

Minutes –Advisory Committee on Public Safety (ACOPS)

Paradise Valley Police Department
6433 East Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2021

ACOPS Members in Attendance:

Present (current members):

Council Member Anna Thomasson, Chairperson

Tim Dickman

James Hawthorne

Jay Ozer

Kathy Petsas

Absent (current members):

Mark Winograd

Ryan Woody

Present retiring members:

Council Member Ellen Andeen, Former Chairperson

Mike Cummiskey

PVPD in attendance:

Community Resource Officer Steven McGhee

Chief of Police Peter Wingert

Public Attendees: None

The ACOPS meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. on April 6, 2021 by Ellen Andeen and was held via Zoom. Council Member Andeen thanked everyone in attendance and expressed gratitude to the existing and new members of the Committee. She turned the Chair position over to the new Chair, Council Member Anna Thomasson.

Agenda item #IV, Assign minute taker/approve past minutes:

Tim Dickman agreed to take the minutes of the meeting. Mike Cummiskey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting. Jay Ozer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda item #V, Chief Wingert introduced himself to the new members of the Committee. He introduced the new members of the Committee: Jim Hawthorne, Kathy Petsas and Mark Winograd (absent). Community Resource Officer McGhee introduced himself to the new members of the Committee. Chief Wingert thanked the retired members and expressed his gratitude for the retiring, new and existing members. Council Member Thomasson, and each of the members, introduced themselves to the group.

Agenda item #VI. Chief Wingert recognized the retiring members of the Committee: Mike Cumiskey and Jeff Gaia. He showed a Certificate of Appreciation and a Challenge Coin that will be given to each of the retiring members.

Agenda topic #VIII a. Community Resource Officer McGhee reviewed an update on the “9 o’clock walk” program. He indicated that the program focuses on safety tips and avoiding opportunistic crime. He also stated that other communities have called this the 9 pm routine for safety education. The idea is to “end crime by walking it out at 9 pm.” This involves residents walking around their property and checking their vehicles to make sure that they are locked and without valuables. It also involves picking up mail that had been delivered to the box, locking doors and windows, and setting the alarm system (if available).

Agenda topic #VIII b. Chief Wingert introduced the Town’s legislative efforts in the current legislative session.

Tim Dickman gave an update on the recent short-term rental legislation, SB 1379. Mr. Dickman indicated that the SB 1379 bill, sponsored by Senator Mesnard, was voted down in the House Committee after both the Town and the League of Cities lobbied against the bill. The opposition was due to the fact that SB 1379 did not solve the STR problem and was promoted by the STR industry accordingly. Representative Kavanaugh had previously proposed a bill that was supported by both the Town and the League of Cities but it did not make it out of the Senate. The legislature is still in session and it is unknown if some other compromise bill will make it out of the House and Senate for this term.

Chief Wingert reported that the bill to eliminate photo enforcement did not make it out of committee and therefore is dead for this legislative session. The Town support the ongoing ability to have photo enforcement in place.

Agenda topic #IX. Chief Wingert reported on the very good community outpouring of support for the Police Department. He contrasted this with some of the national news related to Police Departments. Chief Wingert stated that there was a clear difference in Paradise Valley and he was grateful for the continuing community support for the department.

Community Resource Officer McGee reported that he was selected to represent all of the law enforcement in the United States and the Special Olympics to be held in

Russia. The purpose is to raise community awareness of the special Olympics. Office McGee shared a poignant letter from a resident applauding the Town and his efforts around this initiative.

Officer McGee reported that the "Over the Edge" program involving volunteers rappelling down a high rise in Phoenix would be held in January of this next year after a year off due to COVID. He reported that this initiative will again be held to promote and raise funds for the Special Olympics.

Agenda topic #X a. Community Resource Office McGhee reported that a Houses of Worship meeting was held on March 30, 2021. There were several presenters at the meeting. (1) The first presenter addresses the general plan and gave an overview of the plan. (2) The second presenter gave a report from the Homeland Security Department on cyber crime and infrastructure. The report also included a suggested self-assessment for houses of worship. The meeting also included a discussion on recent crimes in the community and ways to avoid crime through best practice efforts. Chief Wingert indicated that there was an ability to access grant money from the federal government for improved security at houses of worship. Some houses of worship were able to successfully access these grants in the past.

Chief Wingert also indicated that he suggested to the houses of worship (and to everyone) that we should be identifying and writing down serial numbers on all electronic equipment including laptops, computers, and other electronic devices. With this information, the Town can assist with identifying and returning stolen goods.

Agenda topic #X b. Community Resource Officer McGhee reported that there will be a Coffee with a Cop on April 7. The April speaker will be from the Arizona auto theft authority. He also reported that the May meeting will be on the topic of the General Plan 2022. The June meeting will have a speaker from the National Center for elder abuse and share resources available to the community in this area.

Agenda topic #X c Community Resource Officer McGhee reported that the twice-yearly drug take back program will next be scheduled on April 24, 2021. Everyone is encouraged to participate and promote this program which provides for the safe and secure disposal of drugs. All drugs can be safely disposed, except liquids and syringes are not accepted. It was also noted that e-cigarettes with batteries are also not accepted.

Agenda topic #X c. Community Resource Officer McGhee reported on the Special Olympic World Games. Two local resorts are giving resort stays as a promotion to help fund the Special Olympics.

Agenda topic #XI. Chairperson Thomasson requested and invited the public for open comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda topic #XII. Chairperson Thomasson reported that the next meeting would be held by Zoom on May, 18, 2021 at 6 pm.

Agenda topic #XIII. Chairperson Thomasson solicited from the Committee any future agenda topics. Mr. Dickman suggested reporting on an update on the Lincoln (and related Ritz) development with respect to road closures. In addition, Mr. Dickman suggested that the Committee discuss how best to promote the Paradise Valley alert system for those residents who do not currently participate.

Agenda topic #XIV. Jay Ozer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Cumiskey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.