



## **CECIL COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100  
Elkton, Maryland 21921

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

May 30, 2023

**Present:** Stephen Miller, Robert McKnight, Jamila Mettee, John Stricklett  
and Lawrence Scott, County Attorney

#### **Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.
- Roll call - 4 members present, representing a quorum. Absent - John Thompson
- Pledge of Allegiance

#### **Agenda Approval:**

- Rob McKnight motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Jamila Mettee, and approved by all.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Approval of Minutes:**

- On motion made by Jamila Mettee, seconded by John Stricklett, the Board moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **New Business:**

- Per Md. Code, Pub., Safety §3-102, Chief Rogers from the Elkton Police Department addressed the Board to provide insight into the current trends she is seeing in terms of crime and to discuss policies and procedures of her department. Chief Rogers noted that the department is a full-service agency currently at full staff with 45 officers that covers a twelve (12) square mile area with a population of 16,000 plus. Being the county seat, the department receives a large call volume. She advised that more serious crimes are trending and there have been eight (8) homicides since November of 2020. The department partners with the FBI Wilmington Delaware office as there has been an increase in gang activity cross over from Wilmington, Middletown and Newark. Chief Rogers also mentioned an incident where Crips gang members were coming into the area from Harford County. Opioids remain a problem, the majority being fentanyl laced. The drug cases have decreased; however, the death rates have increased. Alternatively, the number of guns on the street is alarmingly high and the rate of confiscation has increased by 77%. Another area of concern is the Southfields project and sports complex that will bring in an influx of even more calls and potential issues. Chief Rogers advised that she has asked for an additional 5 officers in the new fiscal budget. Retention has been an issue, but that has been stemmed. Lastly, the issue of big box stores no longer enforcing shoplifting was addressed which leads to a sense of permissiveness. Chief Rogers agreed this scenario is happening, and in some instances and that the stores will call them after the fact and ask for a report to be written. She has discouraged this practice and advised retailers they need to participate and show up in court.

- Chief Nitz from Perryville Police Department has requested to come before the PAB.  
On motion made by Robert McKnight and seconded by Jamila Mettee, the Board moved to approve this invitation. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

On motion made by Chairman, Steve Miller, seconded by John Stricklett, Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting.

**Next meeting:**

- Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD.

**Action Items:**

- Invite Chief Nitz from the Perryville Police Department to address the Board at the next meeting.  
Draft a letter to the police agencies regarding the preferred process for submitting complaints and/or investigatory files.