

POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 127 Walnut Avenue, Ardmore, PA
May 23, 2016
6:30 p.m.

The Police and Community Relations Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Ardmore.

In attendance:

Superintendent Michael McGrath
Captain Frank Thomas
Officer Josephine Murray
Christine Dixon-Anderson
Rev. Carlos Bounds
Rev. Albert Davis, Jr.
Rose Johnson
Linda Jackson
Tom McDaniel
Maryam Phillips
Robin Thomas
Marie Thornton

Also in attendance:

June Coleman

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Maryam Phillips. Superintendent McGrath introduced Officer Josie Murray, who, as of Friday, May 27, 2016, will be a Crime Prevention Officer. She will be doing community outreach mostly in Ardmore and, at times, Bryn Mawr.

Minutes of the April 25, 2016 Meeting

The minutes from the April 25, 2016 meeting were amended to clarify the postponement of the civil service commission's meeting, and approved on motion by Reverend Davis and seconded by Thomas McDaniel. So moved. Maryam passed around a retirement card for everyone to sign to give Captain Bill Boegly their well wishes. She also congratulated Captain Frank Thomas for his move from Staff Services to the Operations Division.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McGrath gave an update on the Duty Manual. He said that staff is going through the policies and taking out confidential information. They will make a redacted version of the manual. When that is completed, it will go out on the Township Website after it is updated. The launch date is slated for mid-July.

The Police Department Civil Service promotion list has expired. There will be a promotion test on June 4 2016. Currently, the Police Department has 12 vacancies. Also, starting Tuesday, May 31, the Police Department will begin accepting applications for the position of police officer. This will continue through the summer. The written exam will be on September 17th. Notice of the examination will be heavily publicized, as always.

Superintendent McGrath reported that the Police Department was represented at the NAACP job fair. Members of the Human Resources Department, School District and Haverford Township Police Department were also represented. He stated that it was lightly attended and lots of information was given out.

The Bike Patrol Officers are ready for the summer months. Because the department is understaffed, patrol officers within each platoon have been trained on the bikes and they will be patrolling Ardmore and Bryn Mawr, as well as the other Township parks.

Regarding the Government Access Channel, Rose Johnson stated that no one has gotten back to her regarding viewing the programs that the Superintendent recorded.

The expungement program that Diana Robertson was talking about at the April meeting is supposed to take place in June. The NAACP is partnering with the Public Defender's Office and Villanova University.

Superintendent McGrath handed out the Police Department's Annual Report for 2015.

Linda Jackson asked if there was an easier way to call the police for a non-emergency instead of calling 9-1-1. Captain Thomas said that they can contact him or Officer Josie Murray. All calls eventually go through to the 9-1-1 system. Robin Thomas asked if members of the committee can tour the 9-1-1 facility.

RFP Proposals – The Committee reviewed the proposals submitted by consulting firms. After a discussion of all five proposals the committee endorsed the proposal submitted by Major Ben's Consulting Agency for the following reasons:

- 1) Major Brooks seemed to understand the issues presented in the RFP, offering Review and Reconnect themes,
- 2) Major Brooks demonstrated understanding the pressure on police and the needs of the community,

3) Major Brooks has extensive law enforcement background and is also a minority, therefore he has understanding of both the police and our community; our committee was strongly in support of a firm with a minority representation on the consulting team,

4) He is locally based, and

5) His cost proposal is reasonable when compared to the other candidates for the work.

Major Ben's Consulting Company received the unanimous endorsement of the committee.

The PCRC also appointed Maryam Phillips to serve as its representative on the committee to interview the consulting firms, with Rev. Carolyn Cavaness as an alternate should scheduling conflicts occur.

Next Meeting

The next two meetings will be on Monday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m., at the PALM in Ardmore and Monday, July 25th, at 6:30 p.m., at Bethel A.M.E., Bryn Mawr.

Maryam said that she spoke with Mrs. Stovall, from the PALM, and asked her if the Committee could have meetings there and she said that it would not be a problem. Therefore, going forward, meeting will either be held at the PALM, Bethel, Bryn Mawr or Mt. Calvary.

There being no further business, this part of the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Members of the PCRC met in executive session to discuss ongoing investigations.

There being no further business, Rose Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom McDaniel. So moved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.