

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 5:30 P.M.  
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Cannon  
Nancy Chanin  
Kelli Freeman  
James Kevin McNally  
LaToya Ratlieff  
Peter Sclafani  
Willie Potts

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Nicholas Palmisano  
Robert Safranski  
Wes Waring

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Gene Sapino, Assistant Chief of Police  
Lawonda Warren, Police Legal Advisor  
Beatrice Screciu, Executive Administrative Assistant

**STAFF ABSENT:**

**GUEST OTHERS:**

None

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Members of the board were introduced.

**4. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mr. Paul Cannon, seconded by Ms. Nancy Chanin. Said motion passed unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2020:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 14, 2020 by Mr. Kevin McNally, seconded by Mr. Peter Sclafani. Said motion passed unanimously.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Assistant Chief Sapino's Update:**

Members of the board were provided with Part 1 Crime Statistics for 2020, which revealed an increase of 3% from the previous year. For Crimes Against Property, it was noted that aggravated assaults/battery incidents had increased by 44% in 2020 in comparison to 2019. This is nationwide and a contributing factor due to the pandemic, the rise in violence, loss of jobs, etc. For the Crime Against Property, motor vehicle theft incidents (locked and unlocked vehicles) increased by 17% in 2020 in comparison to 2019. The highest uptick in crime geographically was the northwest section of our city, which was reported at 13% for 2020.

For the current year, there has been a significant uptick in robberies and business burglaries, residence and/or shed. A recent arrest was made in a burglary where suspect(s) broke into a local business and committed theft of liquor. Our agency has worked with the establishment and provided them with crime prevention measures to deter crime. In January of this year, there were 194 larcenies and in December of 2020 there were 184 larceny incidents. Our agency is working with Downtown Development Authority to educate business owners on crime prevention and ensure the safety of our visitors and residents on the Avenue.

One of the crime trends this year that have been reported is pick-pocketing in the downtown area. There have 34 incidents since October of 2020 and an arrest was made recently.

A total of 17 overdoses were reported for the month of January of 2021 and one overdose death. The city is in the process of applying for a state-funded grant that would assist our agency in expanding the Community Outreach Team with additional officers and a sergeant for 24-hour coverage.

The police department uses several social media platform and networks to disseminate and share information with the residents.

The city is proposing an aggressive panhandling ordinance and the final reading will be on February 16, 2021.

A discussion ensued regarding the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines for the police department.

**8. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021.

**9. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF:**

A discussion ensued regarding the process of requesting funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Board members extended their appreciation to the agency for their continued service and dedication to the community, residents, and visitors.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Ms. Freeman declared the meeting adjourned at 06:09 p.m.

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Beatrice Screciu, Executive Administrative Assistant/Board Liaison

The undersigned is the Secretary of the Police Advisory Board and the information provided herein are the minutes of the meeting of said Police Advisory Board of February 8, 2021, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Board on April 12, 2021.

ATTEST:

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CHAIR

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Beatrice Screciu, Exec. Admin. Assistant/Board Liaison

NOTE TO READER: If the minutes you have received are not completed as indicated above, this means they are not the official minutes of the Police Advisory Board. They will become official minutes only after review and approval, which may involve some amendments, additions, or deletions.  
S/City Clerk/Boards/Police Advisory Board/minutes