

**CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020, 7:00 PM  
HYDRANGEA ROOM – 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR**

**AGENDA**

Welcome

Chief DeVaul

Old Business

Introduction of New Board Members

Discussion of TPPD's relationship with RING and NEXTDOOR

Ward meetings - update

Theft from Autos – City-wide

Budget/Hiring Update

Vision Zero Task Force

IKEA Stuffed Animal Donation

New Business

Roundtable Discussion

Board Members

Questions/Comments

Board Members

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

March 18, 2020

Hydrangea Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

# Minutes of Chief's Advisory Board – February 19, 2020

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## **Takoma Park Police Department Chief's Advisory Board February 19, 2020, 7:00 pm**

**Present:** *Chief DeVaul, Deputy Chief Powell, Cathy Plevy, Jide Atoyebi, Elizabeth Wallace, Tom Morris, Jr., Juan Luis Torres, Christy Lopez, Gayle Fisher-Stewart, Donna Gaffney, Adam Landsman, Paul Weeda and Neal Chalofsky*

**Absent:** *Andy Kelemen and Fred Schultz*

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Chief DeVaul began the meeting by introducing the two newest members of the Board, Donna Gaffney and Adam Landsman, both from Ward 4. The Board members introduced themselves as well.

### **RING – NEIGHBORS APP**

There was a discussion about the Takoma Park Police Department's relationship with the social media apps, RING (NEIGHBORS) and NextDoor, and the pros and cons. The Board was interested in having clarification of the partnership that the police have with Ring and being clearer about the privacy issues and what we do with the videos received. They also wanted to make it clear to the community that the police do not have access to any video unless expressly given to them by the owner of the video. Chief DeVaul and Ms. Plevy will craft a message to the community with more clarity on this issue.

### **NEXTDOOR APP**

There was a discussion about the Takoma Park Police Department's relationship with NextDoor. The police joined NextDoor when they learned that a portion of the community in the Takoma Overlook area mainly get their source of information on social media through the NextDoor app. The police want to make sure we reach all of the community in the best way possible that is most convenient to them.

### **IKEA STUFFED ANIMAL DONATIONS**

Ms. Wallace spear-headed a partnership with IKEA regarding their community program of donating new, stuffed animals to the police department for officers to

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keep in their vehicles to have on hand to give to children involved in traumatic experiences, i.e., traffic accidents, domestic violence calls, etc. IKEA was happy to participate in the project and have indicated that they will be donating stuffed animals.

### **WARD MEETINGS UPDATE**

Chief DeVaul is trying to get the Ward meetings going, starting with Ward 5. He would like to have Ward specific meetings to introduce this Board to the community, as well as have in attendance the Mayor, the Ward's council representative, emergency preparedness manager, etc. The goal is to have them in every Ward. They will be public safety specific meetings. Child care will be available. Food/Snacks provided. If we are unable to begin in Ward 5, due to unforeseen circumstances, we will begin in Ward 4.

### **THEFTS FROM AUTOS**

We are unfortunately up 210% in thefts from autos in the City. We have set up plainclothes details and it has had an impact. The number of thefts from autos has gone down. We will continue our efforts. We need the community to be our eyes and ears. We will be putting out to the community what to look out for as suspicious. Our dispatchers are also trained in this area.

### **BUDGET/HIRING UPDATE**

We are in the middle of budget season. We are not asking for any new positions this budget season. Although we recently lost five officers who all left to police in other jurisdictions, we are once again at full strength and fully staffed. We have great, quality people. Some board members expressed concern about how we are going to retain officers who join the force, especially since we don't offer health insurance after retirement.

### **VISION ZERO**

Ms. Wallace wanted to discuss this initiative that Montgomery County Police started on February 14 for distracted driving. This initiative is very involved. We do have a distracted driving grant. We also participate in the initiative in April for Distracted Driver Awareness Month where we target distracted driving and educate the drivers. Council Member Kostiuk has also talked about this initiative and we can invite her to our Board meeting to discuss this further.

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### ADR

We are still looking into implementing Alternative Dispute Resolution between officers and the community. We are trying to finalize a policy. Not sure when it will be done.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Chief DeVaul mentioned that he will be presenting the 2019 Annual Report before Council on March 4.

There was a question about the status of the homicide that occurred on January 15, 2020. The case is still being actively investigated.

There was a discussion about the disruption the Purple Line construction is causing. There's been a lot of support for the local businesses from the Mayor, City Manager, City representatives, State representatives, etc. Purple Line has not been very responsive. There have been position letters, conference calls, and City TV went out to talk to the business owners who are being negatively impacted.

There was a question of whether we could purchase bait cars and Chief DeVaul indicated not this year. Bait cars require a lot of staffing and it usually falls to a Special Assignment Team (SAT), of which we do not have staffed at the moment. We are looking to re-staff that team in the near future.

### Goals for next meeting:

Further discuss the police department's relationship with Ring-Neighbors.

Bring any other issues to the roundtable.

**REMINDER:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in the Hydrangea Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

*\*The minutes are not verbatim as the meeting is not transcribed by a certified stenographer.\**

*Ended: 9:20 pm*