

Citizen Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing

Minutes – October 12, 2015

Members present: Baha Safadi
Nicole Rials
Theresa Schwartz
Jo Andersen
Rob Farha

Members absent: Laura Canelos-Ramon

Staff Present: Captain Paul Fellers
Sergeant Trent McKinley

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

Adrian Jones was welcomed as the newest board member, effective September 15, 2015. He replaced Brian Goodack who left his position to accept a job out of state.

The process for appointment of new board members was discussed. Perspective members should contact the City of Lawrence, through the City's website or the City Manager's office, to indicate their desire to serve. Applications will be forwarded to the Mayor, who ultimately makes the appointments.

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

Details of three uses of the Taser by officers were reviewed by the board. The board was also given notification of two additional incidents, which had recently occurred but were not yet part of the summary.

The board and police department staff discussed last month's community Fair and Impartial Policing training. Board members overwhelmingly found the session to be positive and described it as a "good platform" for police/community discussion. Where tension or differences of opinion arose, both community members and officers had valuable, respectful discussions with one another. Board members believe a similar program could be offered to community members in the future, though some aspects of the curriculum and length of presentations may benefit from some modification.

A discussion of opportunities for officers and community members to interact socially was had. Both board members and police staff members were asked to help identify additional opportunities for non-confrontational and/or social interactions to occur. One goal of the board is to increase those interactions to further build relationships between officers and community members.

The board briefly discussed the need to further identify priorities and future goals for the board. Goals such as renaming the board to more accurately reflect its mission, as well as moving the meetings to City Hall to increase public interaction were mentioned as goals recently achieved. Other potential goals included further defining the mission of the board, seeking additional opportunities for police / community interactions, and examination of a variety of aspects of bias based policing. This could include examination of citations and arrests made currently and discussion of how additional data could be used if it was collected in the future.

Board members also discussed how to best respond to emails from community members. The board advised if information was needed from the police department, those emails would be forwarded to Sgt. McKinley who would provide the needed information to board members to assist with their responses.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 21st at 6:30pm. It will be held in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 6 East 6th Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.