



MINUTES NO. 2023-02-RG
OF A
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MADISON POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 28, 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, February 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Madison City Public Library, Madison, Alabama. An agreement was made with the Library that it is beneficial to begin our meetings a half hour sooner from this point on. The invocation was provided by Committee Chair Marc Highsmith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The American Flag was provided by Committee Secretary Rebecca C. Franz and her husband, Aaron.

Noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 6:02 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	Absent
Council District No. 5 Dwayne Craft	Present
Council District No. 6 Rebecca C. Franz	Present
Council District No. 7	Vacant

City Officials in attendance were: Chief Johnny Gandy and Capt. Terrell Cook

Public Attendance registered: Four

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda. Motioned by Committee Member Billie Goodson, seconded by Committee Member Curtis Potts. All were in favor.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Billie Goodson motioned for approval, seconded by Committee Secretary Rebecca C. Franz. Chair Highsmith called for a Roll Call Vote. All were in favor. Minutes Approved.

Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Dwayne Craft commented about the lack of his bio on the committee's webpage and said he would look into it.

Rebecca C. Franz announced that she was asked to be on the Madison Street Festival Committee.

Marc Highsmith shared how he had visited with the City's Attorney, Brian Kilgore, to discuss the committee's term limits and whether they can be changed. Some members would like to continue on the committee and some would like to end their time despite the term they were initially assigned. Attorney Kilgore will work on the verbiage needed to request a revision of the Resolution to the City Council. The following concerns were brought up by committee members: Dwayne suggested focusing on when Committee Members are scheduled to roll off. Curtis said filling the vacancies should be priority. Attorney Kilgore said he approached the two council members with the vacancies and how they mentioned it at the last Council meeting. Marc said he would reach out to committee members on their thoughts and suggestions and possibly have a special meeting to discuss and vote on what needs to be submitted to the City Council.

BUSINESS

OLD

Concerns from the previous meetings public comments were revisited to offer explanation/clarification:

- Chief explained that the officer acted on his orders. There are certain rules that all need to abide by to attend Council meetings. This was made clear at the start of the meeting. The person approached has acted poorly in past meetings which is why she was spoken too by the officer.
- It was asked if meeting topics can be suggested by the public. Yes, we encourage and welcome suggestions.
- Because the Traffic Stops meeting was so popular, we plan on having a "part 2" for it. This will be announced before time.

NEW

CPT Terrell Cook presented the processes of the Office of Professional Standards. This office has been in place for 8 years. CPT Cook handles citizen feedback whether it be complaints or praises.

For complaints, due process must take place before any decision can be made. CPT Cook takes time to explain to citizens (as it applies) the laws for tickets or arrests. These are the steps that are taken once a complaint has been received:

1. A Case Number is assigned.
2. The Officers information is added.
3. A due date is set 90 days after receipt of the complaint
4. If an extension is needed, the request is sent to Chief Gandy
5. For lesser complaints like rudeness, the Officers Supervisor or Shift Commander handles it.
6. The Office of Professional Standards handles, for example, excessive use of force, bias, racism, search and seizures.
7. Body Cam footage is evaluated if applicable.
8. Confidentiality is maintained from the Officer.
9. If there is no evidence, the complaint is written up and filed.
10. The citizen that filed the complaint does not get informed of the disciplinary action (if any) the Officer faces. They are just told that the Officer was at fault and will receive disciplinary action.
11. The form to file a complaint is located online (top left of screen called "Commend or Complain on City Employees" or the complaint can be called in. It can also be made anonymously.

There were 32 complaints filed last year. A quarter of those complaints were initiated from within the department. These complaints are posted publicly. Decisions for complaints can be one of the following:

1. Unfounded – wasn't an MPD Officer or was a false complaint.
2. Not Satisfied – not enough evidence for determination.
3. Sustained – there was a violation of policy.

Public question: does the citizen need to do a sworn statement?

Answer: No, because they don't want to discourage citizens from coming forward by requiring that.

Vice Chair Billie Goodman asked: if true criminal activity was found, would that change the need for a sworn statement?

Answer: No, another agency is brought in in these cases and the citizen is directed to them.

Chair Marc Highsmith asked: what is the average turnaround for a complaint.

Answer: once more data is collected, they will have that information.

Public Question: what if the investigators are found at fault/wrong about an investigation?

Answer: Investigators of employees also. They are subject to the same processes and there is no statute of limitations.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TOPIC AND LOCATION

Chief Gandy informed the Committee of the Police Departments first reaccreditation by CALEA and asked if we could have a Special Meeting on March 14th to allow for a public forum. The committee agreed. The committee would also discuss and vote on committee terms.

The next regular meeting for the committee will be March 28th at 6pm in the Madison Public Library.

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 7:32 PM.

Minutes No. 2023-02-RG dated February 28, 2023, read, approved and adopted this day of March 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