

DRAFT MINUTES
FIRST SCHEDULED MEETING
POLICE ADVISORY PANEL
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT: Carl Alexander, Panel Member
Ralph Basham, Panel Member
Teresa Hoyt, Panel Member
Dominic McClinton, Panel Member
Charles Rinkevich, Panel Member
David O'Quinn, County Commissioner and Panel Member

ALSO PRESENT: Alan Ours, County Manager
Jay Wiggins, Interim Police Chief GCPD
Matthew Kent, Public Communications Manager
Dana Pontello, Assistant to the County Manager
Stephen Sarnoski, Office of Professional Standards GCPD
Rick Evans, Captain GCPD

NOT PRESENT: Calvin Wayne, Panel Member

Meeting Began 2:03PM

1. Roll Call, David O'Quinn
2. Opening Remarks, David O'Quinn
Reasons for Panel, assess where the Police Department stands, assess where the IACP report has been followed and where we need to continue the development of that program, determine why we are not accredited and how we get accredited as a department, and Internal Affairs (IA). Issues of trust from the community and internally. BOC is responsible for making the police department the best police department possible for our community and in public safety. Goal is to move the police department from as IACP report says, "an incident driven response to 21st century policing where community based policing is the standard." Not responding to crimes but working to preventing crimes, where trust within the community and police department can grow. Commissioner O'Quinn asks that the tough questions get asked and the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the Panel bring the police department forward.
3. Individual Introductions of each Panel member, starting with Carl Alexander, Ralph Basham, Teresa Hoyt, Dominic McClinton, Charles Rinkevich (technical difficulties, did not do an introduction), and Calvin Wayne was not present.

4. Election of Officers was on the agenda, however after individual's discussions, Commissioner O'Quinn moved to have election of Officers deferred until next meeting
 - Dominic McClinton motioned, Carl Alexander seconded
 - VOTE: Carl Alexander YAY
 - Ralph Basham YAY
 - Teresa Hoyt YAY
 - Dominic McClinton YAY
 - Charles Rinkevich –
 - Calvin Waye --
 - David O'Quinn YAY
 - 5 YAY's, deferred to next scheduled meetings
5. Staff Report by Chief Wiggins and his staff
 - Steve Sarnoski speaks of his background and his first eight months with the GCPD. They've been studying the ICAP report and implementing changes, there are a number that the GCPD are working their way through but lack of manpower and financial limitations has contributed to delays. Policing for Our Future PowerPoint overall background of GCPD mentioned (has been emailed to Panel members). Panel members asked questions to Mr. Sarnoski. Alexander asks: where we are in the accreditation process at this time? Writing protocols with other guidelines in mind with other organization/ statewide guideline in mind? Sarnoski: we're contracted with Lexipol, policy manual is being updated with the assistance with Lexipol. Basham asks: He understands we were once accredited, how did we lose said accreditation? Sarnoski: the accreditation was lost in 2018, before his arrival. McClinton asks: with the withdrawal of accreditation is there a state report with those details? What accreditation bodies was the GCPD applied to? Sarnoski: Georgia Chief of Police Accreditation Program. Details were given and we can provide that. McClinton: did the department seek to be accredited by any other bodies? Sarnoski: no. Mainly due to cost. Basham: are their funds set aside? Is there a budget? Sarnoski: I can't speak for sure. To my knowledge I am not aware of any specific funds set aside for the infrastructure short coming or man power short comings but policies need to be put in place first. McClinton: is there any funds for the accreditation cost directly? Sarnoski: Lexipol funding is approved and in the budget and Lexipol has many benefits. Basham: what role does Sarnoski or Chief Wiggins play in the role of the budget? Sarnoski: most IACP recommendations are man power and not budgetary issues. In the short run, there are not any financial short comings but there might be in the long run. I will be included when it is required. Basham: to chief are you involved in formatting the budget so requests are met? Chief Wiggins: yes, I work closely with Mr. Ours but influx with COVID-19 Pandemic. Alexander: suggests getting money set aside in the budget so we can contract with other agencies so when it is time to get accredited we can. Sarnoski: attack Georgia accreditation first as it is much less of a financial commitment and

then move on to national accreditation with Celea, a more expensive accreditation, afterwards. Commissioner O'Quinn: What challenges do you face as the accreditation officer with moving the accreditation process forward? Sarnoski: I have the accreditation process mapped out, but it first starts with standards and policies. So the problems or challenges are simply manpower. One-man operation, so more manpower, more things could get done. Rinkevich: how are you organized to implement the IACP recommendations. Sarnoski: multifaceted. I can only speak knowledgeably about the Internal Affairs and Professional Standards functions; standards shortcoming must be addressed, 21st century policy. Fundamentals of the accreditation process also must be managed so when the time comes for accreditation the GCPD can do that. That time has not yet come, because policy is not yet in place. There are several other things like right sizing the department, reorganizing the canine division that's beyond my scope of responsibilities, so I can't speak authoritatively about those. Rinkevich: is there one person in the department who is the project manager to oversee the implementation and the contractor and resources? Sarnoski: if you are referring to policy it would be me. Basham: for Commissioner O'Quinn and Mr. Ours, our mandate is outlined in looking at the IACP recommendations and their implementation, accreditation and then IA, is that in priority order? Or is it all three of those things we should be focusing on? O'Quinn: from the boards perspective we were outlining areas that needed to be evaluated carefully. The IACP report, from the perspective of the commissioner we want to make sure this is being implemented. We want this panel to follow up and make sure that implementation is being done. No correlations with priority, whatever the panel sees fit. We have the IACP report so we started there.

Chief Wiggins closing remarks, and looks forward to next meeting and speaks of summarized review of the report.

Basham: there are certain points that are highlighted, does that mean it's been accomplished? Rinkevich: that summary of recommendations is not as complete as going through the full set that is on page 61. I think they're not completely consistent. We should focus on page 61. Hoyt: to chief Wiggins and Sarnoski, what is the interplay between the IACP report and its recommendations and the accreditation process? Sarnoski: no there is no direct correlation between the IACP recommendations and Georgia accreditations standards however, there are many instances of overlap. Hoyt: what is the nature of Lexipol as a contracted? Sarnoski: they are the primary national contractor for training and focus is on providing proper, appropriate, complete, updated information, for officers. Meet with GCPD weekly and guides us with recommendations and guidance. Great working team. Basham: do they work with Celea as well as state accreditation committees? Sarnoski: each recommendation they provide correlates with a state accreditations standard specifically. All Georgia accreditations standards will be addressed in the GCPD policy once we are complete. Alexander: Chief, the PowerPoint that was sent

out was something that you inherited correct? Chief Wiggins: yes sir and some will be updated as things change.

No further questions.

Panel agrees to go by page 61 of full report regarding recommendations and not the summary as there are some contradictions, this will avoid confusion.

6. Commissioner O'Quinn suggests when next meeting will take place. Wednesday, May 20th or Wednesday, May 27th, at 5PM so public can attend. Next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 27th at 5:00PM in the Pate Building in the second-floor conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05PM

Attest:

****Notice of Possible Quorum** - A quorum of Commissioners may attend this meeting**