

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, 3/13/12, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Dave Thomason, Cathy Niiro, Barbara Buchanan, Jo Balda, Bonnie LaForest, Gene Barner, Lauren Nelson

Not Present: Beth Connor, Ethelinda Larcena

Dept. Staff Present: Chief Rick Wallace, Martha Folsom

The meeting was called to order by Thomason at 4:15 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **January Minutes:** No discussion. Buchanan moved to approve the January minutes, Niiro seconded. Unanimous approval. The January minutes were approved as presented.
2. **Pertinent Updates:** Chief Wallace advised that an arrest had been made in the Armed Robbery case. The suspect had been on our "radar", was one of 4 or 5 names of persons of interest. The suspect's mother found a backpack with a gun, white sunglasses and other items in it, and called the police.

Chief Wallace said we have the High School Resource Officer (HSRO) back in the school. This was not an additional position, so we had to re-deploy the Motor/Traffic Officer back to Patrol, in order to fill/deploy the HSRO. Officer Carter, our traffic officer, has done a terrific job – accident rates in High Accident Locations are way down, which was his mission. We will just have to wait and look at this issue (no motor officer) and, if the accident rates go back up, we will know that the lower rates were as a result of all the hard work Officer Carter was putting in. In response to a question from LaForest, Chief Wallace said that, during the summer, the HSRO covers vacancies in the Patrol Division, as well as taking his own vacation time. Thomason asked who the HSRO is, and Chief Wallace said it is Officer Dennis Dickinson. He said we did not have a lot of interest in the position.

Chief Wallace advised that we held interviews today for Corrections Officer, to fill the vacancy created by the impending re-assignment to Patrol (to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Sean Magorrian in 2010) of a current Police Officer assigned to the Jail under a disciplinary action.

LaForest asked if there was any update on the egg-throwing and BB gun cases. Chief Wallace said that we are fairly certain they are separate incidents, and the father of one of the egg-throwing suspects made him go around and wash off the egg in various places. There is no update on the BB gun cases. Barner mentioned that some of the egging incidents were going on close to his home, and that he has an exterior video system which might have been of assistance to the police; unfortunately, he was having technical difficulties at that time. He has since replaced the equipment.

3. **CAB Appointments:** Folsom explained that Nelson had expressed an interest in reappointment to the High School student position (1-year term, expires in June 2012). CAB members agreed that the Police Department should put forth Nelson's name to the Mayor for consideration for reappointment. Folsom advised that the reappointment of Balda (4-year term, expires this month) is on the Council Agenda for the March 20th meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **Home Video Security Systems:** Pertaining to his earlier comments on private video security system tapes being of assistance to the police, Barner asked if there was any process, project or interest in having residents "register", or let the Police Department know, that they have recorded footage, for future reference (in assisting the police in solving crimes in residential areas). Chief Wallace said that was a very good idea, and while we know which businesses have video systems, we do not track personal residences which have them. We will let the Lieutenants know of this idea and try to brainstorm a method where people could "register".

2. **Burglaries:** Buchanan asked if there had been any arrests in the rash of burglaries, and Chief Wallace said yes – that we have arrested a lot of people, but not on a lot of burglary charges. It is difficult, unless caught in the act, to get a burglary charge, but often there is Possession of Stolen Property charges, etc.
3. **Skagit Valley College Incidents:** Nelson asked Chief Wallace if he had any further information on the incidents at SVC that she had brought up at the last meeting. Chief Wallace said that there was not much to go on regarding the suspicious man, that it was a report the school had made, and they thought they had an idea who it was, but no arrest was made. There have not been any additional problems since then.
4. **Three Strikes:** LaForest asked Chief Wallace if he could explain the “Three Strikes - You’re Out” law. Chief Wallace said that every state has a version of “three strikes”, but that in Washington State, it is a select number of very serious/violent crimes – and it takes three of those crimes and a person would be considered a habitual offender and would go to prison for life without possibility of parole. The crimes that trigger Three Strikes in our state are very serious crimes.

Adjourn: LaForest motioned to adjourn; Niiro seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. on 3/13/12.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5/8/2012 in the OHPD Conference Room.

Prepared by M. Folsom