



Community Policing Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Meeting was held at the Rockville City Police Department – 2 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville, MD 20850

Members Present: Eric Schneider, Petra Pacher, Todd Simmons, Kyle Ferraioli, Dennis Dantro, and Steve Bennett were present. Michael Zuckman, Scott Moore, Larry Center, Rebecca Kahlenberg, and Robin Prather were absent.

Staff Present: Chief Jason West, Deputy Chief Barry Dufek, Police Executive Assistant Ebony Parker, and Board Liaison Marissa Valeri were present.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Schneider conducted roll call and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Agenda

Motion: to approve the October 2, 2025, meeting agenda.

Moved by Board member Bennett, seconded by Board member Simmons, unanimously approved.

III. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the September 11, 2025, meeting minutes.

There was no quorum present on September 11, 2025. Therefore, there were no official minutes to approve.

IV. Membership Update – Chairperson Schneider welcomed two new Board members, Mr. Kyle Ferraioli and Mr. Dennis Dantro. He informed the Board that Mr. Ross and Mr. Friedman had recently resigned. Although the Board had been short two members, those vacancies have now been filled with the appointments of the two new members.

V. Guest Speakers

None.

VI. Rockville City Police Updates

RCPD Updates – Chief West provided the following updates:

- **Staffing Update:** Chief West informed the Board that Deputy Chief Dufek officially joined RCPD on Monday, following the completion of a hiring process for the position. For the first time in 15 years, RCPD is now fully staffed and is actively working to fill additional over-hire positions.

Chief West noted that a recent hiring event was held at RCPD to assist in filling these over-hire roles, and it was well- attended by a number of promising candidates.

To support the successful onboarding and integration of new personnel, including 11 recruits currently in the police academy, the department has initiated a strategic planning process.

Additionally, Chief West shared that RCPD is preparing to add a second k-9 position, with plans to implement it in January.

- **Meet RCPD** – Deputy Chief Dufek introduced himself to the Board as the current Deputy Chief for RCPD. He provided a brief overview of his 25-year career in law enforcement, including extensive experience in Loudon County. Deputy Chief Dufek shared that he grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, where he began his public safety career as a dispatcher at the age of 19. He became a sworn police officer at 21 and went on to serve in various divisions within the Loudon County Police Department. After 16 years with the department, he transitioned to a smaller police agency to continue his service.

VII. CPAB Business

Mayor and Council Report – Mr. Schneider brought up the topic of community policing and concepts that help frame its importance. He highlighted some future goals outlined in the Mayor and Council report prepared by the Board over the summer regarding how the Board can support and contribute to the RCPD’s community policing efforts.

Chief West emphasized that community engagement is a significant focus for RCPD, noting the department’s active participation in numerous community events. He stated that community policing remains one of RCPD’s top priorities and shared that the department has received positive feedback and recognition from both community members and external organizations for its efforts to build strong relationships with the community.

Mr. Schneider inquired about how the Board could further assist with community policing efforts. In response, Deputy Chief Dufek proposed the idea of establishing a Community Police Academy for city residents. He also encouraged Board members to participate in various aspects of the department, including ride-alongs, and visits with the K-9 Unit and Field Services Unit. These experiences would provide Board members with firsthand insight into police-community interactions, enabling them to share that knowledge with other residents and help foster greater public understanding and engagement with the police department.

CPAB Rules of Procedure – Mr. Schneider addressed the Board’s rules regarding summer meetings, noting that since the Board was unable to meet during the summer, three work groups were formed to develop sections of the Mayor and Council report. These sections included:

1. A summary of work completed over the past two years
2. Current goals and initiatives for the upcoming year
3. Review of the Board’s current rules and procedures.

He further explained that the review of the rules and procedures was put on hold due to the departure of several Board members, which resulted in the absence of a designated work group to complete that portion of the report.

Mr. Schneider requested that the Board review its existing rules to determine whether any modifications could help improve productivity and efficiency. He noted that certain changes may require approval from the City Attorney’s Office and stated he would reach out to the appropriate City Attorney contact to initiate that process, if necessary. Mr. Schneider further directed the Board to begin reviewing and revising its rules over the next few months with the goal of ensuring the Board operates more smoothly and effectively.

Priorities for Board – Mr. Schneider introduced a discussion on three priorities that the Board can begin working on and noted that a list had already been submitted City Council.

Meeting Schedule – Mr. Schneider brought up the next meeting date, which is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025. He also mentioned that he would check with the City Attorney’s Office to determine whether a December meeting can be held. Ms. Valeri added that he could also consult with the Boards and Commissions Coordinator to confirm whether the Board is permitted to hold a meeting in December.

VIII. New Business

Community Police Academy Participation – Mr. Dantro asked whether the Board would consider opening the Community Police Academy to high school students who are interested in participating for volunteer hours and to foster early interest in the law enforcement profession, with the goal of encouraging future recruitment after graduation.

Deputy Chef Dufek agreed that it is a good idea and could be explored in the future during the development of the Community Police Academy. He also noted that there is currently an age cap of 16 due to safety concerns and policies related to the Ride- Along program.

IX. Upcoming Meetings & Adjournment

The next meeting of the CPAB will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Board member Simmons, motion seconded by Bennett, motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.