

Present: Dan Abbott, N. Arnold, Donald Benthin, Jim Blocker, Brian Brusach, Casey Coker, Kevin Conklin, Justin Faris, Bryan Ergang, Diane Fort, Gretchen Galloway, Mark Honeysett, Julie Kelly, Eric Marshall, Scott Merlos, Dale Mitchell, Zoann Snyder, Susan Standish, Dennis Wilkins

Absent: Sholanna Lewis

KVCC: Jessica Brinks, Kenyatta Herrion, Victor Ledbetter, Kara Protz-Sanders, Karen Rivard

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1. Eric Marshall called the meeting to order
 2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The Minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting were approved as written.
 3. Election of Chief Arnold to replace Eric Marshall as new chair of the committee
 - a. Chief Blocker agrees to remain the vice chair
 4. Karen Rivard provided the following updates for her department
 - a. The Law Enforcement credit program was forced to go online when the pandemic hit.
 - b. Fall of 2021 will offer hybrid classes; online and in-person learning
 - c. The Law Enforcement Department and Victor Ledbetter have collaborated for a career technology grant through the Urban Institute for \$30,000. This grant is intended to develop the online courses to be more inclusive and equitable.
 - i. Currently, a lot of underrepresented groups rely on the online courses but there can be technology barriers.
 - d. A goal for 2021 is to have law enforcement Instructors be more of an ambassador to the different local law enforcement departments. This will ensure better communication on the needs of these departments.
 5. Discussion of the Duty to Intervene policy
 - a. It was determined that this is a state-mandated policy
 - b. A recommendation was made to have a local judge or attorney speak with the class regarding this policy and best practices
 - c. An additional recommendation was to incorporate a review of this policy during the defensive tactics section to demonstrate what intervening with a fellow officer might look like in the case of excessive force
 6. Victor Ledbetter presented the following Police Academy Updates
 - a. The most recent police academy had their graduation on May 14th 2021
 - i. Due to pandemic there were no personal guests but they were able to have a keynote speaker
 - b. This program started with 21 cadets and will graduate with 17, all with conditional job offers
 - i. All four cadets who dropped, did so in the first week of the academy



- c. Currently working on the schedule for fall which presents unique challenges having over 79 instructors to plug in to 16 weeks.
 - d. After the recent shooting of Daunte Wright, the academy would like to implement Taser training into the curriculum
 - i. The Police Academy will be seeking a Taser instructor who can implement that into the academy.
 - ii. Additionally, the academy is seeking donations of any used Tasers for training purposes (Gun Lake donated 9 tasers)
 - e. A review of current events with the students including the traffic stop in Virginia involving a Black military officer as well as the Michigan State Trooper who used his canine to subdue an unarmed citizen
 - i. Productive discussion on how the students would have handled these situations
 - f. Positive feedback received regarding the suicide prevention and mental health classes
 - i. Two different alumni have already utilized the training from these courses after seeing real life situations that impacted their mental health. They credited this program for the positive steps they took to safeguard their lives
 - g. The next Police Academy starts August 3rd and will run through December 14th
 - i. This academy currently has about 30 cadets
7. Discussion of the nation-wide challenge of recruitment for Law Enforcement positions
- a. The Board of Directors Michigan association chiefs of police will specifically address this ongoing issue
 - i. Additionally they will discuss the lack of the ammunition.
 - b. Currently law enforcement departments are only replacing about half of the retirees across the nation
8. Discussion of changing the process to interview cadets for prospective jobs
- a. Coordination of schedules can be an issue due to MCOLES mandated training where no sessions can be missed, otherwise the academy director and the program specialist will attempt to be accommodating to future requests
9. Request for any agency selling vehicles, especially Explorers, to give KVCC first dibs as we need to increase our fleet for emergency vehicle operations
10. Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: TBD
Kalamazoo Valley Groves Campus
7107 Elm Valley Dr | Kalamazoo MI 49009

