

## **Oxford Police Community Relations and Review Commission Report**

Monday, August 13th, 2018

Pat Meade, Chair  
Deirdre DeLong, Vice-Chair

Amber Franklin  
Jonathan Joseph  
Egon Kraan

Larry Nadler  
Aimin Wang

The PCRRC was established in December of 2015. The goals of the commission are as follows: 1) Improve communication between the community and the Oxford Police Department, 2) Increase police accountability and credibility with the public, 3) Create a fair and impartial complaint process, and 4) Advise the Chief of Police, City Manager, and City Council about department policies and procedures regarding matters that affect the public, and public perception, of the OPD.

This report is a summary of the meetings held by the PCRRC over the past year.

### **Meetings and topics August 2017 - April 2018**

**Date:** Aug 17th 2017, 7pm

**Location:** Oxford Courthouse

Police Chief Michael Goins was introduced by Pat Meade and raised questions about the relationship between Oxford Township Police Department (OTPD) and the Oxford Police Department (OPD). Chief Goins representing OTPD stated that body worn cameras are utilized in his department. He also stated that footage from the cameras is purged at the end of the year, unless it is related to an ongoing investigation or if it is related to a sex crime. Chief Jones noted that OPD will have purchased body cameras for their department by the end of 2017. Chief Goins reported that thefts and burglaries are their "biggest" crimes and that most interactions between police and students occur during traffic stops.

Shana Rosenberg shared the email of a worried citizen who is requesting additional policing in Park View Arms (PVA) and W. Vine St. Chief Jones responded by expressing his dual commitment to protecting individuals' liberties (constitutional rights) while addressing the public's safety concerns.

Pat Meade brought attention to the community garden in PVA.

When asked about police use of Narcan Chief Jones recalls that only one officer in the department (Hardin) carries Narcan with him.

Chief Jones expressed the collective need for police to match the arms of oppositional forces by carrying patrol rifles, the generally more common firearm of the times.

At the end of the meeting, Chief Jones provided the commission with a flash drive and several documents related to a Complaint Against Personnel, filed on May 14th 2017. The person arrested, Mr. R Leggett, had filed the complaint on May 14th 2017 related to his arrest on April 7th 2017. Mr Leggett's complaint stated that Officer Harding and Sgt. Price's behavior toward him during the arrest was "purposefully humiliating and abusive" The packet given to the PCRRC by Chief Jones contained a flash drive that had two video clips on it. The first video was taken from the complainant's friend's cell phone (R. James) and the second video was from a camera on the OPD building capturing interactions between the complainant and officer in the alley. The paper documents provided included the following: The complaint against personnel statement, correspondence between Chief Jones, Mr Leggett and Lieutenant Robinson, Ohio suspect arrest form, Ohio Narrative, Lieutenant Robinson's Investigation Memo (26 pages), and Chief Jones' final response to Mr. Leggett summarizing Lt. Robinson's finding that the complaint was unfounded (3 pages). Chief Jones' letter to Mr. Leggett ended by referring the complainant to the PCRRC should he wish to appeal the decision.

**Date:** Nov 16th 2017, 7pm

**Location:** Oxford Courthouse

### *Complaint and Investigation*

The meeting began with a discussion of the documents provided to the PCRRC related to Mr. Leggett's complaint against personnel as well as the findings by Lt. Robinson and Chief Jones that the complaint was unfounded. The commission had planned to meet in September, 2017 to discuss the complaint. However, that meeting was canceled because the complainant had not appealed the investigation's findings. As a result, the PCRRC had two months to review the videos and documents provided and to prepare questions for Chief Jones and Lt. Robinson.

The commission members appreciated that Chief Jones provided them with all of the relevant materials related to the complaint Overall, the commission agreed that the investigation was thorough. Following are some of the commission's questions, recommendations and points of discussion related to the investigation: (see minutes for more details)

- 1) Shana Rosenberg suggested that there should be better lighting in the alley by the department.
- 2) Chief Jones noted that individuals who are experiencing mental health crises during arrest may be brought to the Butler County Jail rather than Fort Hamilton hospital because the jail has medics who can render care.
- 3) Pat Meade requested an explanation of the Garrity Warning. Lt. Robinson responded (see minutes)
- 4) Amber Franklin raised questions regarding use of the word "escorted" in the report.
- 5) Chief Jones noted that complainants can access records relevant to an arrest and investigation by requesting them from the OPD. Chief Jones also noted that

complainants receive a summary of the investigative report and a letter from him at the completion of an investigation.

*Discussion of training for individuals with special needs*

Susan Kauffman was present to represent Oxford OH Families of Children with Exceptionalities. Susan discussed how she was able to help educate first responders about her son's special needs and have her son's name flagged in the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Chief Jones noted that officers receive ongoing training in interacting with individuals who have special needs.

*Discussion about Miami University's Good Neighbor Policy*

Prior to the November meeting, Amber Franklin had conversations with Glenn Ellerbe (City Councilor and Miami University staff member) and Jen O'Brien (Director of Off-Campus Outreach and Communication) regarding Miami's Good Neighbor Policy. According to Mr. Ellerbe and Ms. O'Brien, students had expressed concerns regarding officers who sometimes enter off-campus residences without permission or warrants to issue 2nd violations. Chief Jones noted that officers are expected to follow proper procedure when engaging with students in off-campus housing and he encouraged any individuals who have concerns regarding police conduct to contact the PCRRC.

**Date:** Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, 7pm

**Location:** Oxford Courthouse

The beginning of the meeting involved Amber Franklin making vocal her commitment to extend the legacy of community to exist between Oxford police officers and Oxford's African American citizens. The meeting also went over topics related to gathering data on traffic stops categorized by race. After concerns and questions about body worn cameras were addressed, the meeting closed up with expressed condolences and worry over the then recently occurring event of the mass shooting in Florida, and also over the two Westerville officers killed in the line of duty.

**Date:** Apr 19th 2018, 7pm

**Location:** Oxford Courthouse

*Update on body worn camera use and data on citations by race and gender report from 2017*

Chief Jones presented data regarding the number of failed and interrupted recordings involving body worn cameras (BWC) and showed the commission a sample of footage from BWC. In response to questions from commission members, Chief Jones noted that all officers have been assigned a BWC. Chief Jones provided updated information regarding Charges by Race from January to December 2017. There was some discussion regarding the appropriate racial categorization of the individuals who have been arrested as well as discussion regarding the 2010 Census Population data upon which the Charges by Race data are based.

In response to Pat Mead's question related to a recent school shooting incident in Parkland Florida, Chief Jones provided some history of the School Resource Officer(SRO) program, including the role and specialized training of the SRO.

PCRRRC terms were ending for three members: Shana Rosenberg, Amber Franklin & Jacqueline Rioja Velarde. A. Franklin expressed her intention to reapply for her position. S. Rosenberg and J. Rioja Velarde had decided not to reapply for their position.

Nadia and Leah, from Women Helping Women, promoted a campaign called "You Have Options" to improve the sexual assault investigation process. They urged OPD to adopt the program.

*Comments from Chief Jones regarding social media posts from Mr. C Bowlds and Dr. Perez (refer to approved minutes for a more detailed account)*

Chief Jones addressed a concern posted on social media from Mr. Chris Bowlds regarding slow response times to dumpster fires in the Homestead Avenue area. Chief Jones expressed his commitment to citizen safety in the area and stated that OPD detectives and officers are working to solve the arsons.

Chief Jones also addressed social media posts from Dr. Perez who was stopped and ticketed for speeding along Fairfield Rd. Chief Jones expressed frustration over the fact that Dr. Perez' posts insinuated that he was stopped because of his race/ethnicity. Chief Jones presented the commission with the social media communications from Dr. Perez as well as Chief Jones' response inviting Dr. Perez to come by the station for a sit down discussion. Chief Jones also presented the commission with Officer Morgan's BWC footage from the stop. The commission members agreed that the footage from the stop reflected professional behavior on the part of Officer Morgan as well as appropriate behavior on Dr. Perez' part. Chief Jones and commission members acknowledged that Dr. Perez did look frightened as Officer Morgan Chief Jones provided data (by race and sex) regarding speeding citations issued by OPD and by Officer Morgan. Chief Jones expressed a desire not to unnecessarily escalate the exchange with Dr. Perez by releasing the BWC footage publicly. Chief Jones asked the commission how he should handle the incident with Dr. Perez, how to change the "us versus them" attitude and how to interact with persons of color who are violating the law. Amber Franklin offered to discuss the issue with Dr. Perez. She sent an email to Dr. Perez offering to meet with him about the issue. While there was no formal meeting between Dr. Perez and Chief Jones, Amber was able to speak with Dr. Perez and also followed up with Chief Jones on May 10th.

## **Commission Conclusions**

This past year demonstrates a period of growth for the PCRRC and its relationship with OPD and the community. The interactions summarized in this report represent a growing sense of trust and transparency between the commission and OPD. There is also a growing awareness of the PCRRC within the city of Oxford. For example, on September 26th, 2017 there was a story that appeared in the Miami Student about the PCRRC. The commission also appreciates Chief Jones' demonstrated transparency with respect to formal and informal complaints against OPD and his desire to engage the commission in responding to these complaints. Moving forward, we would like to continue the discussion regarding interactions with people of color within the community and hold events to bridge gaps in cultural awareness.