

C.A.B. MEETING MINUTES – March 17, 2021

Present:

Jim Stabler
Chief David Birk
Sgt. Earl Nelson
Det. Jason Wargo
Vanessa Clark
Jim Stabler
Jeff Wilder
Dr. Celeste Davis
Jonda Prather
Tammy Thompson
Jelani Johnson
Jennifer Carter
Paul Gomia
Katrina Wilson
Enorris Thomas

- Jim Stabler welcomed everyone in attendance. He advised we did not have enough current members present at 1737 hours, so we could not hold an official meeting in which items on the agenda could be voted on.

FOP REPORT

- Det. Jason Wargo advised the FOP has their arbitration hearing on April 22nd in reference to a contractual issue that officers should be compensated hour per hour in the event that the City declares a state of emergency. This refers to when the City Building was shut down for almost two months due to the COVID epidemic.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Birk provided everyone with a monthly traffic stop report. Every officer will now have to track all of their traffic stops. This report breaks down all traffic stops monthly in several different areas. This will be beneficial with our upcoming CALEA accreditation.
- The MPD will have at least eight officers retiring by the end of this year. Fifty-six applicants recently took the civil service test. The eligibility list will be certified by the Civil Service Board at 0800 hours tomorrow morning. Sgt. Nelson & Officer Owens will start panel interviews after this.
- Sgt. Nelson explained the lengthy process of hiring a police officer: written & physical tests given, civil service eligibility list established, oral panel interview given, polygraph packet distributed and received back, initial polygraph, background checks (past employers, references and neighbor interviews), interview with Chief, conditional offer of employment given by City Council, medical polygraph, physical exam/drug test at Premier Occupational Health, stress test at Atrium Medical Center and a psychologist exam at Dr. Spark's Office in Mason. This entire process takes usually between 4-6 months from start to finish. We will have had the need for twelve spots by the end of 2021, making us a very young department in 2022.
- The discipline report was given that included two officers' traffic accidents and one civilian off duty incident.
- Chief Birk and Sgt. Nelson addressed the complaint on Officer Deaton which involved pictures of himself on his personal Facebook account in which he was perceived to be giving racial hand

gestures. There was an open discussion in reference to how to better handle situations such as this in the future.

- The eight standards for the Ohio Collaborative have now been submitted.
- The City of Middletown is expected to receive a substantial amount of funding due to COVID, as well as the State of Ohio. We very well could see funding for body worn cameras come from the State level from this.
- We are finishing up with inter-departmental RITE (Racial Intelligence training) this week.
- Major Crank has been given the green light to begin the CALEA accreditation process. He is also overseeing the Code Enforcement division. All complaints should be sent to Amanda Hunt at: amandami@cityofmiddletown.org or (513) 425-7938.
- Sgt. Nelson reported that the Detective section has been busy. He gave the report on the two most recent homicides since the last meeting. He commended Det. Mynhier and the rest of the detectives that worked on the James Hutchinson case, as well as Det. Ryan Morgan who worked on the homicide at Billy T's Bar. Sgt. Nelson was impressed by all the community support at the gathering for James Hutchinson at Barnitz Stadium. Middletown City Schools have set up an account at First Financial Bank for a trust fund for James' siblings.
- We are seeking any information on catalytic converter thefts in the City. Hondas are specifically being targeted. They are being taken to Indiana and bringing in \$800 each.
- There have been two recent motor vehicle fatalities in the City, both in which speed was a factor. Traffic enforcement is being stepped up with additional OSP troopers and speed signs around town.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- A complaint of a Honda or a Civic revving their motor up every day at 3:30am at the stoplight at Verity Pkwy. & Yankee was brought to attention and will be addressed.
- Applicants for the CAB will be submitted to City Council and applicants will have a background check ran on them. There have been some issues with previously submitted applications that have not been received that is being looked in to.

The meeting adjourned at 1819 hours. The next board meeting will be **Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 1730 hours.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Clark