

Law Enforcement Advisory Board Meeting Sept 14, 2022

x denotes f2f presence

X Paul Soptick
Scott Mackey
X Reed Partridge
X Irene Caudillo
X Dan Soptic
ZOOM Lynn Melton
Casey Meyer
Kent Anderson
Kimberly Weaver
LaRon Thompson
Abbie Dillard
Karl Oakman
x Kendall McReynolds
X Raymond Nunez
Gayle Townsend
Nancy Chartrand
David Patton
J'Hiesa (Nikki) Richardson
ZOOM Michael Armstrong
X Rick Behrens
X Duane Beth
George Simms
Curtis Nicholson
ZOOM William Barajas
Brent Hardin
X Tonda Hill
Brittanie Pruitt
X Emmett Lockridge
X Brian Perez
X Amber Adams

Rick Behrens opened the meeting at 4:10pm

Introductions for all.

Rick Behrens asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of August 10th, 2022.

Discussed Family Day at Piper Creek Elementary School Sept 17th and asked for volunteers to set a table and represent the LEAB .

Discussed Turner Days October 8th. Kendall said he had a popup tent and table and would set up and represent LEAB.

The Wyandotte Countians Against Crime (WCAC) will be meeting on Sept 20 and would like to host speakers from the LEAB. Kendall McReynolds, Duane Beth said they would speak.

The LEAB semi-annual report submitted by Rick Behrens was discussed. (Copy as follows)

Law Enforcement Advisory Board
Semi-Annual Report
February 9, 2022 - July 13, 2022

Submitted by LEAB Chair, the Rev. Rick Behrens

By ordinance the Law Enforcement Advisory Board is required to submit reports semi-annually.

Ord. No. 0-62-06, #4, 7-13-2006 Sec. 2-574

"The board shall meet at least monthly and report no less than semi-annually to the unified commission, the community, the sheriff and the chief of police on matters germane to its purpose."

Report Summary - The Law Enforcement Advisory Board has heard much and done much over the last six months including detention centers tours and monthly updates from the sheriff and the chief of police. However, there are five areas in which the board has attempted to fulfill its responsibilities according to the local ordinance and state statute. (Minutes, ordinance, statute and Legislative Auditor's reports are attached)

1) MEETING REGULARITY

To date the Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB) has met monthly in 2022 in line with the demand of the ordinance. This semi-annual report covers LEAB activity from February 9, 2022 through July 13, 2022.

2) MEETING ATTENDANCE

The average attendance at the monthly meetings has been 14 persons. Average attendance includes those in attendance who are not official board members. The board should have 15 official appointments. However, there is *no current appointment for commission district 2*. Additionally, the ordinance calls for membership of "the chairman on human relations and disabilities issues." We understand that this position is no longer named as such. In any case, there has been no one in attendance to represent this position. We consider attendance to have been positive these 6 months despite the absence of these two important positions. As a matter of privilege, the chairperson of LEAB felt it important that the board open a line of communication with the District Attorney's office. Beginning in April Ms. Tonda Hill, Esq. has attended meetings in an ex officio capacity on behalf of D.A. Mark Dupree..

3) WRITTEN AGENDAS & MINUTES

One new feature of the board is the production of written agendas for each meeting. It is our understanding that prior to March 2022 there were no written agendas produced for

the meetings. Agendas have been produced and followed for every meeting since March 2022. Additionally, written minutes were reinstated and logged by member, Paul Soptick, Jr.

4) VISION FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

In May, the board went through a brief visioning process that included researching the ordinance, the state statute and the 2016 Legislative Audit of the board. These highlights were affirmed:

LEAB Duties and Responsibilities according to ordinance and statute.

- 1) **UG Ordinance . . . (Ord. No. O-62-06, Sec. 2-752 - Duties)**
 - a. "to advise the unified commission, county administrator, the sheriff and the chief of police on existing and potential law enforcement problems in the county . . . and"
 - b. "to . . . serve as an informational liaison between the sheriff's department, the police department and the citizenry at large on law enforcement activities, programs and initiatives."
- 2) **State statute includes . . . (KS Statute 22-4610)**
 - a. "advise and assist in policy development, education and community outreach and communication related to racial or other biased based policing by law enforcement officers and agencies."
 - b. "Receive training on fair and impartial policing and comprehensive plans for law enforcement agencies."

GOALS for LEAB (Based on 2016 Legislative Audit)

- **Improve demographic make-up of LEAB**
- **Improve community outreach**
- **Develop clear vision and purpose for LEAB**
- **Community driven agendas for meetings**
- **Improve attendance of board members**

Discussion that led to these goals (from May 15, 2022 minutes):

Rick Behrens asked all participants to consider *their vision for LEAB*.

How can the LEAB help you accomplish your goals of connecting with the Community, Chief Oakman & Sheriff Soptic?

Chief Oakman

Use your networks and constituencies to carry information from PD/Sheriff to the community. Programs, projects, community engagement opportunities

Factual occurrences. Avoid emotions and personal agendas. Look for solutions to problems by following MOU and ordinances

Sheriff Soptic

Find opportunities to share information with constituencies

Receive briefings from Sheriff and Chief

Bring back responses & concerns from the community

And LEAB members, what is *one thing you'd like for the LEAB to accomplish this year?*

Kendall McReynolds - Address issues of mistrust - find common ground, Make Citizen's Academy more attractive by shortening the length, Increase FB posts to build trust Can we represent LEAB during events and functions?

Lynn Melton - Listen more by going out to neighborhood groups, Help create a safer Community

Nikki Richardson - Put together strong recommendations that make sense and present them to the Unified Government

Scott Mackey - Access statistics on crime

Irene Caudillo - How do we connect to the effort for diversity in departments? What activities, events, arrangements can we foster that connect our networks and resources? Be consistent in our agenda and give timely info on events Prepare to report to the commissioner who appointed us

William Barajas - Participate in police related functions, Get t-shirts or polos that identify us to wear to functions

Kimberly Weaver - Be identified at events so that we can receive comments and Concerns

Paul Soptic - Connect with neighborhood groups, Livable Neighborhoods, NCCP, Multiply outreach by connecting with these groups regularly

Rick Behrens - Yearly or bi-annual town hall/community conversation, meet and greets, open house

5) OUTREACH TEAM

As a result of the visioning discussion in May, an outreach team was named in June to think through outreach strategies and opportunities. The team consists of Irene Caudillo, Kendall McReynolds and Duane Beth. In July the team came back with two goals:

- Increase the visibility of LEAB
- Listen to the community and learn

The outreach team is engaging other members of LEAB to commit to opportunities to connect with the community. Night Out Against Crime was one of the first efforts. The plan is to table at as many community events as possible and to reach out to segments of the community who may feel unheard.

Summary submitted by LEAB Chair, The Reverend Rick Behrens

Sheriff Dan Soptic

The Sheriff Department has a class in progress with 5 applicants. He says they are recruiting with the fast track type of processing applicants but are having trouble attracting candidates to the Department.

Deputy Chief Ray Nunez for Chief Oakman.

As of today we have 369 sworn positions with 333 active officers. The PD is also having trouble attracting qualified persons to the Department. There are 10 possible retirements within this year.

The department will have recruitment drive at the Kansas City Kansas Community College on November 5th.

He brought up the Fentanyl problem and said that people 13 to 25 years old were the leading age in overdosing.

Our year-to-date homicides stand at 29 compared to 33 in 2021 and 38 in 2020.

The on line crime reporting system is being tested and will be ready for the public soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED 5:05