

Washington County Police Accountability Board (PAB)
Law Enforcement Officers Quarterly Meeting
Open Minutes
July 24, 2024
3:00 P.M.

Members Present: Chair Steve McCarty, Danielle Weaver, Tim Hafer, Amber Smart and Robert Bowman.

Members Absent: Brett McKoy and Ronald Humbel

County Staff Present: Deputy County Attorney Rosalinda Pascual and Legal Secretary Amanda Brooks.

Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) Present: Washington County Sheriff, Brian Albert; Washington County Sheriff's Office Attorney, Andrew Bright; Smithsburg Chief of Police, Rob Marker; Hagerstown City Police Captain Thomas Langston, Hancock Police Department Chief Rich Miller, and Director of Public Safety at Hagerstown Community College, Eric Byers.

Administrative Charging Committee Members Present: Scott Matheny, Chuck Kauffman and Charlie Summers.

Call to Order: Mr. McCarty called the PAB's quarterly meeting with LEOs to order at 3:00 P.M. in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 100 W. Washington St., Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Approval Of Minutes: Mr. Bowman motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the April 17, 2024 meeting, Mrs. Weaver seconded.

Summary of LEO Discussion:

Sheriff Albert has no concerns; Thanked the PAB and ACC for their hard work. Talked about meeting with the local municipalities to discuss procedures.

Chief Marker wanted to know how to best address complaints submitted directly from citizens to LEAs. An online portal was discussed but ultimately decided that was not the best use of resources.

Captain Langston had no concerns.

Chief Miller had no concerns.

Director Byers has no concerns.

ACC Discussion: Mr. McCarty asked what constitutes a complaint. It was determined to meet one out of three misconduct criteria.

If the head of a LEA is listed on a complaint, then that complaint would be forwarded to that city/county governing head (mayor, council, Board of County Commissioners).

Scott Matheny, Chair for the ACC, addressed the possibility of meeting with individual departments if there is a noticeable trend or pattern that the ACC is seeing during their investigation. He also did an overview of the most recent ACC cases for the PAB and LEOs. He asked all LEAs to remind their officers to be more professional and mindful. It was asked of the LEAs if there was any training being done that would benefit the members of the PAB and ACC (ride alongs, etc.).

The question was asked whether a trial board had ever been appealed. The legal team plans on researching and returning with that answer.

Next Quarterly LEOs Meeting: The PAB scheduled the next quarterly LEOs meeting for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be in the County Administration Building.

Convene in Closed Session: Ms. Smart, seconded by Mr. Bowman, moved to convene in closed session at 3:49 P.M. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals in accordance with MD. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions 3-305(b)(1). The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Ms. Smart, seconded by Mr. Hafer, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 P.M.