



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 08/28/2025

Location: Willie L. Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center

Quorum: Yes (6 commissioners present)

Chair: Commissioner Gilbert

I. Opening Business

- Roll call taken. Commissioners Morshetti, Moffitt, Thompson, and Lopez were absent.
- Goals of the Public Safety Commission were recited.
- Recommendation made for future meetings to designate a single reader for efficiency.

II. Commissioner Comments

- **Commissioner request:** Take an official group photo to be posted on the city website.
- **Consensus:** No formal vote needed; will coordinate once all commissioners are present.
- **Commissioner Charles** circulated a copy of *Little Rock City Lifestyles* magazine to highlight community updates.

III. Staff Updates

- **Christopher Harvey (Staff Liaison):**
 - Welcomed commissioners and distributed lapel pins.
 - Noted that a **Board Report** must be submitted to the City Board of Directors by year-end.

- Acknowledged the subcommittees' active work and suggested possibly revising the report frequency currently stated in bylaws.
 - **Cody Pritchard (Senior Deputy City Attorney):**
 - Present for legal questions; no opening comments.
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IV. Chief of Police Report – Asst. Chief Andre Dyer

- **Crime update:** Crime rates are trending downward across all divisions.
 - **Caravanning enforcement:** Success in mitigating loud, dangerous gatherings and associated violence.
 - **Rockefeller Elementary incident:** Recent high-profile arrest showcased multi-division coordination.
 - **Curfew enforcement:**
 - Reported as successful with minimal resistance.
 - Credited as a tool that empowered parents and protected youth.
 - **Mental health inquiry:**
 - Clarified that a recent suspect showed no known mental illness but exhibited disturbing behavior.
 - Encouraged care in assuming diagnoses.
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V. Old Business

- **Adoption of July 17 meeting minutes:**
 - Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Follow-up:** Discussion on violence near Tangerine area concluded that the location has cooled down.
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VI. New Business

Youth Violence Reduction & Prevention Subcommittee Report

- **Key activities:**
 - Youth citation data received and analyzed by category.
 - Participation in GPI-related meetings and violence reduction forums.

- Noted Pine Bluff's 530-day youth homicide-free streak.
- Participated in “**Addressing Violence in Pulaski County**” event at Arkansas Baptist College.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Continue evaluating data and supporting youth outreach strategies.
 - Explore collaboration with Pine Bluff officials.
 - Develop a youth survey tool for local schools to assess safety concerns and needs by grade level.
- **City efforts:** Mayor Scott supports potential **GPI (Group Violence Intervention)** adoption for Little Rock, pending funding and partnership details with Pulaski County.

Stabilization Unit Update

- The **County-operated CSU (Crisis Stabilization Unit)** remains closed.
- Noted it was a valuable resource for police and community members.
- Plans to invite a representative from **Pulaski County** or **Sheriff Higgins' office** for an update at the next meeting.

VII. Special Presentation – Project HEAL (Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program at UAMS)

- **Presenters:** Cindy Baker, Dr. Keela Lovely, Dr. Joshua Ellis
- **Overview:**
 - **Project HEAL** serves gunshot and violent assault survivors through a trauma-informed, peer-led model.
 - Services include peer support, bedside intervention, group therapy, housing/employment assistance, and long-term follow-up.
 - Focused on disrupting the **cycle of violence** by offering holistic recovery care and improving life outcomes.
- **Impact:**
 - Participants show reduced PTSD and depression symptoms.
 - Aims to influence wider social circles and reduce recidivism.
- **Needs:**
 - Additional **funding** and **visibility** to expand services.
 - Greater **collaboration** with hospitals and city agencies.

- Referral access across systems (especially Baptist Hospital).
 - **Commission Response:**
 - Expressed deep support for the program.
 - Recognized lack of awareness about the initiative and committed to greater promotion.
 - Agreed to help elevate the program's voice to city leadership.
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VIII. Motions Passed

1. **Motion to Support Project HEAL:**
 - Action: Submit a **letter of support** from the Public Safety Commission to the Board of Directors.
 - Include recommendation for **Project HEAL to formally present** at a future City Board meeting.
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
 2. **Motion to Adjourn:**
 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
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IX. Follow-Up & Action Items

- Coordinate group photo of commissioners for city website.
- Prepare end-of-year Board Report highlighting key progress and programs like Project HEAL.
- Invite county officials to provide CSU update at next meeting.
- Advocate for Project HEAL funding and visibility at the city level.
- Continue participation in GPI partnership development.
- Develop youth survey instrument for school distribution.