



**POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**
Thursday, January 19, 2023
4:00 PM

The Purpose of the Grand Rapids Police Community Advisory Board (The Board) shall be to establish and enhance communication between Grand Rapids residents, Police Department and City Council. Together, the Advisory Board and Police Department will identify and focus on public safety issues and collaborate with community leaders, community organizations and stakeholders in developing solutions to multi-faceted community concerns. The Board provides recommendations to the Chief of Police and City Council as to how issues should be addressed.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Police Community Advisory Board will hold a regular meeting on Thursday January 19, 2023 at 4:00 PM in Conference Room 2B at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids.

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC INPUT (if anyone wishes to address the Board):

SETTING THE AGENDA: This is the time to for a Board Member to request addition or removal of a item to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

- [1.](#) Approve of October 22, 2022

BUSINESS:

2. Election of Officer's for 2023

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

3. Consider setting meeting schedule.

- [4.](#) GRPD K9 Hangs up his leash
- [5.](#) Proposed New Officer
6. Alice Training / School Safety - Robert J Elkington Middle School - January 23, 2023
- [7.](#) Upcoming Community Presentation
Grand Rapids Hotel / Motel Interdiction Presentation January 31, 2023
8. Upcoming Community Event
Polar Plunge March 18, 2023
- [9.](#) Officer Wellness Program
- [10.](#) AIM VCET - YTD Snapshot

UPDATES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

ATTEST:

MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

The Board shall meet at minimum, four times each year as determined by the chair. A regular meeting may be cancelled by the chair or a majority of the Board. Every Board member shall be required to attend at least 75% of all meetings each calendar year. Board members who are unable to meet the attendance requirements may be removed by a majority vote of the Board. Prior to a vote considering the potential removal of a member, the member shall be afforded an opportunity to explain his or her reason for non-attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS AND TERM EXPIRATION

Jillian Buck	12/31/2024	Dan Butterfield	12/31/2023
Stephen Connolly	12/31/2023	Dana Butler	12/31/2024
Pam Dowell	12/31/2023	Kerry Clausen	12/31/2025
Tom Nuestrom	12/31/2025	Richy Pederson	12/31/2024
Wendy Uzelac	12/31/2025		

Grand Rapids Police Community Advisory Board (PCAB)
Location: Grand Rapids City Hall – Council Chambers
Meeting Date: October 20, 2022 at 4:00 pm

MINUTES

ROLL CALL:

Present: Police Chief Steve Schaar, Captain Andy Morgan, Captain Kevin Ott

Guest Presenter: Erik Scott – GR City IT

PCAB Members: Jillian Buck, Dana Butler, Dan Butterfield, Steve Connolly, Pam Dowell, Tom Neustrom, Richy Pederson, Wendy Uzelac

PUBLIC INPUT: None

AGENDA:

- City Email going forward and technical information – presentation by Erik Scott, IT – City of Grand Rapids. City volunteers may continue with City email addresses, use their own personal email or create another alternative email.
- Safety Camp Review – Capt. Morgan outlined the event, and participants, and presented photos of the day's activities.
- GRPD presentation to local social services/out-of-home juvenile providers – Capt. Morgan provided an overview that was given to an audience of foster providers and Itaskin Juvenile Center staff.
- Letters of Appreciation: Officers Norris, Moran, Lease, Carlson. Letters were given to PCAB members and an overview was presented by Capt. Morgan.
- BCA Uniform Crime Report and Predatory Report: Capt. Morgan presented an overview of the BCA Crime Report and the City of GRPD predatory offender registry.
- NAMI presentation at the Reif Center – Trauma, Recovery, Resilience and Wellness overview.
- Swatting Letter – overview of the letter that was sent out from the GRPD and District #318 regarding false Sept. 21, 2022 "swatting" calls that went to various law enforcement agencies throughout MN alleging threats at local schools.
- Active shooting training overview and newspaper articles on the training. Capt. Morgan reported a good attendance of a mix of area LE, PCAB members, city council, District #318 reps, area chaplains, etc. Morgan said the GRPD is building a good in-house training program and will continue to provide more outreach from that training.
- Discussion about continuing "Riding Along" stories where a PCAB member rides with a GRPD officer so cross public relation and communication is exchanged between the citizen volunteer and law enforcement. PCAB member Jillian Buck said she would like to be interviewed from her ride-a-long with Officer Ashley Moran. Pam Dowell will follow up with both. Richy Pederson offered that he would like to participate next.

- UPCOMING – SHOP WITH A HERO will be held on December 11, 2022. Capt. Morgan said the activity starts at 9 am and encouraged PCAB members to participate at the wrapping tables. If members know of candidates for the event, they can contact Morgan for the form. PCAB members Wendy Uzelac and Pam Dowell stated they would volunteer.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

APPROVE MINUTES:

- August 4, 2022 minutes were approved. First motion by Pam Dowell. Second motion by Dan Butterfield. All approved.

BUSINESS:

- Tom Neustrom asked the GR City Council members to be invited to attend PCAB meetings in the next year – perhaps alternate attendance. Will add it as an AGENDA item for the next meeting.
- Richy Pederson inquired on the best process for bringing forward citizen concerns to a PCAB meeting. He was advised pending the situation – the issue could be addressed as an agenda item or in the business section of each PCAB meeting.
- Wendy Uzelac, who also serves on the AG Association Board at the Fairgrounds, discussed ongoing problems with property damage and misc. vandalism at the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are in the city proper and she inquired about the added patrol. Capt. Ott said he would bring it to the patrol teams.

UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Notification of END OF TERMS for Wendy Uzelac and Tom Neustrom and a reminder to re-apply if wanting to continue in service. Also, an announcement for Election of Officers at the next PCAB meeting to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 4 pm – held at City Hall.

SET AGENDA:

- Neustrom – a recommendation to invite GR City Council to attend a PCAB meeting
- Dowell – re-introduce increasing PCAB meetings from 4 times per year to 6 times per year, meeting every other month, as was practiced prior to Covid.

ADJOURN – All approved

Respectfully submitted: Pam Dowell, Secretary PCAB

'Happy Retirement Radar!'

Item 4.

GRPD K9 hangs up his leash

BY BRITTA ARENDT
HERALD-REVIEW

Life for the city's best employee is about to change - big time.

After eight years with the Grand Rapids Police Department, their K9 officer Radar, is headed for retirement. The early morning, mile-long runs along the squad car before work, will probably be later in the day now. Instead of sniffing around city hall, Radar will now lounge with the O'Briens' three other dogs at home.

This mature native of the Czech Republic will turn 10 years old on Groundhog's Day 2023. For his age, Radar is "in phenomenal health" says the vet.

"I don't think we could have got a better dog," believes O'Brien. "He's great with people, healthy and obedient."

Radar has only missed two shifts during his entire career with the GRPD and that was for a minor injury to his foot. As O'Brien explained, the German Shepherd breed is known for hip deterioration as they age but Radar has had no hip issues yet.

According to O'Brien, most K9 officers retire at about 8 or 9. He is happy to be finishing up this K9's service on top.

"He's retiring at the right time - we've had no issues or complaints," said O'Brien as he put it into perspective. "If a gun dog screws up, it doesn't get the bird; if [Radar] screws up we get sued."

If Radar could talk, he would most likely describe his job with the GRPD as "very rewarding."

The entire work of a K9 is reward driven. From the moment O'Brien appears dressed in his uniform to when they're headed home after a shift, Radar has his eyes on the prize - usually a big red KONG dog toy.

PHOTOS BY
BRITTA ARENDT
GRPD K9 Radar is retiring after eight years with the department. The German Shepherd is leaving in good health to live with handler Gary O'Brien (pictured with Radar). A retirement party was held Dec. 6 at City Hall where fellow officers and friends presented Radar with several gifts of chew toys and Milk Bones as well





GRPD,

With Radar's recent retirement, we are now looking to explore how the department moves forward with the potential of a replacement K9. For absolute transparency to all, we have not been guaranteed by City leadership that this considerable expense is possible. In the past, we have strongly relied on the forfeiture balance to satisfy some major equipment investments partially or completely. The 2022 BWC investment substantially reduced the forfeiture balance by \$37,000.

The intent of this email is to find interested and qualified staff members and then create a work group to conduct research on various aspects of a GRPD K9 program. K9 aspects that quickly come to mind would be.

- K9 Disciplines
 - Track
 - Apprehend
 - Dope
 - Other
- K9 Breed
 - Male / Female
- K9 Breeder Options
 - Availability / \$\$
- Required changes / updates to our GRPD 318 Canine Program Policy
- Other

Attached you will find the current GRPD Policy 318 that identifies qualifications of a potential K9 handler

318.4 SELECTION OF CANINE HANDLERS

The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler:

- (a) Grand Rapids Police Department officer (currently off probation).
- (b) Reside in an adequately fenced, single-family residence.
- (c) Have an area where the canine unit can be secured and will accommodate a canine unit.
- (d) Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum of **three years**. (Commitment Term Under Review / will greatly increased)

The hope is that we can leverage a small group of interested staff members to better understand and research our past K9 service strengths / weaknesses / utilizations, community's needs, department's wishes, level of financial commitment, K9 case law along with other contributing unknown factors. This will ensure that we invest, assuming approval, in what best meets our needs. Towards the end of this research process we will then set interviews where department leadership will select one GRPD member

to be GRPD's K9 handler. Assuming that more than one staff member expresses interest,,,,, some folks will put additional work in and not be selected.

As Gary has repeatedly said in the past- "This is your dog"--- Let's put the necessary work in to ensure success.

Please submit brief letters of interest to Captain Andy Morgan by December 22, 2022 1600hrs. Forming the work group and the research will begin shortly thereafter.

For those who are not interested in being a K9 handler but still wish to express their wishes / opinion, look me up.

Thanks,

Andy

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

GRAND RAPIDS, MN

Full-time Police Officer

Deadline: Friday, December 30, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Enjoy Northern Minnesota's fantastic fishing, hunting, and other outdoor activities while living and working in the police supportive community of Grand Rapids (population approximately 11,000). The Grand Rapids Police Department is looking for highly motivated, dedicated applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Police Officer. Qualified candidates will have a high school diploma or equivalent, completed two (2) years of post-secondary education in law enforcement or related field, possession of a Minnesota POST Board License or eligible at time of appointment or licensed by another state and eligible for reciprocity through the Minnesota POST, and a valid driver's license.

The starting salary is \$29.60 per hour with a maximum salary of \$35.74 per hour (2022-2025 contract), which is reached in five (5) years. In addition, there is holiday pay, night-shift differential pay, and longevity pay at 10, 15 and 20-years of service. The schedule consists of working 12-hour shifts, rotating every six (6) weeks between nights and days, with every other weekend off. The fourteen (14) day pay period consists of five (5) on and five (5) off, situated around your weekend off, and two (2) on and two (2) off.

The City of Grand Rapids provides a fully paid premium for health, dental and vision insurance at no cost to the employee or their family. Other benefits include twelve (12) observed holidays, vacation time, extended medical leave, and a compensatory time bank. Grand Rapids Police Officers receive a 14-week FTO program, take home squad cars that are replaced every 4-5 years, body and squad cameras, continuing education reimbursement, yearly clothing allowance, and extensive training opportunities. Opportunities within the department include D.A.R.E. Officer, SWAT, K-9 program, Investigator, School Resource Officer, and instructor opportunities.

There is special consideration for a 4-year degree or higher education, military experience and prior law enforcement experience. Lateral transfers are encouraged to apply and may receive an elevated rate of pay depending on desired work history within or related to law enforcement. Employment with the City of Grand Rapids is contingent upon satisfactory results of a background investigation, recruitment testing instruments, physical and psychological examinations, and City Council approval.

Becoming a Police Officer in Grand Rapids, MN, allows officers the opportunity and time to build collaborative relationships with businesses and community members. Begin your career in Grand Rapids. We are dedicated to enhance your skills, training, and education, which provides you with the foundation to have a fulfilling law enforcement career and become a future leader within the Grand Rapids Police Department and community. We invite you to invest in a community that will invest in you.

For a full job description and application: <https://cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/jobs>

Grand Rapids Police Department
420 N Pokegama Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2662
218-326-3464



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

Item 7.

GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE, GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744-2662

Greetings,

The Grand Rapids Police Department would like to invite you to a hotel / motel interdiction class at the Timberlake Lodge on January 31, 2023. The presentation will be hosted by the Grand Rapids Police Department and partnered with the area drug task force, Aitkin Itasca Mille Lac (AIM VCET). The class will be held at the Timberlake Event Center from 1pm-3pm. The hope is to provide your employees with education on a variety of criminal activity that often happens within the lodging industry. The following topics will be the focus of this event:

- Identifying criminal activity
 - Drugs
 - Sex Crimes
 - Property Crimes
 - Trespass
- Identify suspicious activity
- Role of management when dealing with criminal activity

The goal is to make our community a safer place by educating and promoting more successful partnerships between law enforcement and hotel providers serving the Grand Rapids area. We truly believe that improving communication will bring a better understanding of the police services that we can offer. At the end of the presentation, there will be time for questions and answers, as well as an opportunity for community partners to provide additional information to the panel.

The panel will include members from the Grand Rapids Police Department and AIM VCET.

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Police Department, I strongly encourage all to attend.

Respectfully,

Captain Andy Morgan





CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

GRAND RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE, GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744-2662

Grand Rapids Police Employees,

The calling to law enforcement that each of us has accepted comes with great honor but also considerable exposure to repeated, traumatic events that are inherently dangerous and specific to this field. We are always the first answer to community's concerns and often exposed to deal with the worst humanity has to offer. GRPD Officer Wellness Program is a positive way we can heal from all of the traumatic interactions with society as well as any personal stresses that exist. I know as resilient people, we far too often ignored our own personal wellness. This needs to stop and we can do better. If you do not wish to do this for yourself, do it for your loved ones and those who tirelessly stand next to you proudly serving. The goal of this pilot project is to improve overall individual health to ensure that we can enjoy the time we have on and off the clock.

On March 9, Grand Rapids Police will implement the first of four opportunities for all full-time staff to attend an Officer Wellness session with Chaplain Breitbarth. The purpose of this session is to provide a therapeutic, one on one, confidential, at no cost session with a benefit similar to an EAP (Employee Assistance Program). The employer will be paying all costs associated. The only information from the session that the employer will have access to is confirmation that each staff member has attended as mandated. The sessions will be 50 minutes long and content is totally dictated by the participating employee. There will be a brief period between each session and we ask that you be mindful to those next visiting.

As always, we will be utilizing Tuesday and Thursdays to accommodate both sides of the patrol schedule. Staff members who are not working will be paid at an overtime rate for two (2) hours just as detailed in current contracts under 12.4. Call Back Time. It is the department's wishes to have these done during days off so that patrol staff members are not forced to quickly return to work following the session. Administrative, Investigation, School Resource Officers and support staff will be attending on a Wednesday while on duty. Those folks will be provided the same two hour window before their expected to return to work. Off-duty staff members are welcome to drive squad cars or personal vehicles.

This session will be confidential one on one session with Steve and be held off site in Grand Rapids. We have secured a conference room at Timberlake Lodge to ensure a neutral, discreet setting that is free of possible distractions. A conference room on the south east side of the hotel (near pool area) will be utilized. Attending staff can enter and exit by use of the nearby door that is seldom used during business hours of the regular week.

Follow up sessions are available if the employee should so desire. Those arrangements will be made directly between employee and Steve Breitbarth. Such follow up services will also be at no charge to the


employee but limited to three (3) individual follow up sessions. The employee will not receive hourly compensation for such follow up sessions. Breitbarth will bill the city every 30 days with reporting no participating employee identifiers. If Breitbarth believes that additional individual services are appropriate, exceeding the three (3) follow up sessions, Breitbarth and employee can make arrangements through other him or other providers and the employee's insurance can then be utilized.

Captain Andy Morgan will be handling the schedule and this will also be kept confidential. Those of you who feel you may need continued session(s) may do so.

Chaplain Steve Breitbarth is the right guy for the job. He currently serves as a Chaplain to local Law Enforcement, Fire Departments and Ambulance/EMS Services within the St Louis County Area. He has 36 years of experience working with area schools to address crisis issues such as bullying and sexual abuse. He is married for over 49 years, has three children and eight grandchildren and has been a Chisholm Parish Pastor for 37 years. He is a great guy with an unmatched passion and commitment to serve emergency responders.

Attached you will find a more complete resume and state therapy license for Steve Breitbarth.

Respectfully



Steve Schaar
Chief of Police

AIM VCET - YTD Snapshot*

The Aitkin-Itasca-Mille Lacs Violent Crimes Enforcement Team (AIM VCET) was created in January of 2022 and received State of Minnesota grant funding to investigate, identify, and disrupt illegal drug activity within the jurisdictions of the AIM VCET members.

Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the 3 counties have signed a joint powers agreement allowing law enforcement officers from Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, Aitkin Police Department, Itasca County Sheriff's Office, Grand Rapids Police Department and the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office to seek out and conduct criminal investigations on those who are involved with violent crimes.

Since the AIM VCET has been operational Agents assigned have successfully investigated numerous crimes resulting in the following arrests and seizures.

YTD Drug Arrests by Charge*

	1 st Degree	2 nd Degree	3 rd Degree	4 th Degree	5 th Degree	Total
Itasca County Possession			3	1	7	11
Itasca County Sales	5		1		1	7
AC/MLC Possession	1		4	1	17	23
AC/MLC Sales	4				2	6
Total	10		8	2	27	47
Itasca County Warrants/Non-Drug Arrests						15
AC/MLC Warrants/Non-Drug Arrests						4

Itasca County Narcotics Seizures and Purchases

For the period ending **November 30, 2022**, the AIM VCET seized and purchased:

1. A combined total of **927.21 grams (2.04 pounds)** of Methamphetamine, having a street value of **\$68,626.61**
2. A combined total of **1.25 gram** of Heroin/Fentanyl, having a street value of **\$171**
3. A combined total of **368.75** prescription pills, having a street value of **\$1,619.88**
4. A combined total of **2,253.65 grams (4.96 pounds)** of Marijuana, having a street value of **\$8,130.54**
5. A combined total of **1,354.77 grams (2.98 pounds)** of Marijuana Concentrates, having a street value of **\$74,246.00**

Total Street Value of Drugs Seized and Purchased: \$152,794.03

Children removed from endangerment: 5

Currency seized: **\$6,606**, pending administrative forfeiture

Total of 14 Firearms Seized

AC/MLC Narcotics Seizures and Purchases

For the period ending **November 30, 2022**, the AIM VCET seized and purchased:

1. A combined total of **2** grams of Fentanyl having a street value of **\$ 222**
2. A combined total of **1,948.74** grams (**4.30** pounds) of Methamphetamine, having a street value of **\$144,267.39**
3. A combined total of **2** gram of Heroin/Fentanyl, having a street value of **\$ 222**
4. A combined total of **82.5** prescription pills, having a street value of **\$914.94**
5. A combined total of **4,263.16** grams (**9.40** pounds) of Marijuana, having a street value of **\$15,380.20**
6. A combined total of **405** grams (**.89** pounds) of Marijuana Concentrates, having a street value of **\$24,300**
7. A combined total of **1.97** grams of Mushrooms, having a street value of **\$78.80**

Total Street Value of Drugs Seized and Purchased: \$185,385.33

Currency seized: **\$22,359** pending administrative forfeiture

Total of 7 Firearms Seized

The AIM VCET requests that if any citizens in the three county coverage area have concerns or information regarding ongoing criminal activity involving drugs or violent crimes to please contact their local dispatch centers or the AIM VCET office at 218-927-7449.

***** Data as of November 30, 2022 *****