

TOWN OF BLUFFTON
LAW ENFORCEMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 12th, 2023

Members present: Michael Frazier, George Baily, Reggie Howard, Tabor Vaux, Mayra Rivera-Vazquez

Members Not Present: Bill O'Toole, Jennifer Morrow

Staff Present: Chief Joe Babkiewicz, Sergeant M. Ferrelli.

Michael Frazier called the meeting to order at 18:00 hrs. at the Henry "Emmett" McCracken Council Chambers located at 20 Bridge Street, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments to be addressed at the meeting.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

Bluffton Police Department Update:

- Chief Babkiewicz provided the LECAC committee an update on the Bluffton Police Department.
- Chief Babkiewicz provided the committee with the monthly stats for September 2023.
- Chief Babkiewicz advised the committee that motor vehicle collisions decreased by 9, however still remain an issue.
- Chief Babkiewicz advised that he has held two discussion forums with the community at the police department recently, to discuss traffic enforcement and collisions. In addition, he has also attended several local community HOA meetings to discuss the same topics with residents.
- Chief Babkiewicz discussed the recent home burglary attempts that have occurred in Bluffton. He provided updates on the investigations, and what steps the department is taking to address the issue to the extent he could disclose.
- Chief Babkiewicz discussed with the committee some upcoming special events to include the Arts & Seafood festival, the Spooktacular event, and the trunk or treat being held at the Boys & Girls club in mid-October.
- Chief Babkiewicz advised the committee that the Night of Unity had to be postponed due to inclement weather, and a make up date has yet to be determined.
- Chief Babkiewicz spoke about that department's Citizen police Academy which has recently kicked off for a fifth year in a row. He advised that it continues to be a popular event with the community and is off to another good start with a full class of citizens.
- Chief Babkiewicz advised the committee about the new administration Sgt. position that has recently been filled. He discussed the roles and responsibilities of such, including having a review of all department policies for updating and revamping those that need attention. He advised that this will begin in January, and would like the committees input on the policy reviews.

- Chief Babkiewicz provided the committee with a department staffing update. Currently there remain six openings for Class 1 officers, and four openings for Class 3 SRO's. Once filled the department will be at full staff.
- Chief Babkiewicz provided an update on Officer Laccasaglia and his fiancé and ways the department and community members can go about assisting them if they would like.
- Chief Babkiewicz advised the committee on the Town's strategic plan, to include staffing and rezoning the town's areas of responsibility for the police department to decrease officer response time and increase officer safety. Discussed the desire to implement FLOCK cameras throughout the town for better surveillance and increased investigatory use. He also mentioned the desire to create an intel analyst position for the department.
- Chief Babkiewicz discussed the 30 for 30 program to include an upcoming female officer recruitment event which encompasses three surrounding agencies, to be held at the BPD. He also advised that the department is working with the town to implement a maternity leave / paternal leave program that would include full pay for those out on either leave type.

A motion to adjourn was made at 1835 hrs. and all members seconded the motion.

Per the guidelines set forth in the provisions the next monthly meeting will occur the second Thursday of the month. The next scheduled LECAC meeting would be on November 9th, 2023, at 1800hrs.

Sergeant Matt Ferrelli

Secretary