

POLICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chairperson Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on October 15, 2009 at Safety City.

Attending Committee: Chairperson Bill Cole, Vice-Chairperson Waneta Long, Bob Murrian, Lysette Aviles-Kok

Not Attending: Reverend John Butler, Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Ola Blackmon-McBride

Attending PARC Staff: Executive Director Avice Reid and Executive Assistant Lisa Chambers

Attending KPD/City of Knoxville Staff: Chief Sterling Owen, Attorney Ron Mills, Thomas Strickland

Chairperson Cole called the meeting to order and thanked Sgt. Mike McCarter for making the arrangements for PARC to meet at their facility.

Chairperson Cole recognized Chief Owen who had requested time to introduce KPD's newest Deputy Chief, David Rausch. Deputy Chief Rausch replaced Deputy Chief Bill Roehl who had recently retired. Deputy Chief Rausch is now over the Patrol Division with Capt. Monty Houk reporting to him as the East District Commander and Capt. Don Jones as the West District Commander.

Chief Owen also introduced Scott Tidwell from KPD's Technical Services Unit, who is responsible for the in-car camera recording systems other KPD Command Staff in attendance.

City Attorney Ron Mills introduced Lisa Hatfield, who is a new attorney in the City Law department. Should Attorney Mills be out of the office, Attorney Hatfield will be available to assist with any issues that may arise.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Cole asked if committee members had reviewed the July 23, 2009 minutes. A motion was made by Bob Murrian to approve the minutes and seconded by Vice-Chair Waneta Long. By unanimous voice vote, the July 23, 2009 minutes were approved.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Executive Director Reid reported on the following speaking engagements for the quarter:

August 4, 2009 26th Annual National Night Out for the Dandridge Avenue, Linden Avenue and Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch Groups - Avice Reid

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Reid reported that the committee audited **twenty-three** Internal Affairs Unit cases for the quarter. Of the **twenty-three** cases, **3** officers or civilian employees were disciplined. One officer received documented counseling, one officer had a memo placed in his personnel file, and one officer received oral counseling. In **thirteen** of those **twenty-three** cases, the Police Advisory and Review Committee and the Executive Director concurred with Internal Affairs' conclusions. The Committee and the Executive Director requested additional information on **ten** of the **twenty-three** cases. The Committee and the Executive Director concurred with Internal Affairs findings after they received and again reviewed the additional information on **nine** of the **ten** remaining cases. When the Committee receives and has reviewed the requested information on the **one** remaining case, they will reevaluate that case for closure. There was one case pending at the end of the 2009 second quarter. The information on that case has been received and reviewed by the Committee and that case has been closed.

Audits of KPD Policies and Procedures:

In order to adequately review cases and address citizen's concerns, the Executive Director and/or Committee Members reviewed and audited the following KPD policies and procedures during the quarter:

- Operation of the Digital In-Car Recording Equipment
- Standard Operating Procedures of the K-9 Detail
- Use of Force Directive
- Enforcement of Registered Sexual Offenders' Residency Restrictions

Advocacy Activities for the Quarter:

The Executive Director continues to accompany citizens to the KPD Internal Affairs Unit to file formal complaints and discuss related issues when the resident does not trust the process or is ill at ease and unsure of the process.

The Executive Director meets with KPD’s Internal Affairs staff to view tapes, discuss concerns and to get clarification on specific cases.

The Executive Director continues to encourage mediation between citizens and police to resolve issues that involve areas such as; understanding of laws, perceptions of professional behavior, lack of communication and actions or verbiage that may be perceived as threatening, rude or disrespectful.

The Executive Director continues to assist individual citizens and neighborhood groups in resolving their complaints by working with various police officers and KPD Units to effectuate a plan to concentrate on current neighborhood and individual concerns.

The Executive Director continues to accompany citizens to City Court when necessary.

The Executive Director and Committee attended an audio/video demonstration conducted by the KPD Technical Services Department.

The Executive Director continues to serve on the Knoxville Police Department’s Training Committee to be a vehicle for citizen input on future training projects as well as to continue to update KPD’s recruit and in-service training.

The Executive Director was interviewed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) as part of the reaccreditation process of the Knoxville Police Department.

Community Outreach for the Quarter:

The Executive Director met with Chief Sterling Owen and Mike Hill of the University Of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center to discuss collaboration between KPD, LEIC and PARC to produce a video to accompany the KPD/PARC brochure entitled “What To Do If Stopped By The Police”. This brochure and video will be used when speaking to youth groups.

The Executive Director continues to meet with community members outside of the PARC office to discuss concerns, complaints and develop a plan for a successful resolution.

The Executive Director continues to meet with neighborhood associations to discuss neighborhood concerns and solutions. The Executive Director communicates this information to KPD for follow up.

Networking Activities for the Quarter:

The Executive Director continues to meet with citizens outside of the PARC office to discuss concerns, complaints, and to develop plans for successful resolutions.

The Executive Director continues to meet with neighborhood associations to discuss neighborhood concerns and possible solutions. The Executive Director communicates this information to KPD for follow up.

Other Activities:

In collaboration with KPD and LEIC, plans are underway to start production next month of the video entitled “What To Do If Stopped By The Police”. She noted that this video will be used when speaking to youth groups. Since PARC did not have an identifying logo, one was created. PARC, KPD and LEIC logos will be used in the video credits and on printed brochures. A copy of both versions of the new PARC logo has been included in each PARC member’s meeting packet. Due to print costs, she added that the color logo will be used sparingly; everyone will be seeing black and white version more often.

She reported that the PARC office is in the process of replacing the recording and transcription equipment used for PARC meetings. The City Ordinance requires the archival of both the transcribed and source recording of the PARC meetings. She noted that it is time to replace the current equipment due to its age and normal “wear and tear”. She thanked Mr. Thomas Strickland, the Director of Community Relations, for working with PARC by providing the financial support needed to purchase the new equipment.

PARC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Audio/Video Subcommittee –Waneta Long

Ms. Long explained that of the **twenty-three** IAU cases reviewed for the quarter, the audio/video equipment was functioning properly in **twelve** of those cases.

Of the **eleven** remaining cases, the audio/video was not available because of the following reasons:

- 1 Case There was audio of the entire incident but no video due to the locations of the officer's vehicles.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the incident happened between a civilian employee and their supervisor.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the officers were assigned to a Walking Patrol and was not within range of their vehicles.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the equipment was found to be malfunctioning during the incident.
- 1 Case No audio/video for two of the officers because their files did not upload correctly and some of the files were determined to be corrupt. It was noted that the files of a third officer, on the scene, did upload and was available for review.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the incident was a lack of communication between a citizen and the detective who was handling the investigation.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the officer did not interact with the citizen. He responded to a 911 request to check the area for possible prowlers.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the complaint was against a civilian employee.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the incident took place during court.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the officer was working a second job and his vehicle camera shut down prior to the incident occurring.
- 1 Case No audio/video because the officer was off duty.

In summary, there were no officers disciplined for violation of KPD's Audio/Video policy for the quarter.

Racial Profiling Subcommittee

Reverend Butler and Rabbi Schwartz were not in attendance. Chairperson Cole gave the third quarter racial profiling report. Chairperson Cole reported that there was one alleged racial profiling case for the third quarter. It was summarized as follows: The complainant accused the officer of Racial Profiling because he alleged the officer interpreted his actions as being negative simply because he is Black. He contends the same actions by a White person would not be interpreted negatively. This case was a referral and the Investigating Division Supervisor responded to the complainant in a letter. The letter also included the legal definition of Racial Profiling. He noted that in this case, the officer did not initially target him for suspicion of a crime based on his race, ethnicity, religion or national origin and the complainant was not randomly selected; rather the officer reacted to the complainant's overt interest in the investigation of a violent crime.

Operations/Case Review Subcommittee - Bob Murrian

Mr. Murrian summarized the third quarter PARC Operations Report. He gave the total for new cases received in the third quarter as **16**. There was **1** neighborhood case received in this quarter. He noted that the number of cases closed for the quarter was **39**. He explained the resolutions of the cases that were closed; **30** resolved by Executive Director, **6** resolved through mediation by the Executive Director and KPD, **2** Referrals to Appropriate Agencies and **1** resolved by KPD. He reported that there were **21** pending cases for the quarter. He noted that there were **2** PARC cases referred to IAU for the quarter. The Committee reviewed **2** PARC to IAU cases for the quarter and reviewed **21** IAU initiated referrals and/or cases for the quarter.

Mr. Murrian summarized the year-to-date totals of the PARC Operations Report. He gave the total of cases received for the year as **68** including **1** neighborhood case. He noted that the number of cases closed for the year was **81** which included **1** case closed from 2007 and **33** cases closed from 2008. He explained the resolutions of the cases that were closed; **59** resolved by Executive Director, **13** resolved through mediation by the Executive Director and KPD, **2** were referred to the appropriate agencies and **7** were resolved by KPD. Mr. Murrian noted that the total cases pending for the year was **23** which included **2** cases from 2008. He reported that **4** PARC cases were referred to IAU for the year. The number of PARC to IAU cases reviewed by the committee for the year was **3** and the number of IAU Only referrals and/or cases reviewed by the committee was **60**.

CASE MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Cole asked committee members if there were any specific issues, from the cases reviewed for the quarter that needed to be addressed. The following issues were discussed:

There were no specific cases to be discussed.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee had general questions regarding the operation of the new digital in-car recording equipment and the process officers follow to transfer/upload their audio/video files.

Chief Owen asked Scott Tidwell, of the Technical Services Unit, to explain how the new in-car digital recording system worked. Mr. Tidwell explained the system in full detail and addressed any additional questions that arose from the Committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Lisa Chambers