9th POLICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PDAC)

9th Police District Headquarters

401 N 21st Street - Philadelphia PA  19130

Meeting Notes – Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Via Zoom.

PRESENT: 9th Police District: Officer Jesse O’Shea, Officer Steve Kiefer, Captain Hooven.

PDAC Members: Chet Wichowski (FCA), Wendy Gosfield (RIT-FIT), Michael Leigh (The Cathedral), Colleen Walsh (LSNA), Patricia Coyne (PCHR, retired), Jaycie Hricak (CDVS), Jonathan Hunter (BARN), Kristen Wells (City View), David Harrison (Kennedy House), Athena Angula (CDVS), Gina Shapiro (CCRA), Elaine Petrossian (SGVA)

The November 30, 2021 meeting of the 9th Police District Advisory Council (PDAC) was held via Zoom and called to order at 5:05 pm by Chester Wichowski, Chairman.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: Not discussed.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The minutes for the October 26, 2021 meeting, submitted by Colleen Walsh and previously distributed via email, were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:  The Treasurer’s Report for the period since our last meeting, submitted by Treasurer Wendy Gosfield and previously distributed via email:

· Previous Account Balance as of October 26, 2021 $25,813.89.

· PDAC Allocated Funds Balance as of September 28, 2021 $2,774. 54. No activity. Balance as of October 26, 2021 $2,774. 54.

· 9th District Allocated Funds Balance as of September 28, 2021 $4,152.08. No activity for the period. Balance as of October 26, 2021 $4,152.08.

· 9th District Police Bicycle Fund Balance as of September 28, 2021 $18,887.27. Expenses of $1,284.99 for reimbursing officers for purchase of 20 bike helmets. Balance as of November 30, 2021 $17,602.28

· Total Funds in PDAC Account as of November 30, 2021 $24,528.90

P.A.L. CENTER UPDATE:  No report.

PROJECT H.O.M.E/HOMELESS UPDATE: Liz Hersh, Director of the Office of Homeless Services sent an email noting that she is available to discuss specific issues. Colleen reported the survey sent by Liz’s office on funds received from Federal government to aid homeless agencies, and will forward to all PDAC members.

B.A.R.N. REPORT: Jonathan commented on Covid vaccine cards that are needed to enter certain bars, restaurants, etc and the challenges for the staff to check if they are authentic. Discussion followed re: challenges of showing proof of vaccination. He also asked for suggestions of where to donate coats that have been left at his bar over the year and not claimed by owners.

CAPTAIN’S REPORT: Captain Hooven solicited any questions or concerns from the group. Elaine asked about the status of violent cases in Spring Garden area. Captain replied that they are not random, but that victims were targeted; the District continues to collect details of the crimes. Police locked up 5 suspects for carjacking. Theft from auto, mostly in Lemon Hill area, are up. Some suspects are using tow trucks to steal older cars. Chet thanked Captain for the arrest of carjackers in the area.

Elaine asked if we can we reach out to city council for recognition of the 9th District as a tourist area; Captain has been pursuing an “entertainment status” to get more assets and support.

Pat asked about catalytic converters theft situation. Captain said the ringleader was shot and killed recently, resulting in a decrease in theft. Honda Elements and pick up trucks are targeted as very quick jobs. He advised to report anyone “working” on a car in the street, as that is illegal.

Gina asked if our city authorities are monitoring the actions of gangs in other cities and the smash and grab activity. Captain reported that it is not yet an issue here, but are prepared for it. Police are doing a good job here downtown,

corralling kids off the streets to get them home. Officers monitor social media for this and for any potential criminal activity.

P/O O’Shea noted there is a new police detail down at Gallery East, downtown, to address any increase in holiday shopping issues.

Wendy noted an article in the Inquirer reporting that the city did not renew a contract with the company that replaces city street lights. This has raised concerns about lights that are out, creating dark streets. Officer Kiefer entered a 311, Captain will also make a call, but cannot promise any action on it.

Chet mentioned how Fairmount Civic encourages residents to turn on lights, and that FCA obtained a grant from PECO for LED lights for their neighborhoods.

RACING ON THE PARKWAY: P/O O’Shea reported that Councilman Squilla introduced a new bill that will detect noise over a certain level via traffic cameras and tickets will be issued automatically. Companies who install the cameras will get a % of tickets.

HUMAN RELATIONS UPDATE: No report

ADA: No Report

Victim’s Advocacy: Jaycie introduced Athena. She noted that there is an uptick in crimes amongst homeless, and that most do not have phones or addresses to report them. She requested that we pass out cards to homeless individuals for CDVS services.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: P/O O’Shea petitioned PDAC for funds for a Christmas party for the District. Each squad (5 groups) will have a small gathering at different area venues. Requesting $200-250 for each squad.

Officer O’Shea asked if there any area families needing food, toys, etc for Christmas, as he is in touch with organizations able to accommodate them.

AREA NEEDS: Gina asked about the status of COVID vaccines within the department. Jesse noted they were doing well with just one officer currently in quarantine (due to spouse). Haven’t had a positive case since September.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held as follows:

Tues, December 22nd at 5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Walsh