

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITIZENS LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

May 25, 2021

6:00 PM

Ormond Beach Police Department
Training Room
170 W. Granada Blvd.
Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Smith at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Ed Shumaker, Matt Coleman, Ken Kimble, Ken Smith, Tommy Harris

Also present were: Chief Robert "Jesse" Godfrey, Captain Chris Roos, Captain DW Smith, Sergeant Michelle Willis and Recording Secretary Sandy Smith.

Visitors: Janice Smith and Bill Denny

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Tommy Harris was welcomed as a new Board member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 23, 2021

Mr. Kimble made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Shumaker. All were in favor; motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FILES:

Internal Affairs: NONE

Response to Resistance Reports: #21-001; 21-002; 21-003; 21-004; 21-005; 21-006; 21-007; 21-008; 21-009; 21-010; 21-011; 21-012; 21-013; 21-014; 21-015

Vehicle Pursuits: NONE

Professional Standards Inquiry: #21-001; 21-002; 21-003; 21-004; 21-005

DISCUSSION:

Section 2 Response to Resistance Reports:

Mr. Smith thanked staff for being so transparent and clear in providing files for Board members to review.

21-004 Mr. Kimble asked if there is a concern and could there be an issue when an off-duty officer responds to a call with no body worn camera. Chief responded in all the years of police work that we have done without cameras, occasionally this happens. Our officers have to log in their body worn cameras at the end of their shift, officers still drive home in a fully marked vehicle with their uniform on and they are going to happen

upon things or when they are driving in to work. This happens on occasion and in this instance, I don't have a problem with it because he was on his way to training and usually when you are in route to training or to work, you don't normally have it with you and our policy covers that.

21-008 Mr. Coleman commended the Officer for recognizing the subject from an earlier incident.

21-014 Mr. Kimble asked if it was normal under a Baker Act to write a statement on the Incident Report, "we were not able to assess if he had or is able to obtain firearms due to the call". Captain Smith commented, under new statutes a Risk Protection Order is a statutory guideline and we can use if someone is taken in to custody under a Baker Act and there is a recent act or threat of violence by respondent against himself or herself or others, whether or not such violence or threat of violence involves a firearm. This is the mechanism we use to seize the firearm. Respondent receives a fair hearing with the Judge usually within fourteen (14) days.

Section 4 Professional Standards Inquiry:

21-002 Mr. Coleman commended review of case even though it far exceeded the 30-day limit for reporting. It's great to be transparent.

21-003 Mr. Smith noted great job by Officer Stokes.

21-005 Mr. Kimble noted video capture is a testament to Body Worn Cameras

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Visitor Mr. Denny asked if Ormond Beach PD uses First Step Shelter in Daytona Beach as a Safe Zone. Chief responded a lot of the homeless people in our area don't want social services that are offered. We have transported families to the actual shelter itself and we have also transported individuals that wanted to go to that safe zone. Word travels fast in the homeless community about the services First Step provides. Once they realize that it's not going to hurt them or negatively impact them, they will use it and there is a certain core of homeless individuals in this town that we talk when we can, we know that the Criminal Justice System isn't really designed to deal with the homeless. There are jails and there is not a lot of treatment, so this First Step Shelter is a great thing and we have actually gotten families off the street and received some success stories.

Mr. Shumaker asked if Pro-Active Policing efforts by our officers are down. Chief responded based on our most recent Crime View report, our traffic stops are down and so are our Field Interview cards. Captain Smith noted we are a City of 45,000 and currently down several officers. We have 6 new officers currently in training with 3 others scheduled to start next month. Captain Roos noted that when we get the 6 officers out of training and on the streets, we will have more bodies and will be able to continue with more pro-active policing efforts.

Mr. Shumaker asked if the attitude of the Officers has changed with the National narrative that is out there now. Captain Roos responded we are definitely different here in Ormond Beach and Volusia County as a whole. Here locally, I think we are well liked. The community here likes their law enforcement and that helps us. Our community supports us. Mr. Shumaker commented that Pro Active policing puts officers in danger a lot more now than what they need to be. Chief Godfrey responded that every officer that puts on the uniform in this community and nationwide thinks twice now about doing Pro Active police work with the way the officers are being prosecuted and the National narrative but, on the flip side of that, two (2) weeks ago, myself and Sgt. Willis rode our bicycles from Tallahassee to Titusville for the Police Unity Tour and at every stop (called Honor stops) where a Chief or Sheriff would talk and the message was the same, "don't listen to the National narrative, you are wanted, you are supported, we need you and keep doing the good work that you do". It was amazing because these Chief's and Sheriff's along the route didn't talk to each other and collaborate on their message. It gave me a boost of energy because, if you hear it enough, you start to believe it, it was nice to hear and very refreshing and uplifting. I know that the citizen's in this community appreciate us and that gives the officers empathy to know that they are supported and can go out and make stops without having to worry about all the negative things that happen. It still could happen but it is not the overwhelming theme in their mind when they come to work every day. They are still safe and want to be safe and go home to their families. This is a tough job and it's probably the toughest I have seen in the 32 years I have been doing it. The job is changing and it is a different environment. Sgt. Willis responded, with the addition of Body Worn Cameras, we are evolving with technology. As the narrative evolves in a negative light, then sometimes it is necessary for us to evolve as well. Captain Smith noted that we do try and provide as much training as we possibly can for an officer. A lot of the training here lately has been geared towards maintaining their confidence to use force when they need to because with the National narrative right now, we do worry about our officers being a little bit shy about using force now when they should and the Use of Force matrix is in place to protect themselves and other people.

Mr. Smith asked about medical gear, IFAK (individual first aid kits) provided to officers. Captain Smith responded that tactical medical gear is a constant curriculum with us now. As part of our Special Response Team, we have 2 medics from the Fire Department that work with our team to train on tourniquets, combat gauze, bandages to stop chest wounds, any type of major trauma to provide care even under fire.

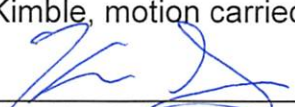
Captain Roos noted all officers are issued tourniquets to wear on their duty belt to provide self-care.

Mr. Harris asked about the experience level of our law enforcement officers who provide training. Captain Roos responded most of our officers that we have hired recently are new to law enforcement but over the last several years, we have hired former 20+ years experienced officers from out of state. Captain Roos mentioned the experience level might be a little lower due to the newer less experienced hired personnel. Thirty (30) percent of our agency has 5 years or less experience. This is a National trend right now.

ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting (Tuesday, August 24, 2021)

There being no further business, Mr. Coleman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kimble, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm



Ken Smith, Chairman