



MINUTES NO. 2023-01-RG
OF A
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MADISON POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 31, 2023

To protect public health during the COVID-19 Pandemic, according to State and Federal guidelines, anyone who is sick or who is living with a quarantined family member should not attend the meeting.

The Madison Police Citizens Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Madison City Public Library, Madison, Alabama. The invocation was provided by Committee Member Frank Fletcher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that an American Flag is needed.

Noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Committee Chair Marc Highsmith.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The roll call was conducted by Committee Secretary Rebecca C. Franz and recorded as follows:

Mayor's Appointment Marc Highsmith	Present
Chief of Police's Appointment Rajiv Sharma	Present
Council District No. 1 Curtis Potts	Present
Council District No. 2	Vacant
Council District No. 3 Billie Goodson	Present
Council District No. 4 Frank Fletcher	Present
Council District No. 5 Dwayne Craft	Present
Council District No. 6 Rebecca C. Franz	Present
Council District No. 7	Vacant

City Official in attendance was: Chief Johnny Gandy and Councilwoman Karen Denzine

Public Attendance registered: 20 with 3 commenters.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda. Motioned by Committee Member Billie Goodson, seconded by Committee Member Frank Fletcher. All were in favor.
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Billie Goodson made one suggestion for correction and then motioned for approval, seconded by Committee Member Dwayne Craft. Chair Highsmith called for a Roll Call Vote. All were in favor.
Minutes Approved.

Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

Heather Morgan spoke about her concerns over the police presence and how it could be intimidating to the public present. She spoke of a specific police response to a citizen who normally interrupts, disrupts the meetings or other public speakers while the meeting is in progress. She expressed that while she understood why the police officer approached the citizen, she said that her afterthought was of how it looked and could be perceived as intimidation and send the wrong message.

Linda Clift spoke on a recent experience with the Sherrif's Department and wanted to know how she could file a formal complaint.

Jocelyn Broer spoke on how she felt the timing of our meeting topic was insensitive because of the recent incident in Memphis, Tennessee with Tyre Nichols. Asked why does this happen in some places, but not in others. Also commented that citizens decide the topics for our meetings and have the police present to respond.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

There were no reports given by the Committee Members or Chief of Police Appointee Rajiv Sharma. Chair Marc Highsmith stated how we've been trying to have a meeting since October with this topic, but because of weather, those meetings had to be cancelled. He said he was happy to be able to get together and see everyone. That our committee doesn't always agree with each other, but we respect each other and communicate well despite our differences. He also explained how the committee will go over all comments/questions with Chief for the best course of action and will contact each person individually or address it at our next meeting.

BUSINESS

OLD

Nominating and voting on new officers for the Committee took place.

Chair: Billie Goodson nominated Marc Highsmith. This nomination was seconded by Dwayne Craft. All were in favor.

Marc Highsmith is continuing as Chair.

Vice Chair: Rebecca Colon Franz nominated Billie Goodson. This nomination was

seconded by Frank Fletcher. All were in favor.

Billie Goodson is the Vice Chair.

Secretary: Frank Fletcher nominated Rebecca Colon Franz. This nomination was seconded by Billie Goodson. All were in favor.

Rebecca Colon Franz is continuing as the Secretary.

NEW

Chief Gandy introduced our topic of Traffic Stops and stated that most confrontations with police occur during traffic stops. To help minimize this, he requires his officers to

1. State their name and the reason for the stop
2. After asking for the driver's license, the officer will either give a citation or a warning.
 - If the citizen argues, a citation will, more than likely, be given. The department allows discretion regarding whether a citation or warning will be issued. Several factors are evaluated by the officer in selecting the appropriate course of action to include: 1) Previous driving record, 2) Citizen conduct during stop, 3) Seriousness of offence (these are not in any priority order).

Ofc's Tim Portik and Jeff Landrum talked about Traffic Stops and the expectations officers have from the individuals they stop:

- ✓ Driving is a privilege, not a right.
- ✓ The issuance of a Driver's License is implied consent for a blood or breath analysis.
- ✓ You have a right to argue your case in court, not on the road.
- ✓ Officers ask that citizens accept your role in the situation. It is imperative that as citizens, we provide officers with due respect and courtesy while they carry out their duties. Officers are expected to treat citizens the same way.
- ✓ There is now a Traffic Control Unit with 4 officers, and they will target problem areas. One of those areas are car crashes. Last year our city had over 1500 crashes. On average that's roughly 1100 per year.
- ✓ Public concerns/questions were:

Q - What are the polices' expectations for pulling someone over on a busy highway?

A - (County Line Rd was used as an example) Drivers are expected to stop immediately after the officer turns the lights on for their vehicle. Lights aren't turned on if it isn't a safe place to pull over. Sirens are used to get the attention of the driver if they have not noticed the lights. At night, if the person wants to "wait for a safer place to stop", you are expected to acknowledge the police officer by turning on your hazards.

Pull to the right, NOT the left!

Q - Should weapons be declared?

A - That depends on the situation/reason for the stop. Some officers will ask about weapons, and some won't. A weapon can be declared if that makes you feel more comfortable, but it is not required.

Q - What does reasonable suspicion mean?

A - The supreme court has defined reasonable suspicion as: some minimal level of objective justification for making a stop -- that is, something more than an inchoate and unparticularized suspicion or 'hunch,' but less than the level of suspicion required for probable cause.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TOPIC AND LOCATION

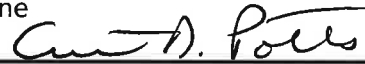
Next meeting is on February 28, 2023, at the Madison Public Library. Meeting topic - Internal Affairs Process Review.

FUTURE MEETINGS ARE TO BE THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH FLEXIBILITY TO RESCHEDULE. THE MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY IS TO BE THE DEFAULT MEETING LOCATION WITH CITY HALL AS A BACKUP MEETING LOCATION.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

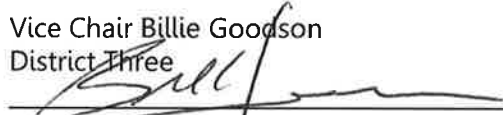
Minutes No. 2023-01-RG dated January 31, 2023, read, approved and adopted this day of February 28, 2023.

Committee Member Curtis Potts
District One



Committee Member - VACANT
District Two

Vice Chair Billie Goodson
District Three



Committee Member Frank Fletcher
District Four



Committee Member Dwayne Craft
District Five



Committee Member Rebecca Colon Franz
District Six



Committee Member - VACANT
District Seven

Chief of Police's Appointment Rajiv Sharma



Concur:



Marc Highsmith
Committee Chairman

Attest:



Rebecca Colon Franz
Committee Secretary