

Murray PSA Board Meeting

Murray Public Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Held via Zoom: 6:00 to 7:30 pm

In attendance: Chairperson: Alli Garrison; Vice Chairperson: Andrea Washburn; Police Chief Craig Burnett; Fire Chief Jon Harris; Police Lt. Mike Obrey; Brian Lohrke; Scott Goodman; John Prestwich (joining us from Disney World); Wayne Manu; Deborah Crane; and G.L. Critchfield (Murray City Attorney) will present.

Agenda Items:

#1. Issues and training for Board Members: G.L. Critchfield

Mr. Critchfield reviewed information, policies and procedures the board must follow as a public body. There will be a period of development and understanding of the board responsibilities but his advice is to “find your lane and stay in it.”

Important points as a member of a public body—taking a global view of some of those responsibilities.

Open Meeting Act – our agenda and minutes are available to the public with the agenda released at least 24 hours before meeting. All meetings are open to the public. Board Members (7 on the board) should not meet separate from approved open meeting in groups of 4 individuals or more as this violates the OMA. This includes addressing issues on social media. Individual board members cannot act alone in a response or related to social media as they do not have the authority to speak for board.

The board assignment is advisory and should work at all times through Fire and Police Staff assigned to the board.

We utilize Robert’s Rules of Order for conducting meetings.

Board as a public body is subject to the **Ethics Act** – which in this scenario would generally mean we cannot act on information we receive in the process of serving on board for personal gain.

Social media – we must be careful in speaking out on social media on issues addressed on board and should work through the staff (fire and police) in any information released to community.

Agenda – is a roadmap for our board meetings and we should not discuss items that are not on the agenda.

Mr. Critchfield will make additional visits to the board meeting for further training.

#2. Overview of current training on Implicit Bias

Lt. Obrey addressed the training police officers receive on this issue. Police officers are required to complete 40 hours of in-service or training per year to maintain their job. Before an officer is hired, they must go through a state police academy training. Once they are hired by the department, they go through a 14-week training under a Field Training Officer’s supervision.

State legislature recently passed this year on issue of bias training, however, the police department has already presented many classes on this topic—for example; how to overcome and address unconscious bias, inclusion, de-escalation training, sensitivity, duty to intervene have all been presented. In addition, there are trainings on fire arms and weapons, emergency vehicle training, taser and baton use, and sexual harassment. Lt. Obrey identified a recent training with Dr. David Parker regarding awareness and bias issues.

Chief Harris identified some training that has recently been presented such as sensitivity training and information on gender appropriate dialog.

Wayne asked—*What factors do you look for to identify if training is effective and how do you measure or gage its success?*

Brian –identified as an officer for the state they didn’t have a metric measurement per se but individuals had an avenue to report issues to department authority.

Andrea – *have you seen a reduction in complaints after the implicit bias training was presented?*

Murray PSA Board Meeting

Wayne – *what are the numbers of complaints of incidents?*

Human resources department train all city employees on specific workplace acceptable behavior.

Lt. Obrey indicated that data is kept and collected by the police on complaint issues. Murray Police Department identifies a low volume of complaints.

#3. Historical context of communication between Police and Fire departments with the community.

Chief Burnett: Historically information was disseminated through newspapers but with technology and social media availability they utilize social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In addition, the police have a webpage on the Murray City website,.

Chief Harris: The Fire Department has opportunities for community interaction with training they offer to public – for example, CPR training.

In addition, fire department personnel visit local business on a rotation of once in a three-year period. The fire department officers do a significant amount of public speaker in local community groups, churches and schools.

Also, Health and Safety Fair is held each year (with exception to this past year because of the pandemic); EMS week BBQ for public, and July 4th Parade and festivities.

Chief Harris also indicated that on his webpage he has attached a contact form for the community to ask questions or to address complaints. He generally receives approximately 2 per week.

Brian indicated it was a good process for citizens to be able to go right to the source for information or address concerns.

Lt. Obrey indicated in a serious incident such as shooting or serious accident, a Public Information Officer is assigned to disseminate information to media and the public. This platform is designed to have accurate information released from one source.

Scott offered a suggestion for a positive platform for information and questions opened to the community that is utilized by the Army, a live Facebook session. It has been very successful for them.

In addition, the police department had a “Cups and Cops” at local coffee houses in which individuals from the community could come and have a face-to-face conversation with officers. This was very successful activity.

#4. Current Use of Force training, polices and statistics-

Lt. Obrey indicated that more information will be available in the process of training the board members. He did identify there are polices in place –for example, choke holds have never been allowed. There is extensive training on defensive strategies with tasers, baton, etc.

A report of *use of force* is kept and monitored. This includes anything above a basic handcuffing process. From January 1, 2019 to current, there have been 120 uses of force identified. As the Internal Affairs officer one of his responsibilities is to review and address these issues.

Chief Burnett identified that on the Police webpage the policy and procedure manual is available to any member of the community.

Brian indicated that in an effort to be transparent a department will make available the procedures but not specific deployment of plans.

Alli – we will have a better idea of this information and how to effectively support as we gain our board training.

Item before next meeting:

Alli will provide a Google Document for board members to identify the best times available as the police and fire departments designed our training experiences.

Meeting adjourned.