

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 06/20/2024

Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center, W 12th St., Little Rock, AR 72204

I. Roll Call

Roll Call (voice roll call led by Secretary Herts)

Carolyn Hobbs - e
James Doyle - e
Willie Davis - e
Rev. Billy Burris -
Anna Morshedi - not using
Seth Ward - Absent
Chair Johnny Gilbert, Jr. - e
Secretary Zeorneé Herts - e
Kambrei Charles - e
Kate Moffitt - e
Conner Thompson - e

A quorum was met.

Others in attendance were: LRPD Chief Heath Helton, City of Little Rock Atty. Lynette Perez, Liaison to the Mayor Christopher Harvey, Chance (intern)

II. Opening Comments

a. Newest Public Safety Commissioners

Kate Moffitt - Dir of Children's Ministry, St. Andrew's Anglican Church
Conner Thompson - Atty, Bowen Law School Police/Community Relationships

b. Staff Liaison – Christopher Harvey, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Welcome to the new commissioners. Almost complete - 2 vacancies, Ward 2 or 7. Verified status of public-facing email addresses *noted by "e" next to roll call above.

c. Department Liaison – Chief Heath Helton, Chief of Police

Overall crime [5:20] stats; property crimes, car break ins, rape reports up,
Gun Buy Back this weekend. Youth camp - Sunday-Friday - 60 youth.

d. Department Liaison – Lynette Perez, Chief Deputy City Attorney

III. Old Business

a. Adoption of previous meeting minutes

Moved by Commissioner Doyle, Seconded by Commissioner Burris
Unanimously accepted

IV. Citizen Communication

a. Limited to three (3) minutes per person, with a maximum of 21 minutes allowed.
NONE

V. New Business

a. New At-Large Commissioners Term Limit Selection

Commissioner Moffitt - 3 years

Commissioner Thompson - 4 years

b. Presentation by Johnisha Graham – LRPD Community Youth Crime Prevention Advocate

Ms. Graham joined the department in October 2022. Worked with Clinton School of Public Service. Team based project. Examined youth perceptions of LRPD and how they tied to crimes among youth.

“Youth Perceptions Towards the Police in Little Rock” Capstone Project – handouts were provided for the group.

- Fear, Mistreatment, Racial Bias, Mission Disconnect
- Age and locale play a role in the view of young people towards police. Something happens between elementary ages and the change to middle grades through young adults.

Some of the ideas that were provided were things that are already in place, but not necessarily visible to the community.

Offering a challenge to all programs to be effective.

Youth make up 1/3 of our population, so we need to ensure we support them with programs and initiatives.

- Commissioner Burris - question. The change between elementary to adolescence. Is there any follow-up to target that potential shift?
- Chief Helton was open to the Clinton School study
- Commissioner Hobbs - Society and environment play a part, many are living in poverty. Talked about programs and sales tax funds back in the 90's
- Commissioner Morshedi - asking about the shift and influence of SROs, they see the “inside” officers as different than the patrol officers.
- Commissioner Davis - what was the reason between white vs. non-white | where did the kids come from? What was the makeup? They came from the hot spots.
- Commissioner Thompson - Survey vs. Focus group. Also inquired about survey data by zip codes. This was not tracked.
- Commissioner Burris - Is there a follow-up plan? Developing ideas as to what could work. Any other research related from other cities? How could we compare or are there any ideas? Benchmark study. How can we help assist in this process? There will be follow up in the months to come relating to the commission providing support.

c. Presentation by Christopher Harvey – Office of Executive Administration

Presented the information about the Sales Tax. Brief overview of the budget breakdown.

- Chief Helton - Overview of the Public Safety portion of the tax
- Commissioner Hobbs inquired about the social workers going out with the officers. Chief Helton confirmed that they do on a need basis.
- Commissioner Herts mentioned the technology being used by Chicago PD to connect counselors on the scene to those needing assistance.
- Commissioner Davis - social worker relationships, CIT (Crisis Intervention Trained) trained officers? 53% are currently. The technology is working.
- Commissioner Burris - personal testimony

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Gilbert - Motion to Adjourn

Commissioner Charles - Second

Unanimously carried.