

## Public Safety Commission Meeting

07/18/2024

Meeting Called to Order at 6:02

### 1. **Roll Call**

Roll Call (voice roll call led by Secretary Herts)

Carolyn Hobbs - Yes  
James Doyle - Yes  
Willie Davis - Absent  
Rev. Billy Burris - Yes  
Anna Morshedi - Absent  
Seth Ward - Yes  
Chair Johnny Gilbert, Jr. - Yes  
Secretary Zeorneé Herts - Yes  
Kambrei Charles - Yes  
Kate Moffitt - Absent  
Conner Thompson - Yes

We had a quorum at roll call. (8)

The Chair called for prayer and the pledge of allegiance

### 2. **Opening Comments**

1. **Public Safety Commissioners**
2. **Staff Liaison** – Christopher Harvey, Senior Advisor to the Mayor
3. **Department Liaison** – Chief Helton, Chief of Police - briefed us on the steps taken following the national events of the weekend. The LRPD has communicated with RNC and DNC of Arkansas, increased the patrols, and integrated DNC cameras into the system. They will hold quarterly meetings with officials. There is also a LRPD Recruit graduation on July 25th at 10am.

He also shared school year preparations. He briefed the commission on upcoming preparations for an Arkansas Razorbacks game playing on a Thursday (August 29th) at War Memorial Stadium, the State Fair October dates, the upcoming Election on November 5th.

Commissioner Burris had a question about school openings - Chief Helton verified that there are SRO's at all middle and high school

4. **Department Liaison** – Lynette Perez, Chief Deputy City Attorney

### 3. Old Business

1. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes - Moved by Burris, Seconded by Thompson**, Unanimously accepted with two minor corrections.

### 4. New Business

#### 1. Discussion by Commissioner Thompson – Community Safety Research (Freedom Fund)

1. H.O.P.E. Advisory Council's findings. - Rev Burris - There were a set of recommendations from the council, including the formation of this commission. The council found that there were so many programs and commissions doing different things. The question was raised to see if there is a way to bring those things together to either work in concert or in duplicity to reach more people around the city. Move to adopt an idea of collaboration.
2. Commissioners would like to recommend review of Lighting in neighborhoods, Abandoned homes, and availability of Affordable Housing.
3. Many of those strategies that came from the council have been implemented through Ordinances in the City.
4. Commissioner Herts - mentioned R.O.C.K. Academy, which provided valuable information to help citizens become more familiar with city operations.
5. Commissioner Burris - shared an example of Kroger on Col Glenn - and the reason for its closing - theft main cause. What can we do to eradicate things that hinder safety and growth?
6. Commissioner Hobbs - shared that security was lacking. Visibility of police officers is a deterrent of crimes.
7. Chief Helton - added social workers - will have 6 in 2 weeks | added youth component | crime victim follow-up communications | 21st Century Division - youth programs - \*\*Sales Tax will be very helpful for that. Crisis Intervention partnership has also been formed.
8. Commissioner Hobbs - inquired if weekly task force meetings would help with better communication amongst stakeholders?

#### 2. Brainstorming Session – Open Discussion by Commissioners

1. Ideas to be presented to the Little Rock Board of Directors
  1. Commissioner Hobbs - would like to recommend that the weekly task force meetings for community organizations and programs be revived so that everyone is informed. Prevention and Intervention - communicating what's available. GVI - Group Violence Intervention (Casey Beard) DOJ program. Can a resource guide be formed that can provide awareness about available programs? Commissioner Charles - suggested putting a resource page on the website.
  2. Commissioner Charles - suggested conducting a brief Survey - 2 questions - What Ward do you live in? What does change look like

for you? Community Feedback survey. The community doesn't know we are meeting. Can we do a data share with the Freedom Fund so we are not reinventing the wheel. Citizens Connect; Can we livestream meetings - to spread awareness?

3. Commissioner Hobbs - find more programs for children that are in trouble. Failing School, Suspension Prevention, Minor Crimes; Sustainability is an issue; Support effective intervention programming for children. How do we provide support for Adults - Substance abuse issues?
4. City population demographic - 65,000 individuals (0-24 in age) 1/3 of the population.
5. Commissioner Ward asked if there is a Youth Services Office? A Central point of contact. Could there possibly be a Children and Youth Commission?

A few additional ideas that were circulated included City-wide Communication - PSAs, PIT, More collaboration with other commissions to remove duplicity. Rights After Wrongs - SemiAnnual - Free Legal clinics - Better Communication

Commissioner Doyle mentioned Infraguard, which is a resource that connects FBI and citizens with information about how systems work and vital information about ongoing situations and alerts.

**5. Citizen Communication**

1. Limited to three (3) minutes per person, with a maximum of 21 minutes allowed.

None present

- 6. Adjournment - Commissioner Herts made the Motion, Commissioner Doyle seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.**