

Cleveland Community Police Commission (CCPC): Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Observers: Claire Banasiak and Patricia Carter

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cleveland Community Police Commission and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in Cleveland, Ohio. The official disposition of the June and July 2017 agenda items are not yet voted on and are not available on the CCPC website: <https://www.clecpc.org>.

The introduction of CPCC members present to facilitate this meeting:

Lt. Paul Baeppler
Dr. Kathleen Clegg
Rev. Dr. Yvonne Connor
Dean Lee Fisher
Mr. Gordon Friedman
Ms. LaToya Logan
Det. Steve Loomis
Ms. Chinenye Nkemere Thompson
Mr. Jason Goodrick
Mr. Peter Whitt

There was not a quorum so there could not be a vote on budget.

Still looking for office staff and office space. LWV made a suggestion for their office space.

We can contact them on Facebook and Twitter.

CPCC is still in need of a commissioner.

CPCC By-laws are not finished.

CPD moving towards scenario-based training, which should be non-biased.

Citizens will be able to participate and/or observe the training, no details yet on this.

CPDepartment equipment

- need vehicles (65 were just purchased) non had cameras,
- computers and other equipment needs updating to improve service,
- commission wants to know how many items are old or out dated.

Community engagement and outreach of commission

- have had and will continue to have town hall meetings,
- Tasked with finding a way to measure/rate community and police relations (is what the department is doing actually working to improve police/community relationship).

Claire

The present day police officer mentality is 5th or 6th generation carryover from the “control civil disobedience” and the “get tough on crime” order mandated Department of Justice in the 1960s and 1990s, respectively. Those who lived in Cleveland, Ohio through those times in the Hough and Glenville areas were eyewitnesses to the depth of destruction of residential and

business properties and the loss of precious life of many Cleveland citizens. The resounding question is “how to stop this madness?” Today we have too many guns in the hands of mentally unstable individuals and normal everyday citizens are confronted with biases, prejudices, and human degradation when confronted by a police officer, whether they look alike or not.

- The community can be involved to view the actual police training
- 65 police vehicles, some of which are not actually in use; shared vehicles from one shift to the following shift/200 vehicles have over 150,000 miles on speedometers/vehicles do not have dashcams.
- Monetary funds were provided, funds utilization questionable.

Break-out Session:

1. Change the DARE Program so that it would be more effective
 - a) Begin to treat drug addiction as an illness, not a social problem alone,
 - b) Point to positive alternatives to children in stressed-out situations,
 - c) Don't talk at people but learn to speak to them with respect
 - d) Make the police/citizen relationship more interactive; not reactive; only in emergency,
 - e) Initiate interactive training; select instructors who are trained to deliver interactive lessons,
 - f) Engage members of the community more to let them know what is available for them.
2. More outreach to CMSD: create partnerships/libraries/media resource centers.
3. Programming that highlight “Day in the Life of a Police Officer”

There is fear on both sides of the confrontation: police officer and community;

 - a) At certain age groups, like 5th grade and at area high schools,
 - b) How to act/not react should student be captured by a police officer.
4. Solution for US against THEM mentality for police and citizens
 - a) Try to establish relationship between the citizens (community) and police (not to see police only in emergency situations but in a friendly one-on-one scenario,
 - b) Train police officers in communication strategies with people who do not look like them (African American, Asian, Latino, Muslims, or of another religious sect) There need to be a respect for life on both the police officer viewpoint as well as the community (citizens). Police and citizens need to put themselves in each other's role to really know what it feels like to be (for example) a white police officer facing an angry African American.
5. Do the police really believe they have a problem; reform is necessary? No one seems to be able to acknowledge this fact. Police need to overcome lack of unity within department. One great question I have is “How to retrain ex-military police officers from the “John Wayne” mentality?”

Patricia

