

CITIZEN POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 18, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Citizen Police Advisory Committee met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, New Mexico, 87401.

Members Present: Patricia Simpson Chairman; Michelle Meyering; Terry Hayes; Matt Clugston; David Bratcher

Members Absent: Traci Neff; Gloria Tso

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patricia Simpson at 6:01 p.m., and there being a quorum of members present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

II. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Mayor Duckett gave a brief message, recognizing the service of the Committee members.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

David Bratcher moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Michelle Meyering seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION

The Committee discussed moving the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. Terry Hayes moved to approve the Open Meetings Resolution, changing the meeting time to 5:30 p.m. Michelle Meyering seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve Hebbe gave the Chief's report. He introduced Sgt. Rachel Discenza, who was shot in the May 15th incident. He also talked about the shortage of officers, in general, due to retirements, departures, etc.

Chief Hebbe gave an update on the new FPD property and an estimated timeline of when they'll be able to move in.

FPD will be focusing heavily on traffic-related issues in order to help reduce severe car wrecks and fatalities. Chief Hebbe also talked about some of their budget issues with FPD vehicles.

Patricia Simpson commended the police department for their response to the mass shooting and Chief Hebbe briefly talked about how they handled that situation.

VI. INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Cpt. Nate Lacey discussed the shift in staffing in the Internal Affairs and Use-of-Force divisions.

Sgt. Spruell gave an overview of the Internal Affairs (IA) reports for May and June and Lt. Smith gave an overview of the Use-of-Force reports for March - June. Below are some numbers compared to the prior year.

	May 2022	May 2023
Citizen Complaints	0	2
Internal Affairs Investigations	0	2
Inquiries/Corrective/Disciplinary Action	10	5
Use-of-Force Incidents	3	10

	June 2022	June 2023
Citizen Complaints	1	1
Internal Affairs Investigations	5	0
Inquiries/Corrective/Disciplinary Action	4	4
Use-of-Force Incidents	15	10

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. STAFF – None.
- b. MEMBERS – None.
- c. CITIZEN INPUT – Adam Howell addressed his grievances with the Farmington Police Department, which included filming in public buildings and not being allowed into a press conference. Justin Chee also expressed his feelings regarding FPD violating his first amendment rights. David Albright asked about a couple of the recent shootings, which could not be addressed since they were outside of FPD’s jurisdiction or being investigated by outside entities. Joe Hubbard shared his sentiment regarding the mass shooting.

VIII. CASE REVIEW (Closed Meeting)

David Bratcher made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Matt Clugston, for the Internal Affairs case review. Motion carried unanimously.

Following completion of the closed meeting, during which the matters discussed were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, a motion was made by Michelle Meyering to open the meeting for further business. David Bratcher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. CASE DETERMINATION

Michelle Meyering made a motion to uphold the findings of the Internal Affairs investigation in Case #2023-015, seconded by Matt Clugston. Motion carried unanimously.

Violation of Rules	Exonerated
Unsatisfactory Performance	Sustained

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.


Patricia Simpson, Chairman


Kay Rose, Liaison