

MINUTES
ST. ALBANS POLICE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
5:00 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

DRAFT

Board Members Present: Marcus Neabar, Chair; Melinda White, Vice Chair;

Board Members Absent: John Nicholls; Danielle Lindley Mitchell; Kris Lukens; Winnie Wilkinson;

City Staff present: Paul Olshan, Minute Taker; Police Chief Lamothe;

Members of the public present:

- 1. Call to Order. M. Neabar called the meeting to order at 5:03.**
2. M. Neabar read the mission statement.
 - *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.*
3. Consider Approval of January Meeting Minutes
 - The board had to skip this section due to there not being a quorum of people attending.
4. SAPD Update
 - Chief Lamothe gave an update on the SAPD. He started with the Internal Affairs policy and complaints against officers. He discussed when a third party organization might be hired for a complaint or internal affair inquiry.
 - Chief Lamothe started with a breakdown of all the complaints from 2023.
 - A large amount of these substantiated complaints were for one officer who was no longer with the department. Chief Lamothe specified that there’s no way for a department to have no complaints, but they should still be minimized.
 - Chief Lamothe described a few examples of complaints.
 - There was a discussion on the breakdown of the complaints, discipline, training, and other ways the department has moved forward.
 - M. White mentioned that these measures are in line with corrective action plans and other progressive disciplinary policies. She also liked that a good amount of complaints were coming from employees, meaning the department felt safe to

submit complaints when something was done incorrectly.

- Chief Lamothe also went through the report on Use of Force. Even though calls have increased in the past two years, the Use of Force amounts remain very consistent which is positive. He went through the statistical breakdown of race, gender, and circumstances behind the Use of Force incidents.
 - Chief Lamothe also mentioned that this was the first year the department started keeping track of injuries, introducing the data to the board. He also discussed the modern training methods of Use of Force which are more evolved now. This might contribute to the lower numbers of hospitalizations.
 - Chief Lamothe was concerned about the amount of situations that were the result of arrest warrants. There was further discussion on how to deal with people in the community with multiple arrest warrants.
 - The PAB might be tasked with brainstorming solutions for the retail theft issue. M. Neabar gave a few examples of how few barriers to crime can lead to an inflow of criminals who sense a weakness in the system.
5. Proposal for Mia Schultz to present at the next PAB Meeting.
- With W. Wilkinson being absent. M. White introduced this topic and talked about why M. Schultz might be a good person to have present at the next meeting.
 - There was also a discussion on the progress on board member recruitment and attendees for the presentation in May.
6. No public comment.
7. **M. Neabar adjourned the meeting at 6:00.**