

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Public Safety Committee**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 5:30 PM**  
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member  
Maurice Jones, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
Phil Harris, Police Chief  
Bobby Cooper, Fire Chief

City Staff: Tom Jordan, Deputy Police Chief  
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

**A. Welcome & Call to Order**

Committee Chair Gary Daniel called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**B. Certification of Quorum**

Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

**C. Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2021 Meeting**

Motion by Chief Cooper, seconded by Chief Harris to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Police Department Update**

Mr. Fatland informed the committee that Phil Harris plans to retire next summer and has accepted a new role as Public Safety Director. In his new role, he will serve as a community liaison and work with the City Manager to develop a plan to enhance security at the City's public parks, facilities and our trail systems. Deputy Chief Tom Jordan, who has been with the City since January 2021, will be sworn in as Police Chief on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fatland explained that we will not be hiring a new Deputy Chief at this time, so there will be no increase in the budget. Chief Harris will work with Mr. Fatland to develop a plan for his new Public Safety Director role and will share that with the committee when finalized.

Chief Harris reviewed the attached 2021 Update for the Police Department. He noted that in 2020, we had a 30% drop in crime and in looking at current stats, it is likely that we will have another drop in 2021.

Deputy Chief Jordan reported that the Police Department is in the process of setting up a new document management system which allows us to store our policies and create outward facing links to the public. He said this really helps with our policy formation and revisions, and increases our transparency and accountability. He said the Department is also in the process of upgrading its body cameras and he hopes to have the new units operable by the end of November.

## **E. Fire Department Update**

Chief Cooper reported that the Rescue Truck, including the custom cab, was ordered in July. There is a 420 day build time so it will be next fall before we take delivery of the truck.

Chief Cooper said that we were planning to request a brush truck next year along with the engine, but during budget discussions with the County, David McNeill suggested that we add a brush truck to this year's budget. That was approved and is in the budget. Chief Cooper reported that David McNeill is now asking if we have considered combining the engine we are planning to ask for next year with the brush truck and getting a mini pumper. Chief Cooper said that is a totally different truck and would not work for us. David McNeill is asking for a written justification and he is working on that. He said we've got the prices on the brush truck and to save money, we're using the skid unit which is the pump and the tank that's on the current brush truck. Chief Cooper explained that the engine we are looking at replacing next year is the 4WD engine that is 25 years old. We need to have a 4WD engine that can go to fires in the winter time and a mini pumper just doesn't do that.

Chief Cooper said this year's budget also included a LUCAS device, which is a CPR compression device and is a huge time saver and manpower saver when dealing with cardiac arrest and is much more consistent. We have used it several times already.

This month is Fire Prevention Month and the Fire Department is visiting all the schools doing fire prevention education.

Chief Cooper reported that special events are coming back quite frequently. We have had quite a few events already that have gone well and have drawn a lot of people into town.

Chief Cooper will be working with HR Director Kelley Craig and Finance Director Dean Luebbe on a pay study for the Fire Department.

### **Additional Comments:**


Mr. Jones requested a new schedule for vehicle replacement before the next Council Strategic Planning session.

**F. Set Date for Next Meeting**

It was decided that the Committee would meet again when needed.

**G. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

X 

Gary Daniel,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: January 24, 2022

X 

Denise Hodsdon,  
Executive Assitant

## The Brevard Police Department

Update for 2021

### Special Events and Community Contacts during 2021:

- The Police Department, with Public Works and Fire, managed another successful and safe Fourth of July with street closures and safety patrols.
- Required training was accomplished and preparation for diversity, Reentry program for substance misuse, civil unrest, Covid-19 protocols and a number of other needs completed
- Police assisted with special events, including several runs, bike rides, funerals, Assault on the Carolinas and the Mountain Song Festival.
- Assisted several agencies with hiring and promotional testing, including sergeant, lieutenant, and chief positions
- Assisted with several local boards, including SAFE, CARE Coalition, Community Relations Council and Special Olympics
- The Police Department met with "Community Connections" citizens to discuss Police initiatives
- Chief Harris participated as a Board member in the North Carolina Police Executive Association conference in Wilmington.
- Aundrea Harris and Mike Dorsett handed out backpacks and school supplies at a "Back to School" and Basketball Tournament event at the Silversteen Park complex
- The Police Department had the National Night Out event on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, hosting approximately 800 citizens during the night.
- The Department donated extra backpacks and school supplies to the Boys and Girls Club
- The Department conducted limited community tours of the police facility
- The Department assisted Brevard College in a drugs and alcohol educational event at Brevard College
- Chief Harris continued to meet on two state boards: The Joint In-Service Training Committee and the Child Fatality Task Force
- Three officers received WNC National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) "Officer of the Year": Lt. Greg Holden, Sgt. Rick Harbin and Officer Chris Brittain
- Two police employees received lifesaving awards: Lt. Greg Holden and Debbie McCrary

### Personnel changes: The Police Department welcomes these new team members in 2020-21:

- Police Chief Tom Jordan (Hired as Deputy Chief, appointed Chief Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Records Specialist Sherry Phillips
- Administrative Specialist Mike Dorsett
- Auxiliary Officer Sydney Fox
- Auxiliary Officer Chrystal Hibbs
- Auxiliary Officer Sam Hunnicutt
- Officer Jordan Pruitt
- Officer Clint Bolin
- Officer Nick Sansoucy

- Officer Mason Maynard (Promoted from telecommunicator)

Promotions in 2020-21:

- Lt. Jason Page
- Lt. Kathryn Raxter
- Lt. Rick Harbin
- Sgt. Chad Farmer
- Sgt. Brent Sorrells
- Sgt. Chris Brittain

YEAR	POP.	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGG. ASSAULT	VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MV THEFT	ARSON	UCR TOTAL	CRIME PER 1000 POPULATION
2003	6,812	0	0	4	12	16	91	175	7	0	289	42
2004	6,800	0	6	3	18	27	65	195	10	2	297	43
2005	6,761	0	1	2	14	17	65	165	9	3	256	38
2006	6,776	0	3	3	27	33	58	177	7	2	275	41
2007	6,634	1	4	3	25	33	65	211	9	1	310	47
2008	6,674	0	2	6	17	25	75	209	5	0	313	47
2009	6,708	1	3	1	20	25	65	136	7	2	233	35
2010	6,722	0	4	3	14	21	52	149	6	0	228	34
2011	7,705	0	4	4	22	30	71	147	3	0	251	33
2012	7,626	0	2	7	11	20	33	221	5	0	279	37
2013	7,536	0	1	0	9	10	63	210	10	1	293	39
2014	7,636	0	1	2	8	11	41	178	7	n/a	237	31
2015	7,773	0	2	2	5	9	36	142	7	n/a	194	25
2016	7,780	0	4	4	6	14	31	157	4	0	206	26
2017	7,800	1	2	2	9	14	23	142	9	1	189	24
2018	7,850	0	10	2	12	24	23	122	6	0	175	22
2019	7,900	0	6	4	8	18	23	162	3	1	207	26
2020	8,000	0	5	1	7	13	22	106	4	0	145	18

National UCR for 2020: Violent Crime rate: 398.5 per 100,000

**Brevard UCR for 2020: Violent Crime rate: 159 per 100,000**

National UCR for 2020: Property Crime rate: 1,958 per 100,000

**Brevard UCR for 2020: Property Crime rate: 1610 per 100,000**

	US	N. C.	Brevard
Population	327m	10.4m	7,400
Violent rate per 100,000	398	419	159
+/- over 2019	+5%	+11%	-28%
Property rate per 100,000	1958	2131	1610
+/- over 2019	-12%	-11%	-30%

Officers per 1,000 residents:

- U.S. average for all cities: 2.2
- U.S. cities with under 10,000 population: 3.7
- U.S. average for southeast region: 5.2
- U.S. average for southeast region for cities under 10,000 population: 5.2
- Brevard: 3.1