**SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE**

**POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

December 8th, 2020

Carol Ann Bass called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the training rooms at the Greenville Police Department. Since the meeting was held virtually, Sgt. Staffelbach, Carol Ann Bass, and Chief Holtzman were the only attendees present in the training room. All other attendees were participating virtually. Donald Phillips discussed the rules for virtual meetings.

There was discussion about not having an agenda prepared for tonight’s meeting and how the minutes from the last meeting have not been approved yet. Carol Ann discussed how it’s been difficult because the committee has not been able to meet for months due to the covid 19 virus. Donald explained that it would not be a problem to discuss and approve February 2020 meeting minutes at the next meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Carol Ann asked for roll call of the committee members.

Committee members present:

Carol Ann Bass, District #5

Carol Ann Naipaul, District #2

Robert Cherry, District #4

Betsy Ray, Mayoral

City Staff Members present:

Chief Holtzman

Sgt. Michael Staffelbach

Billie Jo Viverette

Donald K. Phillips

Valerie Paul, City Clerk

Absent

Gregory Barrett, District #1

Robert King, District #3

Louis Warren, At-large

Carol Ann Bass read the Police Committee Relations Committee Mission Statement.

There was discussion about the absence of an agenda. Donald explained that the by-laws state that elections for chair and vice are held during the December meeting. Carol Ann Bass asked if there could be a planning discussion also for meetings next year. Donald explained that yes both items can be done. Carol Ann Bass stated that she would start the planning session and then hold elections afterward.

Carol Ann Bass asked Carol Ann Naipaul what her concerns were for District 2. Carol Ann Naipaul stated that she is concerned with the mental wellness of children dealing with this pandemic; with the stress and anxiety they are experiencing now through everything that is going on. She said she would like to address in the future how to handle the mental health of children and suicide prevention as well.

Carol Ann Bass asked Robert Cherry what his concerns were for District 4 and what topics he would like to see discussed. He stated that he had several concerns but he would be more specific later on.

Carol Ann Bass asked Betsy Ray what her concerns were. She stated since she is appointed by the mayor her concerns for the whole city is mostly about the covid 19 virus. She said that the other concern would be overall safety for the city. She stated that she thinks the Police Department is doing an excellent job; however, she asks that if anyone has any concerns to please contact her so that they can discuss them.

Carol Ann Bass stated that she represents District 5 and that she agrees with everyone’s concerns. She stated that she doesn’t have any specific concerns at this time, but for now she wanted to let Chief Holtzman go ahead and speak to the committee.

Chief Holtzman thanked everyone for volunteering their time to this committee. He stated that the past topic discussions and interactions have been phenomenal. He stated that one thing that has been important to him is community policing, even through this difficult time with covid. He stated that it’s important to continue to meet; to continue to bring issues brought forth by the community to this committee. He stated he was excited to share that the Police Department has developed new procedures to work with Mobile Crisis Unit concerning mental health. He stated that this would be an excellent topic; and that maybe during the January meeting or another month a presentation could be done on that topic. He discussed the importance of continue to meet, even if it is virtually, that work still needs to be done. He stated that we shouldn’t let the conditions of the covid virus prevent progress to continue. He thanked everyone again for allowing him to speak, and for their dedication to the community.

Carol Ann Bass asked if anyone had anything that they would like to discuss. Betsy Ray asked for clarification on term limits and serving if elected to chair or vice chair. Valerie explained the term limits and process to the committee.

Carol Ann Bass asked for ideas of topics to be discussed at future meetings. Robert Cherry asked if Chief Holtzman could speak about recent shootings and the shot spotter program. He asked if that could be a possible idea for January. Chief Holtzman stated that the shot spotter program would be a good topic for January; and he spoke on current success of the program. He stated that unfortunately there were a few recent shootings; that a press release was issued but they are still being investigated.

Betsy Ray asked Chief Holtzman about the status of the BLET program, how recruitment is going; and if there is a retention problem with the officers at the Police Department. Chief explained that in general the numbers have declined. He stated that while the department is still receiving applications, the numbers are less than in the past couple of years. He stated that it is an issue within other states as well; however the decline is much lower than other states. He stated that community support goes a long way in helping the department to retain the good officers that we have.

Carol Ann Bass asked Robert Cherry if he would like to cover the topic of gun violence and the shot spotter program during the January meeting. Robert said he would do it.

Carol Ann Bass asked Carol Ann Naipaul if she would like to take the February meeting and have the Mobile Crisis Unit come do a presentation. She agreed to do that.

Carol Ann Bass asked if Betsy Ray would like to take the March meeting. Betsy Ray stated that she would like to try her past idea of protection for women did not take place. She stated that this topic really needs an audience. She also discussed the idea of reviewing policies of the Police Department. Carol Ann Bass stated for now let’s put down the policy review topic for either March or April. She stated that it can be discussed further during the January meeting.

Carol Ann Bass stated that the planning should stop at this point because some of the PCRC members are not present; and she would like to give them an opportunity to pick meetings and topics. Donald stated that this discussion could be carried over to the January meeting; that maybe more topic ideas could be discussed then.

Betsy Ray asked if anyone has had any contact with Louis Warren or Gregory Barrett. Carol Ann Bass stated that Gregory Barrett’s term has expired; and that she has not heard from Louis Warren. There was discussion about the attendance policy for committee members. Valerie Paul stated that she would assist Billie Jo Viverette, secretary for the PCRC committee, on researching attendance at previous meetings, and contacting members that were absent.

Before the election process started, Donald reviewed the process with everyone. Carol Ann Bass opened the nominations for chair. Betsy Ray nominated Carol Ann Bass. Everyone was asked for further nominations. Since there weren’t any, Carol Ann Bass declared the nominations closed. Donald explained since the meeting is virtual, Carol Ann Bass needed to use roll call for the voting process. Carol Ann Bass asked each member for their vote on the chairperson nomination.

Carol Ann Naipaul – Yes

Robert Cherry - Yes

Betsy Ray - Yes

Carol Ann Bass -Yes

Donald declared Carol Ann Bass as the chairperson for the PCRC committee. Donald opened the nominations for vice chair. Betsy Ray was nominated by Carol Ann Bass. Donald asked for any other nominations. Since there weren’t any, he closed the nominations. Carol Ann Bass asked each member for their vote on the vice chair nomination.

Carol Ann Naipaul –Yes

Robert Cherry -Yes

Betsy Ray -Yes

Carol Ann Bass -Yes

Donald declared Betsy Ray as the vice chairperson for the PCRC committee.

Carol Ann Bass asked if anyone had anything to discuss. Sgt. Staffelbach introduced himself and discussed his responsibilities concerning the committee. He discussed his ideas and mission for the committee. He talked about how, once we get back to in person meetings, he would like to hold meetings and events in each district, to make sure that there’s equal representation. He stated he would like to give each community an opportunity to participate and involvement in this program. He stated he would like to introduce the Cops and Barbers program to the committee and hold one of the meetings at one of the barber shops. He stated that he would like to hold a meeting at 3rd street School. He explained that they do a lot for underprivileged kids; and that the school is all nonprofit. He stated that they also help adults with job skills, and help adults find jobs. He explained that every year the Police Department has mandatory in-service training for all the officers; and that he wanted to invite all the committee members to attend one or two of the training sessions. He stated that he hopes to be able to bring in the committee members, even if it’s only one at a time, to come and see the training that officers have to experience.

Carol Ann Bass encouraged everyone to attend if they possibly can. She stated that it definitely gives you an opportunity to see how officers have to train and prepare for the jobs that they do.

Carol Ann Bass asked for any more discussion. Betsy Ray welcomed the new members; Carol Ann Bass agreed and welcomed them also.

Carol Ann Bass asked for a motion to adjourn. Betsy Ray made the motion; Robert Cherry seconded the motion. Carol Ann Bass asked each member if they agreed to the motion.

Carol Ann Naipaul -Yes

Betsy Ray -Yes

Robert Cherry -Yes

Carol Ann Bass -Yes

The meeting was adjourned.