

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS & REVIEW COMMISSION COMMUNITY MEETING

ITEM 1.

Call to order.

The Oxford Police Community Relations & Review Commission meeting of April 19, 2018 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Pat Meade. Members present were: Amber Franklin, Shana Rosenberg, Jonathon Joseph, and Deidre DeLong.

Doug Elliott, City Manager; John Jones, Police Chief; John Buchholz, Assistant to the Chief – Community Outreach; and Amy Gabbard, Office Manager, were in attendance for the City.

ITEM 2.

Approval of Agenda.

Amber Franklin moved to approve the agenda; Shana Rosenberg seconded. Deidre DeLong was not present when Ms. Franklin made the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

ITEM 3.

Approval of Minutes of the February 15, 2018 Meeting.

Shana Rosenberg moved to approve the minutes; Amber Franklin seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1.

ITEM 4.

Discussion.

A. UPDATE ON BODY WORN CAMERA (BWC) USE

Chief Jones provided an update on the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWC). He reported that 76 Failed Recording Reports and 14 Interrupted Recording Reports have been submitted since officers began wearing BWCs. Chief Jones shared a memorandum from Lt. Robinson to the sergeants that advises what content the supervisors will be responsible for auditing each month. He concluded by playing a short segment from a video taken from the BWC to show what the videos look like.

Pat Meade wanted to confirm all of the officers wear wearing BWCs and Amber Franklin wanted to confirm that each officer was assigned a BWC, to which Chief Jones

stated yes, each officer was assigned his/her own BWC, and further clarified that a spare is kept as a backup in case something happens to an officer's BWC.

B. UPDATED DATA – CITATIONS BY RACE AND GENDER REPORT 2017

Chief Jones provided an updated version of the “Charges by Race from January to December 2017” spreadsheet that was presented at the last meeting and stated that our Records Specialist has been busy going through the records where “UNKNOWN” was listed in order to provide a more accurate representation of the numbers. The number of unknowns went from 590 to 128. Moving forward, the Records Specialist will continually reconcile the numbers.

There was some discussion about the 2010 Census Population and the disparity in the percentage of Asians in Oxford and how students are counted. Chief Jones acknowledged that OPD is policing a community where many come in and don't necessary live here.

C. SCHOOL SAFETY/ACTIVE SHOOTER PROTOCOLS

Pat Meade said that because he is a Talawanda School District board member, the recent school shooting incidents prompted concerned citizens to ask him what was being done about school safety/active shooters. Chief Jones gave a history of the SRO program, described SRO Wagers' role as an SRO, indicated what specialized training SRO Wagers has received, and summarized what patrol and administrative staff are doing to help keep our students safe.

D. TERMS ENDING – SHANA ROSENBERG, AMBER FRANKLIN, AND JACQUELINE RIOJA VELARDE

Amber Franklin would like to reapply for her position on the PCRRC board and will take the appropriate steps to do so. Shana Rosenberg and Jacqueline Rioja Velarde will not be reapplying for their positions, which will leave two vacancies on the board. Ms. Rosenberg remarked that it's been a great experience to be on the board and said she has a replacement in mind that she will encourage to apply.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Nadia and Leah from Women Helping Women promoted “You Have Options”, a program designed to improve the sexual assault reporting and investigation process.

They reported they were pleased with how OPD currently handles the reporting and investigation process. If OPD adopts the program, OPD would be the first department in Ohio to do so.

Linda Kimball spoke about data and thought that knowing the number of people who were issued citations and who also lived in Oxford would help establish who the offenders are.

F. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF JONES

Social Media Posts from Chris Bowlds and Dr. Perez:

Chief Jones showed where Chris Bowlds complained publicly on Facebook about response times, dispatcher and officer attitudes, and the overall general lack of caring by the Oxford Police for the people who live in the Homestead Ave. area. Chief Jones recognized that there are problems associated with the transfer of dispatch responsibilities to BCSO, however the transfer was mandated by the state and we are continually working on resolving or addressing issues as they arise. Detectives and officers were working to solve a few recent arsons (trash fires) in that area which prompted the post from Mr. Bowlds.

Chief Jones showed a tweet by Dr. David Perez, a professor at Miami University. In the tweet, Dr. Perez writes, "Tonight I had #TheTalk with my son about #police. We rolled down our windows before @OxfordOhioPD officer approached vehicle with hand on gun holster. #Really? I did not raise my voice, gave him paperwork, and graciously accepted \$160+ citation. #StillBreathing #ThankGod". He makes several other posts where he insinuates that he was stopped because he was "brown" and that he was lucky to be alive and to have arrived home safe.

Chief Jones responded to Dr. Perez's first tweet by writing, "Because we hold officers accountable for their actions here at OPD, I reviewed the body camera footage from this stop. I saw nothing but professionalism from the officer and absolutely nothing threatening as you may be insinuating. As the officer said, we've had many complaints for speeding in that area and the citation he issued was appropriate. In talking with your son about obeying the law and traffic stops, I recommend reading the pictured National Child Safety Council guidelines. I would be happy to sit down with you and discuss this further if you wish and feel free to bring your son by our station to interact with officers in a more positive setting to help eliminate fear."

Chief Jones provided statistics on speeding citations issued by OPD officers since 1/1/2018, citations issued on Fairfield Rd., and citations issued on Fairfield Rd. by Officer Morgan; those citations were then broken down by race and sex. He also provided a list of streets that OPD receives the most complaints about speeding. Chief Jones said his concern is that a false narrative is being repeated to community members on social media and, despite the PD's community engagement efforts and police accountability efforts, this will set us back.

The body camera footage of the traffic stop was played for the commission. Chief Jones pointed out that Officer Morgan's hands could be seen in the reflection off the vehicle during the video and his hands were not on his gun as Mr. Perez had indicated. The stop was handled professionally and no members seemed to have any issues with the stop.

Chief Jones asked the commission how we should address this particular incident, how do we change this "us versus them" attitude, and how do we handle situations when a person of color is violating the law?

Pat Meade said it depends on the goal. If the goal is to embarrass Dr. Perez, then the BWC video should be posted on social media. If the goal is to foster positive relationships and understanding, then he recommends setting up a meeting with Dr. Perez and have a member of the PCRRC be present. Amber Franklin knows Dr. Perez and offered to be a liaison between him and Chief Jones. Shana Rosenberg recommended the BWC video be posted.

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Oxford Courthouse.

ITEM 5.

Adjourn.

Shana Rosenberg moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.; Amber Franklin seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.