

MINUTES
ST. ALBANS POLICE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
5:00 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

DRAFT

Commission Members Present: Jamie Pinkham, Chair; Melinda White, Vice Chair; Kris Lukens; Danielle Lindley Mitchell; Winnie Wilkinson; Marcus Neabar; Kris Lukens

Commission Members Absent: John Nicholls; Police Chief Lamothe

City Staff present: Paul Clapps, Minute Taker

Members of the public present: None

1. **J. Pinkham called the meeting to order at 5:08.**
2. Agenda Introduction & Review
 - J. Pinkham mentioned that there were no members of the public so there would be no public comment on the agenda.
3. Mission Review 5:09
 - **W. Wilkinson read the Mission:** To offer advice to the St. Albans Police Department for the successful implementation of 21st Century Policing strategies and to assist the Police Department in following the established “Road Map” as amended by the City Council.
4. Consider approval of Meeting Minutes (D&V)
 - J. Pinkham would reach out to Kristen to approve the minutes from September to now. She asked for questions. There were none.
5. **Discussion: Data Review Follow-Up**
 - J. Pinkham brought up the data that was mentioned last month to be retrieved. The Police Chief was not there at the meeting but there would still be a discussion about it.
 - J. Pinkham asked people to stay vigilant for more data or questions to ask for the next meeting.
 - W. Wilkinson asked if Vermont was a “stop and ID state.” She clarified that “stop and ID” meant a police officer can stop you and ask for your ID. D.L. Mitchell looked it up and found that Vermont **was listed as** a stop and ID state.
 - W. Wilkinson mentioned that there were members of the community who did not have IDs. She asked for the board’s recommendation.
 - M. White said that the current statute might interfere with people who might not want to present their ID due to privacy issues or the address being listed.
 - W. Wilkinson specified that if you are homeless, you have no address, and thus can’t get a valid license to show an officer.
 - J. Pinkham responded by saying that Chief Lamothe will have more insight on the current

statute. This will need to be followed up on with the next agenda in May.

- J. Pinkham continued with the discussion on data. Both **youth** and **gender** data was requested at the last meeting. With gender data, it's governed by the state, which means SAPD has no control over this data.
 - **K. Lukens joined the meeting at 5:21.**
 - There was a brief discussion on adding an "also known as" field on paperwork for those identifying as different genders. W. Wilkinson firmly believed that "male" and "female" should be taken off of police forms as well. She is currently speaking with legislators to remove this from all government forms.
6. Update on SAPD grant activity/eligibility.
- W. Wilkinson has been sharing helpful information for grant eligibility.
 - M. White began the update. She specified that these are extremely competitive grants which makes the application process difficult. But M. White did mention that progress is being made and applications are being worked on.
 - K. Lukens asked when the board would know about a decision. M. White responded by saying that they have a very fast turnaround time, like May 1st for some of them.
7. Areas of focus 2023: Leveraging Community Partnerships
- M. White moved onto this topic. She started by talking about COMSTAT, which is a program where community members get together with law enforcement and discuss support for officers and enforcement planning/awareness.
 - D. L. Mitchell was reminded of the discussion about the parking garage.
8. Areas of focus 2023: Engaging Community Youth
- J. Pinkham began the discussion on areas of focus. Chief Lamothe reported last time that more and more youth with nothing to do or nowhere to go are starting to have challenges. There's a sense of no accountability in the community.
 - D.L. Mitchell also mentioned that programs and support are down almost 60% in some cases, meaning that these families don't have the support or help that they need. She thought it would be beneficial for the board to have a discussion about the lack of facilities for troubled youth to go when they do start hurting people or damaging property. She would rather not have to send these kids out of state or away from the community.
 - M. White believed that it's a classic case of NIMBYism (not in my back yard), people don't want it in their own neighborhood. The same thing happened with substance use.
 - J. Pinkham mentioned that Chief Lamothe is looking at members of his team who might be able to join the board to discuss community youth engagement.
 - D.L. Mitchell will be sending the board some resources on a presentation about youth and mental health, which might be helpful with the board's mission.
 - K. Lukens mentioned that we have a prosecutor who now wants to make referrals to the restorative justice center, which might lead to some changes down the line. There's also a bill that passed the legislature that allows the restorative justice center services to be used for those who were charged with domestic abuse.
 - W. Wilkinson shared her personal experience with her granddaughter and how there are services in New York City which can target the root of a problem and help push youth in a more positive direction to enable them.
 - She asked that at the end of a service being provided, **how many people are**

really being helped? This is the most important metric to gauge success.

- M. Neabar mentioned that often the approach with youth is “reaction.” It needed to be either “preventative” or “intervention” in order to stop the cycle (and to keep them out of prison).
- D.L. Mitchel discussed the data that came out of the community youth assessment.
- J. Pinkham listed off a few programs and opportunities offered by SAPD to youth for either employment opportunities or for life “structure.”
- There was a discussion on restorative justice and how retiring judges can lead to programs and systems falling apart.
- There were no further discussions.

9. W. Wilkinson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by K. Lukens. There was no discussion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned.