

Law Enforcement Advisory Board  
Listening session 2 District:  
Armourdale Recreation Center  
April 12, 2023

LEAB Members in Attendance:

Paul Soptick  
Bill Miller  
Irene Caudillo  
Kimberly Weaver  
LaRon Thompson  
Abbie Dillard  
Kendall McReynolds  
J'Hiesa (Nikki) Richardson  
Michael Armstrong  
David Patton  
LaDora Lattimore, Chair  
Duane Beth  
Marcus Winn  
Under Sheriff Emmett Lockridge  
Captain Osvaldo Navarro  
District Attorney Mark Dupree

Chair LaDora Lattimore welcomed all in attendance and ask those in attendance to be honest in their comments, but to keep on topic: How can law enforcement best serve your community. She explained each speaker will get three minutes.

Speaker 1: is a neighborhood volunteer and involved in t-ball at the park. She referenced an event where she called police for help to clear out houseless individuals before the t-ball games started. Many of these individuals live and sleep in the park. Officers came but said there was nothing they can do because it is a public park and individuals were not asked to leave. Instead, a Deputy stayed to patrol the park and lock the bathroom.

Speaker 2 is from the Methodist Church where they through a food and clothing pantry, worried about the houseless population that are in and out of the empty buildings and homes in the area. Recently there was an arson fire on her block and were told, like most of the boarded-up homes, it would be rebuilt. No control at park where houseless individuals leave a mess, it is a large problem especially at the north end fence of the park. Police need to monitor the park and public areas. Armourdale has no neighborhood meetings, so they do not know what is going on because no police officer providing updates.

Speaker 3 is a part of the Kansas Criminal Justice Task Force, and More2, bilingual lawyer. Spanish Speaking members of this community hope to be treated fairly and objectively, but most officers are monolingual and speak English. There is a need for timely, reliable translation- sometimes the arrest is of an actual victim due to language. DUI have standard sobriety test in English, but the individual does

not understand instructions. These experiences cause negative impact including increased arrest, bad experiences, and a pattern of discriminating practices.

Speaker 4 lives behind Eisenhower middle school, line of trees that is used for dumping, continue to call city and people are being charged property tax, lets look at that. Plates have been called in and there are many coyotes.

**Some questions from the audience:**

- How many languages spoken in KCKPS: over 66
- How many police officers are we short: 35 (Armourdale sees shortage due to lack of patrol cars monitoring the neighborhood)

Speaker 5 Strawberry Hill resident appreciates seeing police officers in elementary schools reading to children, would like to see more of that.

Speaker 6 Used to live in Kansas, no trust in police, her two sons arrested and charged by Roger Golubski. They are still in prison; Golubski came in her house and raped her. He is under house arrest, but she was scared to drive over her and would like him to abide by rules and stop harming black women.

Speaker 7 when and where are these going to happen in my neighborhood.?

**We explained the next listening session will be June 14 at Eisenhower Recreation Center and August 9 for District 5 and 7 with location to be determined soon.**

Speaker 8: there is a dog problem in WYCO, lives near City Park and animal control does its part but once a citation is signed, we do not have closure as to what happened or what results of these citations. Curious to see if animal control and police share information on dog attacks.

Speaker 9 also sees loose dogs, she went to court only after spending \$2500 out of pocket for a broken collar bone due to a dog, went to court, the owner did not show up - so as far as it goes nothing ever happened

**During this time a participation form was passed out for those in attendance to fill out and share additional thoughts**

Speaker 10 wanted to know who funds animal control and asked where are our commissioners?

**The committee responded by saying there was a conflict in the commissions schedule and not available.**

Speaker 11 our diversity is the source of our strength. Concerned with a comment made earlier about those found on Central Avenue. He is aware some parts do not seem to count like other parts of our community, but he serves the Spanish speakers and sees implicit bias because the lack of value and how people look or how they speak are provided with less information. Some officers respect our entire community; if officers are not committed to this work, they should not do the work; it is difficult work but so is democracy!

**Our chair explained that we will compile the information we receive, look to share, and provide recommendations to the Commission. We have two more sessions to go. The chair read our responsibilities.**

Additional comments:

- The commission must hurry up and do something about burned houses.
- Many friends speak Spanish and other dialects.
- My granddaughter was taken out of care due to a warrant and now in system, why and want to know what happened?

### **Speakers from Sherriff, Police Department and District Attorney**

#### Sheriff office

Emmitt Lockridge Under Sheriff office. The sheriff department has a complaint process and can provide their form (different than UG and police department). These are reviewed by DA for potential prosecution.

#### DA Dupree

Cases that come through complaint forms must be approved by the community integrity unity. If there is wrongful law enforcement contact wycoda.org or for past cases call 913-573-2851 and we can assist with any case. We work with all law enforcement and felony cases come through DA office. There is constant communication and staff available to listen to and understand concerns from the community.

#### Captain Navarro

Thanked all that spoke tonight and took notes to share with Chief Oakman

Other comments:

- **Room not accommodating for conversation, think about people in back who had a hard time hearing, maybe arrange the room different. Felt the committee was condescending.**
- **When will you come back to us with responses or answers to our questions?**

#### Last comment by Chair

We are all volunteers, we have no budget, and we are listening to your voice, we love WYCO and your concerns are important for all of the committee to hear. We have made a very intentional commitment to hear as many and all voices interested in sharing with us throughout the county.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm