

A Police Advisory Board meeting was held on the above date at the MPD Headquarters and via Zoom conference call, with the following members in attendance: In person: Salahudin Bin-Yusif, Joyce Kidd, Billy Warrick and Jason Hunt. Police Captain Ron Davis and FOP President Joseph Womer were also in attendance at the MPD HQ. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Bin-Yusif.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Mayor & Council Special Meeting: Chair Bin-Yusif said he has spoken to Mayor Branner and the Mayor & Council would like to have a meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. He said he has sent out an email to the Board letting them know about the meeting. He said the plan is to meet to go over the structure of the Advisory Board, how things are going, moving forward. He said he wasn't sure if the NAAACP would be in attendance as well, but he knows the organization has requested to be a part of the meeting.

He said this Advisory Board has been going for three years now and he feels they've made some good progress, but if it's going to move forward, the Board needs to put a little more effort to be able to push it forward to the next group in a "reputable manner."

Bin-Yusif said the reason he wanted to meet tonight, even though the meeting was originally supposed to be canceled, he wanted help working on the next "annual report" to give to the Mayor & Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Connections – Jason Hunt said he is working to put out the information about the loss of Officer Mark Miller to honor him on all of the MPAB's social media platforms. Bin-Yusif also offered condolences to the Captain and Womer on the loss of Officer Miller.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Captain Davis gave the police report that was distributed at the August meeting of the Mayor & Council. The following questions were asked following the report:

Joyce Kidd asked how to reach the MPD after hours because her neighbor wanted to make a non-emergency call about some suspicious people but he didn't feel like it was an emergency. Womer said they could call 911 or the non-emergency number. Either way, it will get to the right person and wouldn't be dispatched as an emergency unless it was one.

SURVEY RESULTS

Bin-Yusif asked Kristen Krenzer to share the survey results with the MPAB.

Krenzer said the results showed the following:

There were a total of 173 respondents. More women responded (59 percent). Those between the ages 40-60 responded at a higher rate (48 percent). 38 percent of the respondents were from the Estates at St. Anne's. Kudos were given to Board member Jason Hunt for his efforts to have his neighborhood respond. "Just put it out on all of the social medias, it works," Hunt said.

For the individual questions, results were as follows:

- HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT WITH MPD OFFICER IN LAST 5 YRS?
YES 63% NO 37%

WHAT TYPE OF SITUATION WERE YOU IN?

- COMMUNITY EVENT 26%
- TRAFFIC STOP 10%
- CALL FOR EMERGENCY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD 21%
- MADE A "NON-EMERGENCY CALL FOR MY HOME 42%
- I WAS ARRESTED 1%

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE W/OFFICER?

- RESPECTFUL AND PROFESSIONAL 53%
- WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND 32%
- SATISFACTORY 10%
- DISRESPECTFUL 4%
- HELPFUL 1%

TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE MPD DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS (RESIDENTS, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS)?

- A LOT/ TO A GREAT EXTENT 31%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 35%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 29%
- NOT AT ALL 4%

TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE MPD WORK TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY TO SOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS?

- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 38%
- A LOT /TO A GREAT EXTENT 29%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 27%
- NOT AT ALL 6%

COMMUNITY POLICING INVOLVES OFFICERS IN OUR DEPT. WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS CAUSES OF CRIME AND REDUCE THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK THE MPD PRACTICE THIS EFFORT?

- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 36%
- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 30%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 26%
- NOT AT ALL 8%

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN MIDDLETOWN WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE "DURING THE DAY"?

- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 45%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 42%
- NOT AT ALL 9%
- UNSURE / DON'T KNOW 4%

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN MIDDLETOWN WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE "DURING THE NIGHT"?

- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 45%
- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 42%
- NOT AT ALL 9%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 4%

TO WHAT EXTENT TO MPD OFFICERS SHOW CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS?

- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 38%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 33%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 23%
- NOT AT ALL 3%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE MPD OFFICERS RESPECTFUL?

- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 65%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 20%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 12%
- NOT AT ALL 3%

OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS, TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE YOUR FEELINGS OF SAFETY INCREASED, DECREASED, OR STAYED THE SAME?

- STAYED THE SAME 47%
- DECREASED SOME 28%
- INCREASED SOME 9%
- DECREASED A LOT 9%
- NOT SURE 6%
- INCREASED A LOT 1%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH THE MPD IN AN EMERGENCY?

- NOT APPLICABLE (NO CONTACT) 46%
- VERY SATISFIED 22%
- SATISFIED 18%
- NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED 10%
- VERY DISSATISFIED 4%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH THE MPD IN NON-EMERGENCY CALLS?

- NOT APPLICABLE 34%
- VERY SATISFIED 26%
- SATISFIED 26%
- NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED 10%
- VERY DISSATISFIED 3%
- DISSATISFIED 1%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE RESPONSE TIMES OF THE MPD FOR ANY CALLS?

- NOT APPLICABLE 36%
- SATISFIED 31%
- VERY SATISFIED 17%
- NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED 11%
- VERY DISSATISFIED 4%
- DISSATISFIED 1%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU AWARE OF THE MIDDLETOWN POLICE ADVISORY BOARD?

- NOT AT ALL 42%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 28%
- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 15%
- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 15%

TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE MIDDLETOWN POLICE ADVISORY BOARD HELPFUL TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MPD AND THE COMMUNITY?

- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 67%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 15%
- A LOT/TO A GREAT EXTENT 10%
- NOT AT ALL 15%

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU ABLE TO CONNECT WITH THE MIDDLETOWN POLICE ADVISORY BOARD TO SHARE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR SUGGESTIONS?

- UNSURE/DON'T KNOW 63%
- A LITTLE/SOMEWHAT 20%
- NOT AT ALL 10%
- A LOT /TO A GREAT EXTENT 7%

The Board discussed what the results of the survey mean to them.

Jason Hunt said it seems like it validates what the PAB has been working toward for the past three years. The people feel safe and they are more concerned with traffic issues than anything else right now, but they also are saying that they want more communication between the police department and the community – and the PAB, too, he said.

Joyce Kidd agreed, stating the MPD does a great job of providing events such as the National Night Out and Drug Take-Back events, but people still seem to want more.

Bin-Yusif said his immediate take-back from the survey is that people are generally happy with the MPD and its officers and they appreciate the officers when they see them out and about, but we still need to do some work with communications and the social media outreach.

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 18, 2023