

## **Charleston Citizen Police Advisory Council**

April 8, 2021

A meeting of the Charleston Citizen Police Advisory Council was held this date beginning at 5:30 p.m., virtually over Zoom.

Notice of the meetings were sent to all local news media.

### **PRESENT**

Thuane Fielding, Frank Walsh, Jerome Harris, Ryan Davis, Paul Tamburrino, Melvin 'Hack' Ezell Jr., Peter Beck, Max Milliken, Doris Grant, Emily Broome, Camden Norris Shields

**Also Present:** Chief Reynolds, Steve Ruemelin, Captain Bruder, Captain Cretella, Deputy Chief Chito Walker, Wendy Stiver, Bethany Whitaker

### **Call to Order/ Welcome**

Ms. Fielding thanked everyone for joining. She stated that it was brought to her attention that some members didn't realize they had two high school members. Ms. Grant said she didn't realize they had high school representation. She asked how they were recruiting high schoolers as representatives. Ms. Fielding said that per the guidelines, the Mayor submitted names. If any of them knew a high school student that may be interested, they could submit that name to the Mayor to let him know or Captain Thompson.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Shields, the minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Citizen's Participation**

1. Miguel Torres said he had been a long time resident of Country Club II and one of the concerns he had was Harborview Elementary School and the entry into his neighborhood which was Frampton turning onto Burningtree Road. Twice a day, the school traffic blocked any kind of emergency vehicles or vehicles from getting in and out of the neighborhood. This went on for almost an hour twice a day. His driveway was blocked and he couldn't enter or leave his home without running into someone or going against traffic. People were also blocking the fire hydrants. No one was really enforcing the law. There wasn't an officer standing and directing traffic. He had seen children running across Harborview Road, a four-lane highway, unsupervised, and had seen parents dropping their kids off on the other side of the road, parking illegally, and walking across to drop kids off. Signage in their neighborhood stated to not stop or block on one side of the neighborhood. Those signs had stopped people from safely dropping off their children. They couldn't drop their kids off on Iverness anymore, so all of that traffic was squeezed into their side of the neighborhood. It was only a matter of time before someone was hurt and/or killed trying to cross the road or an emergency vehicle couldn't respond to an emergency. They needed the help of their Police Department any way they could so they could have a safe and healthy neighborhood.

Captain Cretella said they would pass that on to units in the area and address it immediately.

2. Tony Daniell said he lived next to Mr. Torres. He was retired military and had been stationed in Salt Lake City. In Salt Lake City you could park more than five feet away from a fire hydrant. In L.A., he got a ticket for parking next to a fire hydrant when he was 12 feet away because you had to be 15 feet away in L.A., just like in South Carolina. On Harborview Road, you had to be at least 30 feet away from a flashing yellow light, 20 feet from an intersection, 20 feet away from a crosswalk. If they looked at Frampton Street, in front of the school, there was room for only two cars at a time. During the day, there were cars that were 15 deep on Frampton, 15-20 deep on Harborview, and 15-20 feet deep in the median on Harborview. All of those were violations and they had been going on for a long time. They had a sign placed in their yard by the County. They had signs in the other part of the neighborhood, but not in theirs. People needed to know they were breaking the law. You weren't supposed to stop or park a car in South Carolina within three feet of a driveway and every day his driveway was being blocked. There were other mitigating factors and the Mayor was doing his best to solve that. They had talked with the school who were going to try to solve some of the problems. But, this would be solved by enforcement. Rules were on the book for a reason. He believed they were there for safety, not just money. The other problem was to be able to exit the school, cars were 25 feet deep going towards the connector, in the median, and cars had to turn left, so they were playing dodgeball with other cars going 25-30 mph. One of the most dangerous moves you could make was going through parked cars to where there were other moving cars. He looked forward to enforcement and signs going up. What really brought this to light was his father having a stroke in September and EMS being impeded because of traffic.

Ms. Fielding stated that she hadn't signed up to speak, but they did have City Councilwoman Jackson. She asked if Councilwoman Jackson had anything to say.

Councilwoman Jackson said she appreciated all the work that CPAC had been doing and wanted to sit in and listen to them for an evening. She was grateful that Ms. Grant had stayed after the Mayor and she had nominated Ms. Grant. She said this week had been a foreshadowing of how hard it was to travel on James Island. They really only had two streets that went north to south. The biggest was Folly Road that went to the beach. It was spring break and it was like beach week. No one could get anywhere on Folly. They had a neighborhood at the end of James Island that was now being party to two very popular establishments, The Barrel and The Senorita. They had worked with parking enforcement to set up no parking signs on one side of Battery Island. They couldn't even get to the parking enforcement stage because Folly Road was so backed up on any given day. She wished they could fly over and give people citations because it really was a safety issue. It wasn't easy to solve, but they should all be aware of that congestion and the ways to be creative in enforcing it.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Ms. Fielding said she would be preparing a report to submit to the Public Safety Committee to go before City Council and let them know the actions they had completed to date and actions pending. She would send that out to everyone and asked that they responded promptly and whatever responses she

received, she would incorporate. That fell in line with what the Communications Subcommittee presented at the previous meeting.

### **Traffic Stop Subcommittee**

Ms. Fielding said this report would be at the next CPAC meeting. Mr. Harris asked that when they met next, maybe they could discuss the SLED report on traffic stops and ticketing. Ms. Fielding asked Mr. Harris to send an email to Mr. Lysaght.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Mr. Tamburrino stated their minutes were pretty thorough and rather than rehashing, he would spend the time to answer questions. No one asked to speak.

### **Policies and Procedures Subcommittee**

Mr. Milliken said he wasn't able to be present at the last meeting as he had an exam scheduled for the same time. He had sent out an email with some notes from the meeting and they had discussed the 2020 Complaint Data. He wasn't sure if it was an agenda item, but there were some revisions made to that which Mr. Ruemelin mentioned he might add tonight. They also discussed the Policy Directive Review Process and what that would look like for the subcommittee and CPAC's role and how the department would create that schedule. Ms. Fielding said that the complaint process was listed under Chief's Updates. Mr. Harris said he just wanted to highlight one aspect. Captain Cretella had reviewed with them the process and procedure for reviewing the 78 directives of the department over a three-year period. From his engagement, he thought they needed to rethink their deployment of their bodies. If 20-30 directives were being reviewed on an annual basis, they may need to think of a more rapid response and/or prioritizing those they may want to comment on. He knew they would be talking about the Racial Bias Audit, and the back appendix listed each of those policy directives and a schedule for reviewing them. He urged them to look at those they may have an interest or expertise in so they could have a conversation about how they might be able to be more helpful, responsive, and interactive with the department in updating those directives.

Ms. Fielding asked if the subcommittee had developed a recommendation that may not have made it in the minutes that were submitted. Mr. Harris said it was not in the form of a recommendation. They did not vote out. They discussed two things that were relevant. One was the criteria the department used in deciding which policies would have one, two, or three year reviews, and it had to do with various dimensions of the cycle and that wasn't outlining the directives, so they recommended to the department they took a look at that. Secondly, there was a suggestion that, in addition to simply identifying what year there would be a review, there might be a first, second, or third quarter projection. That was a suggestion and was made to the department and not brought forward for CPAC action.

### **Updates:**

- *Illumination Project/One Year Audit*

Ms. Stiver said she had a brief PowerPoint. They shared the Annual Report and Illumination Project Final Report in January with the expectation they would receive feedback that could be finalized for this meeting. She had just received additional feedback from CAJM the night before that she didn't have time to incorporate. She would get that done as soon as possible and then they could make the report public. The report itself was meant to be a progress report intended to share the status of implementation. It did not supplant or replace the analysis done by CNA or the analysis that was done in the annual Professional Standards Office Report that Captain Cretella reported. That report provided analysis for the things that were monitored by the PSO, which included use of force and complaints. She believed he was very close to wrapping up the 2020 report which would be coming out soon. So, the audit report was just intended to show where they were at with implementing the recommendations. The recommendations were classified as simply as possible as complete, partially complete, or in progress. One piece of feedback was that they didn't define what those meant. She marked something as complete if it was an action that CNA recommended that the department implemented and there was no need for further action. One of those recommendations was to include a Sanctity of Life Statement in all the use of force policies. The department added that statement, published the use of force policies and marked that recommendation as complete. That didn't mean they would stop working on the use of force policy. That would continuously evolve, but that specific recommendation made by CNA was completed. Some of the recommendations did not give easy to measure benchmarks. One of the recommendations was to increase community engagement. That wasn't something they could easily say was completed. It would take some deeper evaluation. Some of the recommendations were listed as partially complete because maybe CNA recommended in one recommendation that they do two things and one of the things was completed, but the other still needed to happen. She attached to the report all the relevant policies that were updated as a result of the audit and other documentation with the schedule for review.

Ms. Stiver continued and said she had gotten some great feedback from Ms. Grant who made suggestions about how they classified some of the recommendations. Some were classified as complete, but they were going to do some more work on them, so they would move those to partially complete. So, they would see a smaller percentage of complete, a higher percentage of partially complete. In progress meant they hadn't met any part of the recommendation yet. The report itself was broken down into five sections. One of the biggest things and challenges was the way they collected traffic stop data. They were working on that. They did make some achievements in 2020 and they were mostly focused on framework and foundation. Organizational policy recommendations were implemented first because they needed to do that in order to build the framework to promote success in the audit. Part of that was aligning the Traffic Division under the same department as Community Outreach. Then, the department developed the five-year strategic plan which incorporated both the Racial Bias Audit recommendations and the Illumination Project recommendations. One of their huge achievements in 2020 was the creation of the CPAC Subcommittees to address some of the audit recommendations. They had done all the hard work of making that happen and they appreciated that. There was an implementation budget that came with audit implementation and they really focused on using that funding in a thoughtful way to meet and create some of the tools to help them achieve the recommendations. That was split into two chunks. One was to work with other individuals in universities

and the other was to acquire some tools to help them. The Q Markets tool, which was in the process of implementation, was the crowdsourcing tool she had shared. That was because a number of the recommendations told them they should public the Strategic Plan and seek community input and feedback. The tool would give them the ability to do that in an easier way than asking people to send them emails or attend a meeting. Finally, they had signed an MOU with a group called the Justice Innovation Lab, in collaboration with the solicitor, to conduct some analysis on things like arrests, prosecutions and traffic stops. That was a major project that would take some time to actually get to the implementation part of the analysis and reporting back. The director of that organization was really motivated to work with them. He was a former federal prosecutor and had a lot of expertise.

What the report didn't talk about were things that had occurred after November since the report was created in November. One of those things was the implementation of traffic stop data collection using field contact cards. Captain Bruder was the driving force behind that and had tested that with his group. There were some challenges and it wouldn't be perfect, but they asked their officers to create a field contact card for every self-initiated stop such as if they pulled over a car, a bike, or stopped someone on the street. One of the challenges was defining when to actually complete the card and then trying to align that to the dispatch data to make sure it was being done when it was supposed to. Captain Bruder pointed out a really good scenario in that there were times when something was going on, an officer contacts a citizen, they have some kind of engagement but the action didn't rise to the level of collecting that person's information or creating a record about the interaction. A lot of those cases were times where if the officer was required to then collect that information and create a record for that interaction, it became intrusive. They would be asking a citizen for their identification in a situation where they didn't really need to. In their opinion, there were times when the police could talk to a citizen and not create a record and that was in the citizen's best interest. If it raised to a level of detention or an investigative stop, or there was an enforcement action, they would create that record. They were trying to figure out how to get that information at the right times, but not becoming overly intrusive to create the records. The next big thing in 2021 was they had hired their social media manager. His name was Harv Jacobs, formerly of Channel Five. He had a lot of expertise and experience in public communication. One of his areas of expertise was being able to tell stories in a very short period of time because the job of the media was to give you very complex information and a very direct and short way. The third thing was the implementation of CPOP and Q Markets. That was the community problem solving project and Q Market was the crowdsourcing project. The problem solving project was moving into the training phase and then they hoped to equip all their officers with the ability to identify and work with community partners to solve problems rather than just approach everything with enforcement. This gave them the ability to look at alternatives.

Finally, with the Illumination Project, she hadn't received feedback specifically on the Illumination Report. There were more than 80 strategies recommended by the Illumination Project. She looked at those and asked questions to find out what happened to those strategies, if they were still doing them, if they did them, if they stopped doing them. She found that at least half of those strategies were rolled into the Strategic Leadership Plan. Another 38% of the strategies were also addressed by the Racial Bias Audit, so they were a priority to them as a result of that. They completed 19% and 20% were

discontinued. 31% were intended for citizen implementation because it seemed that one of the biggest challenges to sustaining the strategies was ownership of them. So, some of the strategies written for citizens to implement and take ownership of were transferred to the department and the department took ownership of them working to make sure those stayed alive. Not all of them were transferrable and some were not initiated or belonged to an organization that didn't report to them so they didn't have a good way of tracking it.

Ms. Fielding referred to the discontinued and uninitiated strategies and asked if they knew the reason why. Ms. Stiver said that was explained in the report under each strategy. She investigated each of those and gave a reason why. A lot of them were things like the Illumination Project recommended they form a separate council for a different function and the department found it was too difficult to have a lot of different community organizations and/or you would have community meetings and one or two people would show up. So, rather than having three separate councils take on three different things, they came to CPAC and they trusted CPAC to do the things that were originally intended by the Illumination Project to be done by a separate group. Ms. Fielding said the other thing she thought of was they did want to include photos of CPAC members in the document. The Audio Visual Department had offered to take photos for them on April 12, 13, and 15<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. She asked that each member avail themselves for their photo to be taken at 1975 Bees Ferry Road. If they were unable to do so, they should send an email to her to let her know.

Mr. Harris said that many of the community-facing recommendations were forwarded to CPAC. He was not certain they had thoroughly embraced that as part of their culture. The Illumination Project emerged out of questions of racialized disparities and equal justice. To a certain extent, the Racial Bias Audit spoke to the same set of questions. He wasn't certain they had come to grips with how they organized themselves or addressed themselves to that work since that was now part of their charge. One of the things he had been urging, and spoke to on a few occasions, was revisiting the guidelines, particularly the section that talked about the actions that the Council were suggested to undertake, to make certain they incorporated their successor function for the Illumination Project and fully incorporated those aspects involved in the Racial Bias Audit. Ms. Fielding said that was the reason why one of the accomplishments listed by Ms. Stiver was the establishment of subcommittees to work on some of those issues. She thought it was critical for them to continue to work on the subcommittees, as well as develop others to tackle some of those other issues. It was important for them to try to work as many issues as they could. They did have members that weren't on a subcommittee, so there was opportunity to be tackling some of those additional issues. Mr. Harris said in the report, Ms. Stiver identified a series of technical assistance, data collection related activities, and in their current configuration of committees, they didn't have the rapid response in interaction that may be suggested there. Perhaps, she and Mr. Tamburrino could chat with Ms. Stiver and figure out how they might create some sort of structure so they were interfacing with the people doing those projects. Ms. Fielding said that did border the Communications Subcommittee, so that may be something they could add to the agenda of their meeting.

### **Virtual Citizen's Academy**

Ms. Fielding said that Captain Thompson was not able to join but had sent her some information. He had been able to plan four sessions instead of six, four weeks where they would have a Citizen's Academy for CPAC members and they could bring one family member or friend, as well. The options were October dates of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> or December dates of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The times would be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and it was anticipated to be in-person following Covid-19 protocols. She did need a vote from them as to which sets of sessions they would like Captain Thompson to firm up for them.

On a motion of Mr. Tamburrino, seconded by Mr. Harris, CPAC voted to choose the October dates for Citizen's Academy. The vote was not unanimous. Mr. Davis voted nay.

Mr. Tamburrino said he would follow up with Captain Thompson to check that if someone couldn't make the October sessions, they could be scheduled for a subsequent one. Captain Bruder said that the intention was one special academy for CPAC, but if they couldn't make that work, they would get them into the next regular academy. It wouldn't be as targeted for CPAC. They typically tried to do those three times per year.

### **Community Engagement**

Captain Bruder said they had started their first Citizen's Academy the previous night. Ms. Fielding asked how the attendance was. Captain Bruder said he believed they had a full class. Chief Reynolds said it was a very engaged group. Because of Covid, they were trying to keep it a little smaller, but they had a good time with the group that was there.

### **Chief's Update**

- *After Action Reports*

Chief Reynolds said he would highlight some areas of the report that was done. It was titled 'Strengthening Charleston: An Assessment of the Charleston Police Department's Response to the May 30<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 Protests and Riots'. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, CPD presented the preliminary report to the Public Safety Committee. This was a 63-page Comprehensive Report containing an overview of events in an after-action review of CPD's response to protests and riots of May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Following the presentation, the committee members requested additional information to include anecdotal information from citizens, business owners, bystanders and third party observers regarding their experiences during those two days, as well as requested additional property damage information to include fire damage. The final report was updated and some new sections were added to include updates to the arrest section. The damage assessment section was updated and some new subsections were added for building damage, fire damage and some other police incident report information. There was a new chapter for community feedback, a new section for the Chief's final thoughts. A property damage map and fire map and fire incidents lists were updated. There was a new synopsis under the synopsis section and now the report was 84 pages long with updated information on additional arrests that had been made. As a side note, one of the cases that had been federally adopted and was being prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office was actually going to come that day and be heard as a plea but

had gotten post-poned. He was actually going to be present and speak, if given the opportunity, on the impact on the City, Police Department and residents from the arson to one of their vehicles. There were updates to the damage assessment, to include a highlight that there were no deaths or serious injuries. There were 136 visual surveys of building damage, which were shown on a new map that was added to the report. There were 82 businesses on Upper King Street, 20 on Lower King Street, 10 in the Market area, 9 in the Queen Street area, 8 in the Meeting Street area, and 7 on west of King. The types of businesses that were damaged and affected included bars and restaurants, retail, convenience stores, pharmacies, hotels, galleries, spirits and tobacco shops, and other small businesses. The majority of the damage was to restaurants and bars, 87% of which was shattered and broken windows and doors and the remaining was fire and graffiti. For the fire damage, there were 22 fires, 20 of which were intentionally set and two others categorized as unknown. The greatest amount of property damage was to the Family Dollar, Sherwin-Williams, and West Elm. The Charleston Fire Department estimated, for the purposes of the report, that property that was saved and protected included an estimate of almost 25 million dollars and the contents being over three million dollars. Of the Police incident reports, 104 incident reports were from property damage, 47 of which included burglaries, 42 vandalisms, 11 arsons, and some other assorted crimes. Since then, a total of 89 parade permits had been issues from July 9<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. There had been many more since the time of their update. In the Community Feedback Section, they reached out to CPAC, Business and Neighborhood Services, Neighborhood Associations, City Council, to obtain volunteers to tell stories and provide feedback regarding CPD's response to the events. During the October 28<sup>th</sup> Public Safety meeting, citizens called in to comment and the deadline to submit feedback was extended to the end of the year. In that timeframe, they received 28 responses, one from a member of the clergy, two from people associated with the college, seven business owners, and eighteen citizens. For criticisms and complaints, they received 15 complaints and investigated and reviewed hours of body-worn camera video. There was also a section where he made some final comments and observations.

Mr. Harris said given what was happening in Minnesota with the case and the anxiety about the outcome, he asked if there were lessons learned or help they may be able to provide them in getting ready for whatever the community response might be to that situation. Chief Reynolds said Mr. Harris always had great questions and that was a question that hit the sweet spot. There were people everywhere following the 24-hour coverage of the trial for the killing of George Floyd, reliving the pain of that murder. He said it after it happened, and would say it again, it was despicable what that officer did. It wasn't consistent with any policy or practice he was aware of other than a violation of the criminal code. As people watched the coverage and relived that moment, it had people angry once again. If there was any break or lull in the anger, it had been re-heightened from a racial and equity perspective. He didn't think they could avoid talking about these issues. It hit at the very core of what they did, how they did it, and why they did it. He would not wear his badge the day that he was unwilling to speak up and call out despicable actions, hold themselves accountable, and set a high standard. He had a very high expectation that they do it right. It was important to acknowledge the significance of this moment and this trial. They were watching this very closely and following the information in the trial and what they saw that people were talking about. They had to discern and follow the information and share with each other what the threat may be. They had to prepare for the

worst and hope for the best. There were many people concerned they were going to have riots in the City again based on the verdict. They could be more united as a City. They could learn from this moment, from last year, and the faith community, government leaders, and Council were talking about their preparation for this. They needed to have a different outcome and that was why they were embracing the conversation and making sure they did their best to have policies so that never happened again, so they had some level of trust and authenticity, and leading in such a way that they weren't creating harm and were an asset to their communities. There was a lot of planning behind the scenes, but the biggest thing was to communicate and talk about these things. They couldn't police the communities by themselves. They had to work closely with their partners. It took a lot of work and this was a big part of that effort. They had not stopped responding to protests and respecting people's rights. He was very concerned about the constitutional carry amendment that had passed in the House. He was adamantly opposed to it for many reasons, which he didn't have time to go over. They needed to be engaged in their city's and legislatures. They needed to reassure people that they were paying attention and working on this issue.

Mr. Tamburrino asked if the Public Information Office and new social media manager had considered that it may be good to do a series of public service announcements announcing and addressing, proactively, the environment and compassion, but also the action steps that would be taken so that business owners were reassured there was a plan this time and that they were prepared. For many reasons, that was the big concern everyone had because they weren't exposed to the steps that had been taken. Chief Reynolds said that was something they had talked about in great length. Nothing had stopped since last year. It was an ongoing thing and not a new event. This was something they had to continue to have dialogue about and they were doing outreach. They also didn't want to create something that didn't exist yet. There was a lot of anxiety and they had to be careful to not just address one thing. It was all tied together. There wasn't any singular PSA that would hit everything. They wanted to be much more about substance, timeliness, relevance and the information they did know. As that information emerged they would share that. Ms. Fielding said she did want to thank the Chief for the improved communications they had experienced where they had ensured CPAC was contacted regarding officer-involved shootings among other things to allow them to be participants in that discussion and sharing their various neighborhood perspectives. It was through that kind of relationship they could strengthen the relationship between the community and Police Department.

Chief Reynolds said he felt like public safety was a community burden and a shared responsibility. He asked if anyone had any thoughts they had. Nobody wanted their neighborhoods damaged. Sometimes the communities that were struggling were the ones that were impacted even more so by events like this. There was no easy answer, but any reflections on how they could all work together would be good. He was optimistic about where they were headed and his word of the year was 'together' because together they would move forward to a better future. Mr. Harris said he didn't have a specific answer but some important things were the media component, the community conversations and people coming together and getting on the same level. They needed to do that together and not do it in silos. CPAC could be a part of that conversation and help figure out how that could happen. Ms. Fielding said the members of CPAC needed to actually go back to their neighborhoods and communities and talk with

them. The meetings the Chief had been doing right after some incident had occurred had a really good cross-section of critical masses in the community that could help get that message across. If each person on CPAC worked at it, the message would change. It would just take some time. Mr. Tamburrino said they were pretty well represented for their neighborhoods. The Chief had a good connection with the clergy and community leaders. The thing that was always a gap as far as activism was the college campuses. That was a big age for activism and being involved in protests. They needed to make sure they had an outreach to college campuses to make sure the same message they were giving to the local community was getting to them too.

- *Officer Involved Shootings*

Chief Reynolds said he had been told that in a 10-year period they had five officer-involved shootings. However, they had just had three officer-involved shootings in just a little over a two-month period. The Bridgeview shooting was the one that occurred in December and was the only one that had been cleared. The others were still under investigation. In these cases, they would respond to the scene of the incident immediately and he would personally be there unless he was out of town or unable to. They would go out immediately to coordinate and notify an independent investigative body which in South Carolina was SLED. They would make a statement within a couple of hours of what they knew. They couldn't always share everything, but they would share what they knew. Within a day, usually the following day, they would do another meeting with their stakeholders. That was a protocol they had implemented that they were trying to be consistent with. In that meeting, they talked with the stakeholders about what the investigative process was. They couldn't always answer all questions because it was early. When they had an incident like that, there was so much they had to do to protect the integrity and independence of the investigation. SLED responded immediately, and unless they were otherwise busy on another incident, they always did their own crime scene processing. They did the interviews, reviewed body camera footage and a variety of other things. There was a protocol in writing that a lot of people had input on of how these would be investigated and making sure they were done with clarity and professionalism and making sure they were timely and thorough.

Amongst the protocol that had been developed, SLED agreed they would do their investigation within 60 days which seemed like a lot but was pretty quick in his experience. He had seen these cases take two or three years. The Solicitor, Scarlett Wilson, had agreed, under the auspices of this detailed protocol that she coordinated, to make a decision whether there would be criminal charges against the officers involved. There was always a criminal review. Whenever there was a critical incident like this that was standard practice. There was also an administrative investigation by their Internal Affairs Office and they incorporated things like training, policy issues, and lessons learned. There was always an after-action to review of things they could have done better or differently. There was always room for improvement. That was the process and it was important to know so that they could begin to know what to expect. Another thing they did was, within 72 hours or a little sooner, they released the officer's names. That was something that had been requested and it was something that did always get out. SLED always released that, but not all agencies did that. They had committed to that because they believed that the name would get out eventually and they didn't need that to be the story. There was a lot of sensitivity behind that because once they released the officer's names it affected their family and them. SLED

released the names immediately and didn't wait and that was something they talked with their officers about. They knew their names would be released. They had to find the right balance of being sensitive and being transparent, and also looking out for their officers and families.

Specific to these three incidents, they had the incident in Bridgeview. They had a 28-year old subject. They got called to the apartments for a domestic violence related call where a female in the apartment was afraid. There was reference to a gun that the suspect had. In this case, the suspect, who had spent the majority of his life in prison, eight out of ten years of his adult life, was not supposed to be carrying. He had a rifle, a long gun, that he fired at the officers. He also had a hand gun. One of the officers was struck with a round and thankfully, it hit his nameplate and vest and he wasn't further injured. The individual approached the officers and there was an exchange of gunfire and the suspect was deceased on the scene. The second incident they had was an incident where an individual was in Georgetown and committed a murder. He killed his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, fled and stole someone's property. He was on the run for a few days and at some point in Mount Pleasant committed a car-jacking and pistol whipped a gentleman and pretty severely injured him and stole his car. The next day, he was on Rutledge Avenue downtown and put a gun in someone else's face, threatened his life and stole his car. Their officers were quick in taking the report and coordinating with the investigators through a variety of means. They were on surveillance shortly after that on Meeting Street just outside the City heading into North Charleston and tried to stop his car. His car fled briefly, crashed into a telephone pole, and there was an exchange of gunfire where a shot was fired at the suspect who was armed. He was given life-saving attention from the officer involved in that. That case was still being investigated by SLED and they did not want to taint their investigation. That individual was injured severely and was receiving medical treatment. The third incident was with an individual on Mary Ader Avenue in West Ashley. They had gotten a call from a very scared and concerned citizen that this person had a rifle and was threatening people. He was agitated and not making much sense. That individual was barricaded in his home. They responded and evacuated a lot of the neighbors out of adjacent apartments. As they were setting up, he fired upon one of their officers. The officer exchanged fire and struck the individual. They administered first-aid. This case was also still under investigation and that individual was still in care and rehabilitation.

As a Chief and as a citizen, that was a lot of officer-involved shootings and a lot of violent people carrying guns. He was very concerned about the increase in shootings and violence in their City and the people carrying guns that had prior, lengthy violent criminal histories. They were arresting individuals every day, working with the Solicitor and with the US Attorney's Office. They were working with all their partnering agencies. They needed to do everything they could to keep their community safe and these instances could have easily ended differently. They could prevent further future injuries like this. They had to work with the gang issue and prevention. They did have a very safe City despite everything he was saying, but they had to work hard to keep it that way. They were working very hard to get that small number of violent criminal offenders arrested and kept in jail. He was very much in favor of sentence reform and disrupting the pipeline to prison, but there were some people that were violent repeat offenders that needed to be kept in jail.

Ms. Grant referred to what the Chief stated about the rise in gun violence and gangs in their communities. The typical citizen didn't really know what was going on in the community on that level. She asked how they could get that information out about what to look for regarding gang activities. On James Island, they had three shootings in the past six months. Chief Reynolds said they would love to do a presentation for her community. They could do it virtually or a number of different ways. Covid had really inhibited a lot of their meetings, but they were getting people vaccinated and beginning to get past some of those barriers. They had a product they could deliver and talk about it. He thought they needed to talk about this. A lot of people would say this wasn't a problem, but that wasn't effective. They should know what to look out for, and what warning signs there were and how to report it. The more they had this dialogue, the more they could coordinate. It was a small number of people creating these problems. They were making a lot of arrests, but they couldn't arrest themselves out of this problem. They had to coordinate with community groups. They were also doing presentations in schools. Mr. Milliken said he wanted to comment on some of the things the Chief was saying. There was an event they had with Reverend Middleton and the County Sheriff's Office. A lot of members of the community benefitted from that and appreciated that the City came out. He was from James Island and knew that a lot of the residents had confusion between which municipality was theirs. He knew the Sheriffs Department was on contract with the Town and gave a report at the Town of James Island meetings, but the City Police Department could also attend those meetings and give some sort of status update on any type of action that had happened on James Island. Chief Reynolds said that was a good suggestion. Ms. Fielding said that reminded her that they were working on a Strategic Planning video to share in those neighborhood meetings.

Ms. Broome said it seemed for awhile that there was a big problem with people leaving cars unlocked and guns being stolen from cars. She asked if that was still a problem and if there was another way of getting the word out rather than just telling people to lock their cars and not keep their guns in their cars. She asked if that was contributing to the problem they saw. Chief Reynolds said it was. They got on social media, forwarded articles around, and talked with the media about it. He didn't know the answer to why people leave their valuables in their cars. That was how a lot of individuals were getting guns. Even with auto-thefts, the numbers had gone up significantly because of key fobs and people leaving them in their car. He was in a community meeting right before Covid, and a resident was upset because they had said there was a lot they could do to prevent these things like locking their car doors and taking valuables inside. The resident was upset because they thought the Police Department was victim-blaming and said they should have the right to leave their valuables in their car. It was kind of a self-correcting problem because the rest of the community said they didn't agree with that and they didn't want to be a target. He wished he had a good answer. They needed to raise awareness and talk about this more.

- *CALEA Audit*

Chief Reynolds said he wanted to give Captain Cretella and his team credit. They just recently had an inspection of their accreditation process and they received re-accreditation. It would happen officially in a few months, but they had a very thorough inspection of their policies and facilities. He had never seen such a positive exit interview. Normally, there was a lot of criticism. But, they passed with flying colors.

They had been accredited for approximately 30 years now. One of the assessors, ironically, was the lead assessor at his old agency. He knew how much of a stickler this individual was, and this person had many positive things to say and said he was going to steal ideas from their agency. Captain Cretella thanked everyone for their participation. Very rarely did they get this many questions in community meetings and he appreciated that. Just because they got their good approval rating didn't mean that they stopped until the next three to four years. It was a continuous process, that every three to four months, every quarter, they still had to update policies and show different proofs of what they were doing. That was the good thing about CALEA, was that it kept them on their toes and in line with the best practices and national trends. When it was time to turn in their proofs, everything was done virtually. The end of year report should be published early the following week and they would push it out to them. It took a little while to get the data together because of the three officer-involved shootings incidents that were labor intensive. But, they were pretty much right on schedule. It was a comprehensive 40-page report. They focused on use of force, administrative investigations, complaints and certain training aspects.

Mr. Harris said in the After Action Report of May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, there was a section that dealt with complaints, and he would like them to have a conversation about that at the next subcommittee meeting of the Policy Subcommittee.

Ms. Fielding said that for the next meeting, they would need to select October and December dates, would have an update regarding the James Island traffic concerns, Strategic Plan Update, Community Engagement, and the Complaint Process. Mr. Harris said he chaired the Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee for CEIRC and he would like to provide an update and overview of what was coming from that subcommittee.

Having no further business, CPAC adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Bethany Whitaker

Council Secretary