

Joint Police Advisory Committee Minutes

November 1, 2018, 5:30 to 7 PM, City Hall

JPAC Members in attendance: Chief Pyle, Chief Powers, Ron Lucas, Jackie Wolf, Jordyn Zimmerman, Toby Stock, Liesl Gyurko, Maria Modayil, Justice Riley (for Kim Castor), Amanda Graham, Karen Dahn, Mary Katherine Tran (from Women's Center, Diversity and Inclusion), Chad Barnhardt, Molly Burchfield, Josh Thomas, Sarah Grace, Barb Harrison

1. "Ask the Chiefs" debrief

Jackie: Both Chiefs were thoughtful, attentive, reflective, and articulate.

Karen: The members of the community who came and spoke carried a lot of hurt. And they were so articulate. Their comments were factual and personal.

Jordyn: Some students felt the Chief from Hocking College was a token presence. She should have participated in the conversation.

Chief Powers: The Hocking police chief asked to be there.

Molly: The moderator could have done a better job.

Jackie: The moderator should have made some introductory comments and facilitated discussion better.

Ron: If we have another opportunity for a similar conversation, we should invite people to text questions if they're uncomfortable speaking.

Chief Pyle: Officers from both OUPD and APD have attended advanced de-escalation training (ICAT training—Integrating Communication, Assessment, and Tactics training) to learn how best to handle people who are armed. The University of Cincinnati PD recommended the training. The officers who attended the training will, in turn, teach other officers here. The entire APD will also go through a 4-hour block of emotional intelligence training.

John Schmeiding and Trish Lachman met with **Chief Pyle** today and police officers will continue to sit down with community members and groups of students to discuss issues relevant to all communities. Katherine Sullivan, OU associate professor of political sciences, said at Coffee with a Cop that police should come speak to her 80-student political science class. **Chief Pyle** noted that police can make themselves available for conversation but must be invited. **Chief Pyle** wants to learn more about the experience of underrepresented minorities in Athens and asked that community members of color contact him to arrange to meet for coffee, lunch, or dinner.

Mary Katherine Tran: We should have sponsor programs on the history of police brutality.

2. Suggestions for Future JPAC-Sponsored Events

Liesl: Do something monthly? Have a regular forum? Every month have a different program? Some suggested events: Tell Us About Your Athens Experience. Be a Better Bystander. The LGBT community might have something pressing to discuss/present.

Mary Katherine Tran: Align JPAC events with women's history month, black history month.

Ron: JPAC should do something on a regular, advertised schedule—events to draw people. If we can get underrepresented populations feeling comfortable in our community, that's a win. How do we get people to attend events?

Jordyn: Solicit feedback from students on what topics they want to hear about or discuss.

Liesl: Reach out to different groups and ask for 15 minutes at their meetings to describe what JPAC does.

Jordyn: Make an excel spreadsheet to schedule these meetings and have JPAC members sign to go speak.

Chief Pyle: The primary complaint about the arrest on Court Street was the number of officers involved, so we need opportunities to explain police protocol—that was done to keep everyone safe. Improving communication and the flow of information would be central to any JPAC-sponsored events.

Ron: We can be a buffer. We can facilitate communication between the community and police.

Sarah: We should gather information when we go to groups. Ask: what are some ideas you have for JPAC forums? What would you like learn about how the police operate? How do you want to interact with the police?

Liesl: We don't want to lose momentum. We can organize programs later. But let's visit groups first.

Sarah: Should we coordinate JPAC forums with other groups? There are already groups working on race relations.

Maria: It's not just about students. The problem is the community.

Jackie: How do we operationalize all these suggestions?

Liesl: Everyone should just send an email to the JPAC listserv describing when and where they are going to speak to explain the purpose of JPAC and our roles on JPAC and ask who else can come.

Before we had finished talking, **Jordyn** had already designed and distributed an Excel spreadsheet.

3. Halloween Debrief

Ron: Halloween is becoming a community event rather than a temporary takeover of people who don't live here. We are changing the culture of Halloween—it's becoming a community event, good for our town. We want to control Halloween, not have Halloween control us. It rained a lot this year. The evening shut down at 11 pm.

4. 1804 Marketing Update

Ron: we can utilize 1804 for publicity if we plan to attend any community meetings.

5. Roundtable

Ron: Ron is stepping off JPAC soon. We will need a new chair.

Justice Riley: Take Back the Night will be April 2, 2020.

Next meeting: December 5.