

MINUTES
Police Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
5:00 – 6:30 PM
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
DRAFT

Board Members Present: Jamie Pinkam, Chair; Melinda White, Vice Chair; Kris Lukens, via Zoom; Danielle Mitchell, via Zoom; Winnie Wilkinson.

Board Members Absent: Tom Benton; John Nicholls;

City Staff Present: Chief Maurice Lamothe, St. Albans Police Department;

Members of the Public Present: Marcus Neabar; Reier Erickson;

1. Call to order
J. Pinkam called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.
2. Agenda Introduction & Review
None.
3. Open Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items (limit 2 min. per person)
None.
4. Mission Review
M. White reviewed the mission of the PAB.
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. Consider approval of February & March Meeting Minutes
Motion to accept the minutes as written by M. White. Motion seconded by K. Lukens.
Minutes approved with all in favor 05:10pm
6. Moment of Silence for recent mass Shooting Events around the country
7. Follow up on Training with Crisis Clinician
J. Pinkam noted Sam was present for the last meeting and had mentioned rolling out some trainings and training on several different items. J. Pinkam asked Chief M. Lamonthé if he had an update or timeline of the trainings.
M. Lamonthé responded that the trainings should roll out in June. Sam has been gone completing a recon training for hostage negotiations out of state. June 1 should be the first round of interviews for the second commissioned position with NCSS.
J. Pinkam questioned if there were applicants M. Lamonthé confirmed in the affirmative. There was a question of which training would start, autism or LGBTQA sensitivity? M. Lamonthé responded he believed autism will be. Starting tomorrow, a family that reached out in support of the project and have a family member responds well to rescue vehicles, buildings, and personnel will be visiting the station. That individual will come and watch vehicles. Caretakers will be present and that will be a good time to initiate the training, with the caretakers having extensive steps to take for different behaviors.

D. Mitchell will reach out to Sam to make sure the program is targeting across the age spectrum.

8. Review of Public Survey Results & Other Data – J. Pinkam

There was an event where there was offline time with about 100 or 150 items that were lost.

Multiple ways of conducting an independent survey of St Albans and the community were reviewed. Mail in survey was best method.

413 surveys were returned, 260 were featured in the presentation due to the event. Unfortunately, some of the 413 had to be discarded. Some items that should be added in the future should be a deadline for return a contact section and to create a system for “input as you go”.

Question 1, Would You Call The SAPD If You Were In An Unsafe Situation Or Witnessing One?

115 no’s to 145 yes answers, that is enough no’s to try and understand the reasoning. A lot of previous bad experiences from previous leadership.

M. White not surprised but good barometer on how people feel as surveys are given periodically.

K. Lukens – Were there comments that rose to the top to help explain?

J. Pinkam answered that most of the comments were observing negative interactions, some of them concerned about racial bias and how to manage domestic violence or children in an unsafe situation. Some of them were participants in the interactions. Will share the comments with the board when all is populated. May do a word cloud exercise to see what words bubble out.

Question 2 Are You Aware Of How To Provide Feedback Or Filed Grievances With SAPD? A lot of people said no because they don’t have a reason to. There may be opportunity to do advertising of how to reach out to the SAPD and filing a concern.

D. Mitchell if there are a couple of different ways to engage in the process might make things more comfortable as the public is more aware.

J. Pinkham just a feedback card might work. Chief On the city site you can fill out a form without your name. You can currently use city hall website, come in person, or utilize the phone.

Question 3 Do You Believe Your Concern Is Taken Seriously Or Shared With Elected Officials In Any Capacity? There were possible survey issues where there are more NA than usual. Will continue to have conversations around this question.

D. Mitchell great opportunity to celebrate it’s taken seriously.

J. Pinkam asked if during the prior chiefs’ leadership, did concerns come from city council?

M. Lamonthe answered that he does not have prior knowledge of routines then.

Question 4 - Do You Feel Connected To Law Enforcement In Your Community?

A no’s were I don’t feel like I need to be. Not necessarily negative in all of the no’s. M. White recommends to change the question in the future explaining what we mean by “connected”. D. Mitchell questions whether the community is better off having their questions answered or being able to report. People missed opportunity to do trackable data to tell stories, in future, maybe having only one place for the comments and the

rest selection.

Comment Trend

There were negative and positive about different sections

Don't turn St. Albans into Burlington

Don't defund the police

Better training and responsiveness to Domestic Violence for officers

Speeding

Racial Bias amongst officers

Thank you for your service

Past leadership led to mistrust

Focusing on better interactions and training, but not on defunding, agreed with M. White. If police can't be all things to all people, who do we need to add – M. White Domestic Violence _ chief hard to get good cooperation in domestic violence and policy is made to be able to look better at the situations. Franklin county has lead in domestic violence k. Lukens training has helped and chief has been responsive to hearing concerns.

Speeding – combination of cruisers speeding or not being able to stop speeders. Chief – being addressed of cruisers speeding. Speeders are an issue. Covid slowed down proactive patrols

Thank yous directly to chief

SRO feedback would be directed to school board

D. Mitchell thanks Pinkham for putting the information together

Pinkham add QR code for the future

9. Public Comment

R. Erickson appreciative of moment of silence, would prefer talking about issues as opposed to silence. 6% of all arrest were black people and it troubles Erickson and would like that address by the board. Feels the conversation around race and policing has been missed and needs to be placed as an item. Stop number was good, arrest number was higher.

Pinkham will overlay the results of the survey over the report and the numbers and will add it in the future the conversation.

The issue may be that defunding is the reason there is an issue in Burlington because of the lack of police presence. Pinkham, definitely a balance to make sure the right initiative is supported at the right time.

D. Mitchell would like to talk about R. Erickson's issue in June meeting. M. White agreed there should be a June meeting. The board will preferably skip July, as M. Lamonth will not be available and meet back in August. Plan on being an hour and a half but could possibly be shorter.

10. Adjourn

- a. **Motion made by M. White to adjourn. Second by W. Wilkinson**
Adjourned at 06:13pm