

The Police – Citizens Advisory Committee

December 7, 2004

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: City Marshal Thomas Howard, School Superintendent Mary Murray, Ann Burnham, Steve Maguire, Gary Twombly, Joyce Crosby, Ellen Cavan, Officer William Steeves, Sergeant Howie Adams, Ann Lagasse

Committee approved minutes of the November 4, 2004 Meeting.

Ann Lagasse will act as secretary to keep minutes and distribute minutes via email.

Ann Burnham volunteered to act as co-chair. Co-chair will act as chair in the absence of chairman Thomas Howard.

Committee defined the following of the Citizens Advisory Committee:

1) Public comment guidelines:

The public is invited to attend Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. The first half hour of the meeting will be available for public comment. Individuals will be limited to 5 minutes of comment. The Committee will attempt to respond to the issue if the time is available. If not, Committee will respond to the issue in future meetings as an agenda item.

2) Mission Statement:

Improve communication and understanding between police department and the community.

3) Goals/Objectives:

- Act as an advisory body representing various aspects of the community to the Police Marshal;
- Act as a sounding board for the Marshal regarding community needs and concerns, as well as community response to proposed police programs and priorities;
- Assist in educating the community at large about the function and role of the Newburyport Police Department;

- Assist the Marshal as needed in projects and efforts for the benefit of public safety, such as neighborhood programs that could improve services;
- Express the needs and concerns of the Newburyport Police Department to the public;
- Attend quarterly meetings and additional meetings as needed.

4) What the Citizens Advisory Committee is not:

We're not internal affairs of the police department.

We are not public defenders.

Committee decided meetings should begin at 7:00 p.m. and run for no more than 1 ½ hours.

Bike Lanes – Committee member Anne Burnham suggested that rules regarding bike lanes should be communicated to community. T. Howard explained that first; the City Council needs to decide enforcement regulations i.e. parking in bike lanes and who can use the bike lane, i.e. baby strollers, roller bladders, etc. Police department just sent out to media outlets rules regarding use of motorized scooters, etc. Committee decided to hold off on dealing with bike lane issue at this time.

Tickets – Gary T. complimented the police department on an incident when a resident received a motor vehicle warning versus a ticket on High Street. Officer explained to the resident why the violations. Gary appreciated that resident was educated first not ticketed.

Media – Once a week, the police department's media relation's officer meets with a reporter from the Daily News to discuss current events. Suggestions were made to have an occasional cable TV spot and/or newspaper article on a subject important to the police department. T. Howard suggested inviting Daily News J. Macone to next meeting. If the response is positive, committee will then invite other media outlets to attend the meeting. Committee decided the invitation to Mr. Macone should come from the committee. Anne Burnham will invite Mr. Macone.

A drop mailbox will be set up at police station to give the public a place to drop in comments for the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Committee decided to post committee minutes of meetings in the police department web site and minutes will be posted in lobby of police station.

Police department just got \$21,000.00 grant to support the Rapid Response Team of Women's Crisis Center.

Police department just received five deployments for click-it/ticket or drunken drivers patrols, at a \$1,500 a piece plus \$3,000 for equipment to buy radar or car counter equipment.

The City received Federal money for Home Land Security. It was split between fire and police departments. The police department will use its share of the grant to provide officers with training in the use of biotechnical protective equipment.

Police Department just hosted their annual award ceremony. 16 awards were given out. There were life saving awards and awards for home invasion cases where the suspect was arrested on the spot.

M. Murray reported on positive practice for school system. Sargeant Gagnon trained school crossing guards this year. The guards feel it was very beneficial. A question was asked if crossing guard was replaced at High Street and Johnson Street. M. Murray said someone has been hired.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Police Station, 15 Green Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Lagasse