consultant and Scope of Work proposals for community policing consulting. Diana Robertson asked if the deadline could possibly be extended, as she said that the application gave no real timeline as to when the work will be accomplished. Superintendent stated that he will discuss this with the Township Manager.

Christine Anderson asked the Superintendent why the Civil Service Meeting was cancelled. He stated that the police department was simply not ready at the time of the meeting and it is expected to be approved at the May Police Committee meeting.

Superintendent McGrath reported that Maryam Phillips updated the Police and Community Relations brochure.

Maryam Phillips talked with the Public Information Office regarding the Government Access Channel to update its shows.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Open House** - The Police Department's Open House is May 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Police Department Parking Lot. Maryam asked if this committee can set up a table. Superintendent McGrath agreed.

- **Health and Education Program** – Linda Jackson stated that this program will be held on May 21st at the Ardmore Avenue Community Center. Christine asked for volunteers to set up a table. Linda stated that the Bike Officers will be doing a bike safety program.
- **Community Watch** – Christine stated that Community Watch can always use volunteers. The hours to work at Fridays and Saturdays from 8 – 11 p.m. However, whatever hours people can volunteer would be appreciated. You would have to go through training on how to use the radios.
- **Dog Walker Festival** – Saturday, May 7th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Police Department parking lot.

Crystal Blunt stated that at the meeting which was held at Lower Merion High School, discussion ensued as to how to have a better connection between the Police Department and the community. She asked about possibly having a “PAL” program because summer is quickly approaching and the children need to be kept busy. Linda stated that the children come to the community center and the Bike patrol officers regularly come to the center and the playground. Mrs. Blunt stated that children hang out in places other than the community center and playground. Reverend Davis stated that he rarely sees children hanging out on the streets. Young adults are the ones hanging out on the street. Mrs. Blunt stated that this is the age group she is talking about and that they need structure. Pastor Pollard stated that people who are over 18 are adults. Mrs. Blunt stated that perhaps the local churches and adults in the community can become mentors and help them learn trades.

Much discussed ensued over issues of young adults hanging out on Simpson Road and Walnut Avenue.

Captain Frank Thomas stated that if someone wants to report a problem, to call the non-emergency number 610-649-1000. You don't have to give your name.

Maryam Phillips stated that she went on a “ride-along” and feels that the police could ride down streets more frequently around the “problem” streets. She also suggested that perhaps a “See Something Say Something” campaign can be done.

Diana Robertson stated that the NAACP is looking into a program where a person can have their record expunged by the District Attorney's office. She is trying to get the DA's office to waive their fee at least one time per year. She and Crystal Blunt will work on getting information.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 23rd, at 6:30 p.m., at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Ardmore.

There being no further business, this part of the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Members of the PCRC met in executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.