

Citizen Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing

Minutes – August 8, 2016

Members present: Baha Safadi
Nicole Rials
Jo Andersen
Laura Canelos-Ramon
Adrian Jones
Misty Nuckolls

Members absent: Rob Farha

Staff Present: Captain Trent McKinley
Captain Anthony Brixius
Sergeant Dave Hogue
Sergeant Amy Rhoads

The minutes from the April and June meetings were approved by the board, with no changes recommended. The April minutes were included because no quorum was present at the June meeting.

The board was notified of two racial profiling complaints. One complaint was made directly to the Attorney General's Office, therefore Sgt. Hogue was unable to provide the details on that investigation. The second complaint surrounded a traffic stop involving a young adult female who felt she had been stopped based on her race. She related this to her mother, who made a complaint with the Office of Professional Accountability. Sgt. Hogue reviewed the video of the car stop and shared the results of the investigation with the complainant. At the conclusion of the discussion she was satisfied the officer acted appropriately on the stop. Sgt. Hogue also advised the board the driver had paid the fine for the traffic citation prior to the complaint being made by the driver's mother. Both the complainant and the driver were offered the opportunity to review the video of the traffic stop, however they did not choose to do so.

Captain McKinley notified the board of three uses of the Taser by officers since the April meeting. A synopsis of each event was provided to the board and follow up questions were asked. Two of the three uses are still pending review by the department's use of force committee according to Captain McKinley.

Board Chair Safadi discussed a number of issues with the board, including:

- The announcement of a community dialogue dinner, hosted by the members of the Lawrence Alliance and the Citizen Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing. He stated it was his intent to invite local law enforcement (Lawrence Police, Douglas County Sherriff's Office, University of Kansas Public Safety and Kansas Highway Patrol), as well as minority groups, key community leaders, and others to participate. The event is tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2016.
- Shifting the responsibility of compiling agendas and minutes for each meeting from the staff liaison, currently Captain Trent McKinley, to Board Vice-Chair Nicole Rials. This change was suggested to further demonstrate the board operates independent of police department control.
- He suggested removal of the Lawrence Police Department logo from the name tents of board members for the same reason.
- He encouraged members of the NAACP, ACLU and others interested in the board's function to reach out to him and other members of the board informally so relationships could be established.
- He stated he met with the Mayor and City Manager recently and discussed the responsibilities of the board, and potentially increasing the scope of the board. He is awaiting details of those changes but stated the Mayor, City Manager and Police Chief all welcomed the idea.
- He announced board member Rob Farha has communicated his desire to resign from the board. He stated he has brought forth the name of a potential replacement to the Mayor for consideration.
- He discussed the previous Fair and Impartial Policing community training session which the board and police department sponsored last fall. He, and other board members, stated it was a very beneficial event and suggested working to have a similar event in the future. He asked Captain McKinley for an update on the status of future sessions. Captain McKinley told the board when the issue was last discussed the board talked of making minor changes to the format, discussing ways the list of invitees could be expanded, etc. Board Chair Safadi requested the police department examine the possibility of having such events once or twice per year. Further discussion of the topic is planned.

Public comment was received by the board and a number of individuals spoke regarding various issues. Board Chair Safadi stated the board would receive the information and have further discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10th at 6:30pm at City Hall.