

MINUTES
ST. ALBANS POLICE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
5:00 PM TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

DRAFT

Board Members Present: Marcus Neabar, Chair; Melinda White, Vice Chair; Justin Couture; Lyndsay Demag; Kris Lukens

Board Members Absent: Winnie Wilkinson;

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

Members of the public present:

- 1. M. Neabar called the meeting to order at 5:00.**
2. Open for brief public comment.
3. M. Neabar discussed how pleased he was with the preparedness meeting the PAB had previously and some of the trainings that were held over the last month.
4. M. Neabar read the Mission Review.
 - *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.*
- 5. M. Neabar motioned to approve the July Minutes. Seconded by J. Couture. The motion passed with all in favor, no additional discussion.**
6. M. White introduced L. Demag, the newest member of the Police Advisory Board. The board welcomed both L. Demag and J. Couture, the newest two members and discussed how pleased they were to have new members and perspectives for further discussions.
7. Chief Lamothe led the board through the SAPD Update.
 - Chief Lamothe specifically mentioned that it’s been mutually beneficial to both the town and the city for the police departments to be joined. He gave a breakdown of how many calls the city receives compared to the town, with population and types of crimes.
 - Chief Lamothe said the department is almost exactly where they want to be. The budget calls for 16 uniformed police officers and two street crime specialists. Right now there is only one officer in the academy before the department is fully staffed. There was also a brief introduction of the new street crime specialist who

is joining the department.

- The department is almost through the busy season of events. Chief Lamothe gave a breakdown of events and how they will be staffed throughout the rest of 2024.
 - Chief Lamothe specifically mentioned that the department is 1500 calls above where it was last year, excluding the town's numbers, which shows a pretty large spike. J. Couture asked about the goal/plan of the street crimes division and how they will be approaching street crimes. Chief Lamothe specifically said they would be uniformed and open, not undercover, and more visible to the community.
 - M. Neabar remarked on the street crimes specialist's passion and experience in the field and how impressed he was. L. Demag had also heard of this new member of the department. Chief Lamothe is also impressed with the potential officer training currently in the academy.
 - Chief Lamothe thanked the board members who joined the hiring panels and appreciated how helpful they were.
 - The Police Advisory Board commended officers who specifically had been recognized by the community and by those who have been arrested or given citations for how compassionate and helpful they've been.
 - M. White recommended PAB members to show up at events with police and community members to display their presences and so they know what they're doing.
 - M. Neabar mentioned that even when he was busy with work and managing a business, he still took time off to attend various events and hiring panels so he can help to make positive change to the community.
8. M. White started a discussion on the next steps for the PAB.
- M. White specifically mentioned doing a survey to compare to last year's survey. The board unanimously agreed to performing a survey soon. M. White would also send the old survey out for new members to examine. There was a concern about also surveying the town and how that might change the comparison results.
9. Public Comment.
- A member of the public mentioned that it's been really encouraging, as the only member of the public attending the meeting.
- 10. K. Lukens motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by M. White. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**