

MINUTES

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

OLD CITY HALL, 510 GREENE STREET

MONDAY, March 25, 2013

A regular meeting of the City of Key West Citizen Review Board was held in the side room of the Commission Chambers, Old City Hall, on Monday, March 25, 2013.

Chairman Kevin Collins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Answering roll call were Board members Virginia Altobello, Joe Pais, Michael Behrend, Tom Milone, Hayward Magby, Vice Chair Larry Beaver and Chairman Kevin Collins. Also present were Executive Director Susan Srch, Counsel Robert Cintron, KWPD Chief Donie Lee and KWPD Sgt. Joe Tripp.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was given by all present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved.

MINUTES – February 25, 2013

Ms. Altobello made a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2013, second by Mr. Pais. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items on the agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Counsel Robert Cintron did a brief follow-up on the various TASER case laws he had researched and presented to the Board at the January 28, 2013 meeting. Ms. Altobello asks Mr. Cintron to keep the Board apprised of any updates or changes to the case law regarding the use of TASERs.

Chair Collins asks about the training officers receive for the use of TASERs and whether they are trained in where on the body they can use the TASER. Chief Lee responds that they are trained to aim for "center mass".

Mr. Pais asks if there are numbers on how many TASER complaints there have been in the United States. Mr. Cintron states that he doesn't know what the numbers are but not as many as he expected; more like a handful rather than larger numbers.

Chair Collins asks if the majority of police departments use TASERs. Chief Lee and Sgt. Tripp point out that while TASERs are widely accepted many police departments are smaller and cannot afford the purchase.

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

ED Srch advises the Board that advertising for Mr. Magbys' position will begin on April 1, 2013. She further states that advertising will continue until the end of May 2013, with the deadline for applications being May 31, 2013 at 5 p.m. Mr. Magby must re-apply with application as well as letter of recommendation/sponsorship included in his packet. All applications received will then be put on the June 18, 2013 City Commission agenda for appointment by the Commissioners. ED advises that the position was talked about on Morning Magazine with Bill Becker, was announced to the current Ambassador Class, sending e-mails to several people that had expressed interest, and letters will be sent to various organizations as per the Charter.

ED advises that her contract will be expiring in May 2013 and will therefore be on the April agenda for renewal.

ED advises that the newest Board member, should there be one, will be attending the NACOLE conference in Salt Lake City in September, 23-26. ED wants other Board members to think about who the second attendee might be. Chair Collins brings up the possibility of Counsel Cintron attending.

Counsel Cintron states he has nothing further.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment nor did anyone sign up to speak.

BOARD COMMENT:

Chair Collins would like the topic of police training put on the agenda for next month.

Ms. Altobello brings up the question made at the last meeting on how officers are assigned to work different districts, specifically Bahama Village. Chief Lee responds that KWPD has two (2) black police officers. He goes on to say that the department is always seeking to recruit African Americans, both men and women, but are continually understaffed in that area. He goes on to say that the city is split into six (6) beats and they try to keep officers in certain beats for a length of time so that they can build relationships with the residents and business owners in that area. He further states that supervisors try to assign officers that want to patrol in a certain beat.

Mr. Magby makes the point that Bahama Village does not have the demographics that it once did; that being mainly African American and Bahamian.

Mr. Milone would like information on training the new recruit gets once they graduate from the academy. Chief Lee gives a brief explanation about the Field Training Program and Sgt. Tripp asks Board members for specific questions on training that he can address at the next meeting.

Ms. Altobello states that she looked at the academy curriculum as is amazed at how much information these officers have to absorb in such a short period of time.

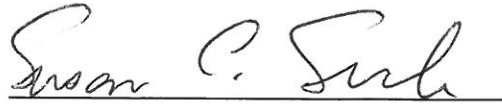
Mr. Beaver thanks Sgt. Tripp for his work on the statistics on the citations and arrests.

Mr. Milone questions where he got the population statistics and Sgt. Tripp replies that he got them off the census website.

Mr. Cintron asks to make an addition to his previous report. He brings up the recent opinion out of the 3rd District Court of Appeals, dealing with the legality of civilian oversight. He goes on to say that the opinion is monumental because the court in Orlando several years ago that said civilian oversight of the Sheriffs' office was violation of state law as opposed to the decision by circuit in Miami. This most recent decision is valid because our crb is patterned after Miami crb so if they are validated, we are validated; including our subpoena powers. His hope is that the question of validity of CRBs is now put to bed and officers can come to crb and explain their side of what happened.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan C. Srch", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan C. Srch, Executive Director