



Cheyenne Police Department Citizen Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023

1. Start Time: 6:05 p.m.

Attendance: Public Information Officer Alex Farkas, Captain Jared Keslar, Randy Miller, Fernando Muzquiz, Craig Nichols, Phillip Regeski, Joan Schaefer, Michael Stone, and Buddy Tennant. **Regrets:**

2. Introductions

3. Discussion Matters:

- a) New group member, Randy Miller, was introduced to Captain Keslar and PIO Alex Farkas, as well as other members who could not attend last night's meeting.
- b) It was reviewed and agreed upon again that quarterly meetings were appropriate.
- c) Captain Keslar relayed that the idea of making award, promotion, and retirement ceremonies more public was discussed amongst the command staff. They are trying to determine a way to make that possible, but still want to respect officers' right to privacy in these matters.
- d) The idea of re-starting community educational presentations was brought up again. Captain Keslar indicated he would discuss that in detail during the 'Chief's Comments'.
- e) it was agreed upon by advisory group members and Captain Keslar that future membership applicants would fill out an application and submit to a background investigation. This was the procedure before under PACT and will continue. The application will be available on the CPD web page.

4. Public Comments/Questions

- a) None.

5. Chief's Comments

- a) Captain Keslar reported on the department's strategic goals for 2023.
 - Reduce injury crashes by 10%.
 - Reduce property crime by 10%.
 - Establish a crime prevention team.
 - Foster an atmosphere of teamwork and collaboration.

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- b) Regarding traffic crashes, there was a significant reduction in crashes from 2021 to 2022 (2,007 to 1,772); however, the number of injuries from traffic crashes did not decrease as much (288 to 276). The takeaway from this was the potential need to focus enforcement in high-injury crash locations.
- c) Property crime was reduced from 2021 to 2022 but remains higher than 2019 levels. The CPD will begin including property damage and vandalism in property crime statistics. The belief is that the addition of targeting vandalism will help to reduce overall property crime.
- d) The purpose of the crime prevention team will be to educate the community on crime trends and crime prevention during quarterly meetings. The possibility of having an advisory group team member sit as a member of the crime prevention team was discussed and hopefully can be put into place. This will be the process for putting out numerous educational presentations.

6. Open Discussion:

- a) Buddy Tenant brought up the issue of homelessness and law enforcements role. The captain reminded us that homelessness is not a crime. Officers have offered help to homeless folks, some accept, some don't. If they are 'squatting' on private property they can be trespassed.
- b) Randy Miller started discussion regarding the problem of shoplifting...specifically at stores like Jacks' and Walmart...and the perception of little repercussion. Captain Keslar pointed out that CPD only enforces the law, they do not press charges, convict, or sentence. They arrest and let the system do what they do. Unfortunately, the stores are not of much assistance as they typically have policies against stopping alleged shoplifters or posting people at doors to stop at least some of the problem. It is much easier for them to just write those losses off.
- c) Phillip Regeski asked for clarification on the presentations previously discussed and whether CPD would issue notices on upcoming events. PIO Alex Farkas said that they do that and will continue. The City Council is hosting an event this weekend wherein the CPD will be providing a presentation. This is a City Council event however, not a CPD event.

7. End Time: 6:46 p.m.