POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS & REVIEW COMMISSION
COMMUNITY MEETING

ITEM 1.

Call to order.

The Oxford Police Community Relations & Review Commission meeting of May 14, 2020 was held virtually and called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Pat Meade. Members present were: Aimin Wang, Amber Franklin, Larry Nadler, Deirdre DeLong, Egon Kraan and Hannah Stohry.

Doug Elliott, City Manager and John Jones, Chief of Police were in attendance for the City.

ITEM 2.

Approval of Agenda.

Deirdre DeLong moved to approve the agenda; Larry Nadler seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ITEM 3.

Approval of Minutes of the February 13, 2020 Meeting.

Deirdre DeLong moved to approve the minutes; Larry Nadler seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ITEM 4.

Discussion.

A. OPD DATA REPORT 2019

Chief Jones shared and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that contained requested data on arrests and citations from 2019. It also included 2019 formal complaint information and use of force data. Additionally, traffic stop data for the beginning of 2020 was shared. Larry Nadler noted that White, Black and Asian are listed as races. He wanted to know how Hispanics are categorized. Chief Jones stated that Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race. However, he noted that it is a subcategory and although it may be difficult to do so, data on Hispanics should be able to be gathered.

Aimin Wang wondered if the traffic stop data was being compared to the census data, to which Chief Jones shared a slide that the city manager created. The slide contained 2010 Census population data, 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) population data, and Fall 2018 Miami University Student population data.
Amber Franklin stated that when she looked at the traffic stop data she noted that of those stopped, 11% were black, but noted only 4.5% of the ACS population were black. The city manager replied that one thing not factored in is when someone identifies as two or more races. Chief Jones noted that it was a small sample size and we will have complete data at the end of 2020. He said that census data cannot be the only benchmark, that a lot of people we arrest and people who come through town don’t live in Oxford. Dr. Franklin noted seeing an overrepresentation in the data that points to something that needs to be explored. She said the reason she brought this up was because she was trying to get members of the African American community to talk about their experiences but they won’t because they are terrified. Egon Kraan wanted to know if there was a way to capture data on out of towners. Chief Jones agreed that that data would be useful and said he will explore that idea with the Records Specialist. Pat Meade noted that on the Criminal Charge Breakdown slide it was indicated that 10.5% of those charged were black, which is disproportionate to the black population.

Pat Meade asked if the formal complaint needs to be notarized, to which Chief said yes. Mr. Meade noted that during the pandemic, it may be a challenge to have a formal complaint notarized. Chief replied that it was a contractual issue and that the police officer contracts require complaints to be notarized.

Pat Meade asked if the data reports should be listed on the website like the yearly reports are, to which Amber Franklin replied she liked the idea transparency and its accessibility to students. Mr. Meade suggested listing badge numbers in lieu of officer names on the Use of Force/Display of Force reports. He also asked that documents shared at the meetings be attached to the minutes on the website. And he still wants pedestrian stop data.

Hannah Stohry would like line graphs comparing previous years’ data.

Hannah Stohry asked Chief Jones about the training officers received to identify race. Chief Jones summarized by saying that it reminded officers that basically you cannot judge a book by its cover. He said he has a training manual he can share with her.

Hannah Stohry would like the Use of Force/Display of Force reports to include the officer’s age, race and sex because she has seen studies that showed where the age, race, and sex of the officer can be linked to who is being arrested and who is using force. Chief Jones advised that it was apparent the department was comprised of mostly white police officers and questioned the benefit of documenting the data. Both Chief Jones and the city manager didn’t feel it necessary to share that information, however the chief asked Ms. Stohry to share the study with him so that he may have a better understanding of where Ms. Stohry is coming from.

Pat Meade reported that on the Use of Force/Display of Force Reports, use of force was used on 10 white people versus 1 black person, but the ratio was 10:4 on the Display of Force Reports, which he noted may be the result of perceived danger.
B. POLICE RESPONSE TO CITIZENS CALLS

Amber Franklin shared an incident that occurred on 1/1 where she was called the “N” word while on a walk on Chestnut St. near Kehr Rd. She wanted to know if that was something she can call the police about. Chief Jones stated that even though no criminal charge may come of it, it could be more involved than just that and yes, he would always encourage her to call. If nothing else, the incident is documented.

C. YEARLY REPORT FOR THE AUGUST MEETING

Pat will email the members and ask them what part of the report they want to write about.

D. ITEMS FOR AGENDAS IN AUGUST AND NOVEMBER

For August, the approval of the yearly report will be an agenda item as well as a follow up discussion on the Know Your Rights pamphlet.

E. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF JONES

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deirdre DeLong thanked the police officers for being out there doing what they are doing during the pandemic. She wanted to know if the pandemic effected the hiring process/promotional process. Chief Jones said that yes, we had to put off the testing. He said that calls for service dropped dramatically and SROs have been working the road so we have had enough officers to handle our calls. Chief reminded the members that he would like a member/members to sit in on a second interview of the top three sergeant candidates.

Hannah Stohry reported that she has seen people talking about the rise in domestic violence, especially involving children, during the pandemic and wanted to know how the officers’ duties have shifted, especially the SROs’. She wanted to know if there were extra ways to look out for this. Chief Jones reported that while he doesn’t have the stats in front of him, anecdotally he recognized that family disputes and mental health-related calls are on the rise. Officers are cognizant of these calls and it is common for them to do a lot of social work.

G. NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2020
ITEM 5.

Adjourn.

Deirdre DeLong moved to adjourn; Aimin Wang seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting lasted one hour and thirty-one minutes.