

## MINUTES OF THE POLICE CHIEFS ADVISORY BOARD

7:00 P.M.

November 10, 2022

Chairman Dan Henderson brought the meeting to order with the following committee members present: Police Chief Marshall Craft, H. William Mulvaney, Tesha Miller, and Pastor Kim McGill.

Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 29, 2022, meeting. Mr. Mulvaney made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 29, 2022, meeting. Ms. Miller seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all those present voting in favor.

### **Public Comment**

Seaford Resident, Dan Cannon of 411 Nylon Boulevard came forward and presented the following public comment:

**Speed Bumps On Nylon Blvd.** As I stated to you during the newly permitted Public Comment on 9/29/22, the installation of speed bumps on Nylon Blvd. has been an “unqualified success” to us residents. “There has been a dramatic reduction in speeding, vehicle noise, and joy riding. Virtually NO large trucks now venture down Nylon Blvd. Large, lifted pickup trucks no longer roar between Stein Hwy <—> Pennsylvania Ave.” My wife and I also strongly urged you to make the Nylon Blvd speed bumps “permanent” in order to continue a safer and more hospitable neighborhood.

**And it now appears that efforts to help make the Nylon Blvd. speed bumps permanent have been successful** according to the 10/26/22 letter we received from City Manager Charles Anderson. Mr. Anderson stated, **“the M&CC approved the installation of permanent traffic calming devices on Nylon Blvd. at their 10/25/22 meeting.”**

Thanks for your role in these efforts. Again, I would remind you that my **POSITIVE** Public Comment to you about the Nylon Blvd. speed bumps would **not** have been allowed in Seaford until mandated by Delaware’s General Assembly.

**Concern(s) from the 10/11/22 Meeting of M&CC.** During my Public Comment to M&CC on 10/11/22, I requested release of the costs to taxpayers for Seaford’s pursuit of its aborted fetal remains ordinance.

An irritated Mayor Genshaw made his usual mea culpa excuses while admitting that the ordinance was “illegal”. Then Councilman James King requested to speak. Genshaw repeatedly said, “No”. Councilman King asked, “Then you’re the only one that can speak?” Genshaw responded, “That’s correct” and blithely went on to the next item on the agenda.

**I URGE YOU TO WATCH THE VIDEO OF THIS PERFORMANCE** ([HTTP://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7MRLoo8-hE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7MRLoo8-hE)) **AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES WHETHER YOU WANT OUR CITY RUN IN THIS FASHION.** (Note: Public Comment begins at 14:18. Genshaw’s mea culpa starts

at 17:36. Councilman King's attempts to speak begin at 18:47) My reaction to these events now, as then, is these Genshaw actions were/ are extremely **UNDEMOCRATIC, authoritarian and just plain rude**. As they did for citizens with Public Comment, do we need further Delaware GA action to mandate that elected members of City governments may speak at public meetings? (Note: This should help explain why this memo was copied to Danny Short and Bryant Richardson)

**For these reasons and others, I continue to strongly encourage all citizens of Seaford to bring their positive and/or negative opinions, observations, and recommendations into the forum of public comment for the betterment of our City.**

### **New Business**

Chairman Henderson presented New Business Item #1: Discussion on Board terms and Chairman position.

Chairman Henderson explained Board Members had received the Board Term Selection Sheet to determine If members would like to continue serving. All Board Members completed their forms and submitted to Chairman Henderson.

Mrs. Florence Cephas joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Henderson presented New Business Item #2: Department Highlights.

Chief Craft went over highlights from the November 9, 2022, Police Liaison Report. He noted an influx in DUI arrests in the past several weeks with 6 arrests over the last two (2) weeks and 6 in the prior two weeks. He also noted the department's concern regarding the influx in vehicle crashes, including incidents involving pedestrians.

Chief Craft explained the Police Department has increased its focus on severe crimes such as robberies and shootings, which involves developing crime-specific initiatives. He then went over the drug crime statistics from the past five (5) years and noted the total would likely be higher than last year by the end of 2022. He explained the Police Department is looking to combat this influx by enacting search warrants. He added it may also be necessary to release a public service announcement to remind residents to lock their vehicles and secure their property, as the Department has seen increases in stolen property and vehicle theft.

Concerning overdose statistics, Chief Craft reminded the Board that calls for service involving overdoses are dispatched to the SFVD, not the police department. However, he can confirm that Seaford's 19973 zip code receives the highest number of calls for instances of overdose.

Chief Craft discussed vehicle crash statistics and noted driver inattention is listed as the cause of most incidents. Mr. Mulvaney expressed his concern regarding an increased disregard for traffic control devices and speed limit signage. Chief Craft noted the Department will have a higher rate of traffic stops compared

to the last three (3) years; however, staffing issues have prevented them from increasing focus on traffic-related issues.

Chief Craft then reported information from the November 9, 2022, Police Liaison Report and covered a few of the initiatives the Department is hoping to implement in the coming year to combat criminal activity and administrative issues including the installation of the proposed perimeter fencing around the Police Department. With this increased security measure, the Police Department saw an opportunity to reunify the emergency response protocols with the Seaford High School, including plans to utilize the Seaford Police Department as the primary evacuation location.

Mr. Mulvaney asked if the proposed plan for adjustments to the school evacuation plan would include the elementary, middle, and high school facilities. Chief Craft stated the Police Department would discuss that possibility when meeting with the representative from the Seaford School District (SSD). He also noted that part-time Officer, Joseph Melvin, who has extensive experience with school safety comprehensive planning for the State of Delaware and the School Resource Officer Program has played a critical role in the development of the proposed reunification with the SSD. This reunification plan will also include active shooter training for at least ten (10) Seaford Police Officers.

Chief Craft briefly reviewed the details and progress of the Riding with the PACK community engagement program and proposed changes to the Department's existing payroll.

He also reviewed the progress of programs enacted to help with the increased instances of homelessness throughout the community including the Police Department's Diversion program and the Pedestrian Safety Ordinances. Both programs work to provide guidance and safe alternatives to homeless individuals, and those who suffer from substance abuse issues.

Chairman Henderson solicited any questions from the Board Members. Mrs. McGill asked if the public health resources utilized in the described initiatives could be made available to the public. Chief Craft suggested sending a compiled list of community resources to members of Unified Seaford so they can be shared and distributed as needed. He also agreed the resources should be made available on either the City of Seaford or the Seaford Police Department's website and social media pages.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Henderson then thanked Chief Craft and his Department for the recent VirTra demonstration given to the Mayor and Council Members. He noted it was very informative and well-received.

Chairman Henderson asked Chief Craft if the temporary speed bumps on Nylon Boulevard and Magnolia Drive had been removed; Chief Craft stated he believes they were set to be removed this week. Chairman Henderson reported to the Board that City Council did approve a proposal to install permanent speed bumps at these locations in the Spring of 2023, tentatively. He noted Chief Craft is also working on a public form for traffic calming requests and a speed study will likely need to be performed in these areas.

Ms. Miller noted resident Dan Cannon's public comment included a request to install permanent speed bumps and she inquired as to the whether Council's decision on this matter would satisfy Mr. Cannon's request. Chairman Henderson stated he believed it would. He noted that if funding allows, there could be up to three (3) locations along Nylon with permanent speed bumps.

Chief Craft noted other traffic calming measures that can be utilized and the Department is working to address problem areas throughout the City, including working with DelDOT to address issues on state-maintained roadways within city limits. He reminded the Board of the stop sign that had recently been installed on the corner of Harrington and Shipley.

Mrs. McGill stated there has also been increased interest in traffic loops as an alternative to stop signs in many cities.

Chairman Henderson then confirmed all Board Term Selection sheets had been submitted and thanked all the PCAB Members for their efforts to increase the quality of communication between the Seaford Police Department and the Public. He also reminded those present that if they know of anyone who may be interested in sitting on the Board to please submit their information to him or Chief Craft.

Chairman Henderson solicited any questions or comments from the Board Members, there were none. He then called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mulvaney made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Cephas seconded the motion. All those present voted in favor. The meeting was closed at 8:10 p.m.

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Ashley Heinicke, City Clerk