



POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: ZOOM Teleconference Meeting
Physical Address: Due to COVID-19, There Is No Physical Location
Contact: (802) 893-6655
Website: www.miltonvt.gov

Meeting Minutes

Police Advisory Committee Members Present: Harjit Dhaliwal, Vice Chair; Richard Edwards, Member; Lisa Rees, Member

Police Advisory Committee Members Not Present: Shoshawna Mastin, Chair; Kevin Kimball, Clerk

Staff Members Present: Michaela Foody, Director of Public Safety; Stephen Laroche, Chief of Police; Gordon Lafountain, Jr, Police Sergeant

Members from the Public Present: attendee "Milton Citizen"; Bridget Higdon, Milton Independent

I. Call to Order

Harjit Dhaliwal called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

II. Flag Salute

Zoom meeting attendants were muted and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Forum

None.

IV. Agenda Review

Motion made by Harjit Dhaliwal to approve the Agenda for this meeting with a second by Lisa Rees. Motion Approved.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Lisa Rees to approve the meeting minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting as presented with a second by Richard Edwards. Motion Approved.

VI. Fair and Impartial Policing Policy

Steve Laroche, Chief of Police

Chief Laroche reviewed the Milton Police Department's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy with the Committee. The Policy is the Vermont State statute and is reviewed on an annual basis by the Attorney General's Office and by stake holders. Lisa Rees asked about Burlington's Policy, specifically regarding the language their policy uses for immigration enforcement and definitions. Chief Laroche advised that he did not know if Burlington's policy deviates from the law and, if so, if it prevents them from being eligible for any federal funding. He will check on both and look at how the language in Burlington's policy differs from Milton's. Harjit Dhaliwal asked if Police officers have the ability to ask for proof of people's citizenship or immigration status during traffic stops. Chief Laroche stated the Milton Police Department cannot, by this policy, as they have no basis to ask that.

VII. 2020 Year End Review

Steve Laroche, Chief of Police

Chief Laroche presented a slide show review of 2020 incident data. Activity decreased from previous years in 2020 due to COVID. Mental Health incidents increased during 2020. Chief Laroche explained that mental health calls are categorized as such by the officer writing the report if mental health has played a role in the situation they are responding to. The presentation included the top ten incidents' types in 2020, crime data by offense type, arrest totals by year, arrest race data 2018-2020, traffic stop data 2014-2020, and 2020 traffic stop race data.

VIII. 2018-2020 Review of Response to Resistance Data

Steve Laroche, Chief of Police and Gordon Lafountain, Jr, Milton Police Sergeant

Sgt. Lafountain introduced himself to the Committee. Sgt. Lafountain presented a slide show review of 2018-2020 Response to Active Resistance (RAR) Statistics. The presentation covered the evaluation period, number of incidents, number of RAR (ie use of force) incidents that were initiated by officers vs citizen calls for service, types of forced used, reasons for force, use of force, injuries to subjects and officers, perceived race of subject, types of incidents that resulted in a RAR, three specific incidents describing RAR which activated a Use of Force report. Harjit Dhaliwal questioned if information is specific to within Milton town boundaries. Chief Laroche advised all data is specific to Milton officers, meaning events could have taken place while officers were assisting in other towns. Lisa Reese suggested a public education on information that was provided to make the public more aware of what RAR is and the data for Milton Police Department. Bridget Higdon wrote in the chat that the Milton Independent may be interested in publishing op-eds of that nature. Chief Laroche advised current legislature is updating the Response to Active Resistance laws and Milton's policy will be updated at that time. Sgt. Lafountain explained the steps for reviewing an RAR incident after the report is filed.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by Lisa Rees to adjourn the meeting with a second by Richard Edwards. Motion Approved.

Harjit Dhaliwal adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michaela Foody

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ *Kevin Kimball* _____ Date: 4/14/2021
Kevin Kimball, Clerk

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST: _____, Milton Town Clerk