TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Community Police Collaborative

Hosted Remotely Via WebEx

Thursday, July 9th 2020
7:30-8:30

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm by CPC Chair Bobby Brown

ATTENDANCE

CPC Members: CPC Chair Bobby Brown, CPC Vice Chair Jocelyn Ryan, Recording Secretary Sara Wakefield, Lt Adrian Acevedo, Freddy Arsenault (Alternate), Brendan Gioello, South Orange Police Chief Kyle Kroll, Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, Annemarie Maini, Lt Eric Moore

South Orange Village Trustees: Donna Coallier, Summer Jones

Community Members: Approximately 29 residents attended via WebEx

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 11th, 2020 Meeting Minutes approved

TOPICS

- Village President Sheena Collum gave a short presentation on South Orange budget categories related to policing and answered questions. This detailed budget will be released on the town website once additional questions and feedback are accounted for. Members asked/requested additions related to fines and fees (LFOs), traffic stop revenue, and a racial breakdown of fines and fees collected from those ticketed. Additional discussion of pay freeze of SOPD officers and the size of the police force relative to town population.
- CPC Member Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad led a discussion of an NPR Throughline series on the history of policing and CPC members offered responses to the piece. Discussion centered on militaristic policing, reducing the policing footprint, and when to call the police. The law enforcement officers on the CPC suggested incorporating the Throughline piece to ongoing training of officers in South Orange.
- CPC Member Annemarie Maini raised the issue of an ordinance review, noting that had not been reviewed or updated in many years. Motion to create an ad hoc

committee to review these and make recommendations offered and seconded. Motion passed 6-0, Member Maini and Vice-Chair Ryan will lead this work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

o Resident Jordan Muhammad (on behalf of the MAPSO Youth Coalition) offered a number of comments on the history of policing, current events in Newark related to the Civilian Review Board and legal cases related to subpoena power. Question for the CPC: Would the CPC support including subpoena power for the CPC in South Orange if it is granted in Newark?

o Resident Sage Territo (On behalf of the MAPSO Youth Coalition) asked why police needed to be armed at traffic stops (Chief Kroll responded that SOPD officers are required to be armed in the course of their work).

o Resident Sylvie Schuetz (on behalf of the MAPSO Youth Coalition) asked about face coverings and law enforcement; are police required to wear face masks?

o Resident Kate Quest asked about disciplinary records and the NJ Attorney General's recent plans to update Use of Force guidelines. The guidelines would make public records that result in disciplinary action of 5 days or more. Law enforcement officers responded that some of the conduct problems that would result in public disclosure might be minor so there were some concerns about officer records being public for relatively minor things (the example of late to shift on several occasions was offered).

o Resident Ben Morris asked why SOPD utilized undercover and unmarked cars and issues surrounding militarized policing. Sgt Acevedo responded that the detective bureau often uses unmarked cars in investigations of serious crimes.

o Resident Deborah Way thanked the CPC for alerting the community to the Throughline video, calling it profound.

NEXT MEETING DATE August 13th, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The CPC moved to executive session at 9:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by CPC Chair Bobby Brown at 10:17pm.