



CECIL COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD PAB

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

Open Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023

Attendance:

Present: Stephen Miller (Chair), Robert McKnight, Jamila Mettee, and John Stricklett.
Legal: Lawrence Scott, County Attorney
Absent: John Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
Roll call - 4 members present, representing a quorum. Absent – John Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Miller.

Agenda Approval:

John Stricklett motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Jamila Mettee, and approved by all.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

On motion made by Robert McKnight, seconded by John Stricklett, the Board moved to approve the minutes as amended of the July 31, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board Member Questions:

John Stricklett asked about case tracking and how many cases came in July.

New Business:

Law Enforcement Presentation:

Per Md. Code, Pub., Safety §3-102, Chief Robert Nitz from the Perryville Police Department addressed the Board to provide insight into the current

law enforcement trends as well as policies and procedures. Chief Nitz stated he has been the Chief of Perryville Police Department for 4 years. He further explained his agency is made up of 14 authorized sworn officers, 6-7 support staff between their administrative secretary and outreach program, covering the municipal town limits of Perryville. Chief Nitz noted his department continues to engage the community in new and innovative ways. Some of the outreach programs mentioned included "Cooking with Cops", Perryville Night Out" and a program that pairs children ages 5-13 with police officers to go fishing for a few hours (building community relationships with "fun, filled, fishing"). Chief Nitz also changed the date of "Nashville Night" cook out event to ensure a greater attendance. Another example is officers from the Perryville Police Department deliver non-perishable food items to struggling families, noting these presented opportunities for officers to positively interact with the community, rather than getting a call for service at their house. During covid, these outreach programs also allowed the officers to "put eyes" on the children because kids couldn't go to school. Nitz noted processes have been implemented and improved since he became Chief. Examples include Lexopol and new procedures for risk management. The opening of Great Wolf Lodge has caused additional stress on the public safety system and EMS providers. Maryland Transportation Authority Police have been great partners. There are 3 vacancies, with a 3rd effective the weekend following this meeting. Nitz cited recruiting challenges following the negative results of recent legislative changes to the laws.

Next meeting:

It was acknowledged that the next PAB meeting would be Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD.

Adjourn:

On motion made by John Stricklett to adjourn and seconded by Jamila Mettee, the meeting was adjourned.