

City of Biddeford
Biddeford Police Advisory Committee
March 23, 2021 6:00 PM Via Zoom
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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes**
 - 2.a. February 23, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes
[2-23-2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes.docx](#)
- 3. Briefing on Selected Topical Areas**
 - 3.a. Explanation of COPE Unit
- 4. Public Safety Committee Items**
- 5. Other Business**
- 6. Adjourn**



POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Minutes

1. **Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. by the Committee Chair. Police Advisory Committee members present were: Chair Carolyn Southwick, Andrew Chad Barrs, Kelly Seiler, and Roger Gagnon. Member Frederick Olson joined shortly after. BPD staff members present were: Chief Roger P. Beaupre, Deputy Chief of Police JoAnne W. Fisk, Lieutenant Rick P. Doyon, Sergeant Steven T. Gorton, and Jim Emerson.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** There were no adjustments
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** There were no corrections or adjustments to the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting.
4. **Discussion/Review:**
 - a. Chief Beaupre clarified information shared during last month's meeting. After a review of the history of Baton use at BPD and assessing risks, costs and benefits, Batons were eliminated as authorized weapons in 2017. OC Spray has not been used at BPD since sometime before 2015 and the department is considering a similar review/assessment.
 - b. Chief Beaupre discussed the posting requirements of the meeting agenda, minutes, and zoom recording. He re-iterated that the meetings are public and members of the public may attend whether the meeting is in person or virtual via Zoom. The Chief explained that the credentials needed to join the Zoom meeting are posted on the city website, within the posted agenda document, and the public can join the zoom meeting. As the virtual meeting Host, he controls the process of admitting individuals to the meeting.
 - c. The committee viewed a video explaining the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the accreditation process, and Biddeford's accreditation history and its current status. The video is used for the initial training of new employees at BPD. General discussion regarding CALEA and the accreditation followed the video.
 - d. Chief Beaupre informed the members that the agency's annual report will be released shortly. It will be posted to the city website and he will make sure it is emailed to the members once it is released.
5. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The agenda for the March 23rd meeting is TBD.
6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:06 pm.



Community Oriented Policing and Engagement
Finding the way together

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY POLICING

- Community Policing is not a new concept, either in policing or here in Biddeford
- In the mid 1990's Chief Beaupre invested specifically in community policing by assigning officers directly to community policing positions
- Officers were assigned to areas of the city where they were encouraged to integrate into the fabric of that area, attend neighborhood meetings and generally apply a pro-active model of policing

HISTORY CONTINUED

- Early on we identified the necessity to engage other community stakeholders within both the public and private sectors
- Partnering with other involved entities allowed us to be part of the solution without taking on responsibility beyond that which law enforcement has authority
- We found that police didn't need to be social workers, rather just recognize that the issue presenting may have a component of mental health and the ability to refer to an existing community provider (this model still exists today)

PARTNERING WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- BPD was one the first in the state (mid 90's) to recognize the connection between criminality and mental health and to partner with a local provider to get a full time social worker assigned to PD
- The social worker worked closely with officers and coordinated services with other local providers in a case manager style

WHAT WE LEARNED

- There are a lot of other entities working within their silos on the same issues
- Bringing those resources together can have tremendous benefit
- Addressing the underlying issues to criminality reduces future violations/incidents

STREET CRIMES IS BORN

- In 2014 Chief Beaupre recognized a gap forming between the Patrol Division responding to a call for service and what the Detective Division would conduct follow up investigation on
- Chief Beaupre noted this gap as a “quality of life” issue
- The Street Crimes Unit was created to address that which was impacting “quality of life” but that did not otherwise fall on Patrol or Detectives for follow-up investigation
- From the beginning we used the community policing/pro-active model to anticipate and address issues

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- The Street Crimes began at the same time the opiate epidemic was beginning to ravage communities. This was not an exclusively Biddeford issue but we were/are impacted by it locally
- As Street Crimes studied criminality and its underlying causes it became apparent that substance misuse was the single most contributing factor
- BPD is and has for some time been invested in drug offense investigation having several members assigned to both DEA and MDEA
- It was necessary for Street Crimes to actively participate in these investigations, conducting operations and successfully prosecuting several trafficking cases

4 ARRESTED IN BIDDEFORD DRUG BUST
BIDDEFORD (WGME) -- THE BIDDEFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT STREET CRIMES UNIT (SCU)
CONDUCTED A SEVERAL MONTH LONG INVESTIGATION INTO DRUG TRAFFICKING IN AND
AROUND THE BIDDEFORD AREA.



RECOVERY

- With an eye towards identifying the underlying cause, it could not be ignored that addiction was driving criminality in the same way a business would recognize that demand drives supply
- We could not hope to have significant impact on the problem by only arresting dealers (supply side)
- Street Crimes began conducting user outreach and referring to existing recovery/detox providers
- This was well received and led to developing a community care-taking role even among substance using populations

SBOOI

(SACO/BIDDEFORD OPIATE OUTREACH INITIATIVE)

- The more outreach we did, the more there was to do and there was a motivation to do it better to be more impactful
- In 2016 we sought and obtained grant funding for a full-time outreach liaison.
- This position was filled in January 2017
- That program has been objectively successful conducting outreach to over 700 people and getting people into 263 placements
- The program has been successful in reducing both fatal and non-fatal overdoses
- The combined efforts of supporting recovery and investigating trafficking has been successful in reducing overall calls for service

ON GOING COMMUNITY POLICING

- During this time, Street Crimes Officers continued community policing efforts
 - Pro-active quality of life investigations
 - Law/safety related presentations
 - Juvenile outreach
 - Elder outreach
 - Community events
 - Human Trafficking outreach/investigations
 - Homeless outreach/resource identification

RE-BRANDING

- In June of 2020, Chief Beaupre began the process of re-branding the Street Crimes Unit
- This was in consideration of many factors
 - Street Crimes never accurately described the focus of the unit
 - Across the country there was call for law enforcement to focus on community engagement
 - Locally we wanted to highlight our focus on community caretaking above enforcement

WHAT'S IN A NAME

- Community Oriented Policing and Engagement
 - Finding the way together
- This name (and motto) clearly represents our focus
 - Policing that is oriented on the community, that recognizes our combined strengths and works together on finding ways to address issues, not just as, but hopefully before they become problematic

COPE OFFICERS

- Do all the things previously mentioned:
 - Pro-active quality of life investigations
 - Law/safety related presentations
 - Juvenile outreach
 - Elder outreach
 - Community events
 - Human Trafficking outreach/investigations
 - Homeless outreach/resource identification

COPE OFFICERS

- Mental health outreach
- Justice equality outreach
- Neighborhood/Community dispute resolution
- Disorderly/Nuisance property mediation/enforcement

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

- Added to the COPE Unit in the Fall of 2020
 - Folded juvenile services into the community policing model directly
 - Connected School Social Service with Community efforts
 - Expanded SRO role beyond the school to engage juvenile populations both at school and in the community

SRO



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

- Similar in concept and origin to SBOOI/People Recover.
- Developed based on Chief Beaupre's recognition of three need-based pillars
 - Mental health
 - Homelessness
 - Racial/Equal justice
- Partnered with Spurwink to provide a Spurwink employee to serve as the Biddeford Police Department's Community Engagement Specialist

COMBINED SERVICES APPROACH

COPE,SRO, PEOPLE RECOVER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



BIDDEFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT AND UNITED WAY PARTNER FOR COAT DRIVE



DRUG TAKE BACK



TOYS FOR TOTS

