

Citizen Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing

Minutes – February 8th, 2016

Members present: Baha Safadi
Nicole Rials
Jo Andersen
Laura Canelos-Ramon
Rob Farha
Adrian Jones
Theresa Schwartz

Members absent: None

Staff Present: Chief Tarik Khatib
Sergeant Trent McKinley

The minutes of the last meeting were received by the board. The need for corrections was not immediately identified and the minutes were approved.

No new racial profiling complaints were received, therefore none were reviewed.

No new Taser deployment occurred, therefore none were discussed. Staff advised several annual documents for 2015 were currently being assembled, including the Taser report, and they anticipate those reports could be discussed at the next meeting.

Baha Safadi and Adrian Jones discussed their visit to the Olathe Police Advisory Council meeting, which occurred on February 3rd. Sgt. McKinley also attended the Olathe meeting. During that meeting the Mexican consulate, representing several Midwest states, provided a presentation outlining the services they provide to Mexican nationals. Services included providing identification to Mexican citizens, assisting with legal matters, and community outreach. Some outreach events included interaction with local officers to demonstrate the working relationship and trust between the consulate and the police. The board felt there would be value to have a similar presentation done in Lawrence and possibly a community event to build bonds between the board members, the Hispanic population, the consulate and the police. Adrian Jones and Laura Canelos formed a subgroup to study the prospect.

Also from the Olathe meeting came an idea to have a high school student be a member, or ex-officio member, of the board. Nicole Rials and Theresa Schwartz agreed to form a subgroup to evaluate that possibility. A member of the public, who is a retired Olathe teacher, suggested reaching out to Olathe stakeholders to discuss how Olathe's program is set up.

Jo Andersen discussed her attendance of a meeting at the library regarding a presentation made by Charles Epp regarding police stops and his book, "Pulled Over". The discussion focused on perceptions of drivers being stopped in Lawrence and elsewhere. Chief Khatib was familiar with the book and discussed policies and practices of the Lawrence Police Department. He also discussed his participation in public forums organized by members of the NAACP, the League of Women Voters and other interested parties who had questions about local practices.

Nicole Rials talked about the need to let community members know the board exists and the avenues for which they can get issues of concern addressed.

Baha Safadi discussed the prospect of having another community training session done in the future, based on the success of the last event. He also spoke of the importance to get other community group members to participate in social functions and gatherings to build community bonds.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th at 6:30pm. It will be in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.