



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office  
Citizens' Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2023**



**Meeting Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee:**

**PRESENT:** Amy Brown, Toni Chavis, Shana Gist, Beth Hoer, Linda Hutchinson, Amanda Jensen, Kristen Nelson, Krysten Reid, Stephen Roane, Tara Taylor

**CHAIR:** D'Shawn Wright (unable to attend)

**STAFF:** Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Chief Deputy Thomas West, Lt. Damon Radcliffe

**SECRETARY:** Dr. Linda Hutchinson

**ABSENT:** Melanie Bond-Artis, Robert Carpenter, David Gorwitz, Jenny Joyner, Eileen O'Brien, Annette Robinson, D'Shawn Wright

**Guests:** Aidan Heddrick and Grandma Ann

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**1. Call to Order** – Sheriff Ron Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:00am at the YPSO office. The Sheriff introduced new member Amanda Jensen from Poquoson who gave a brief response to her motivation to be involved in the CAC.

**2. Guests**

**Where There's Trouble There's Hope:** Sheriff Montgomery introduced guests Tom Hendrickson, Becky Hendrickson and Beth Hedrick. The non-profit Kennek Foundation is partnering with the YPSO to provide Trouble the Dog in every deputy's vehicle. "The Kennek Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to bringing hope, resilience, and inspiration into the lives of those most vulnerable going through tough times."\* The Foundation donated 38 dogs at the CAC meeting.

Tom, retired from 34 yrs with the Hampton City police officer and co-owner of On Command Dog Training, recounted numerous occasions when Trouble has helped children going through crises.

Becky Hendrickson, co-owner of On Command Dog Training and Kennek Foundation board member, has been contacted by school counselors about providing Trouble for vulnerable children in schools.

Beth Hedrick with Debbie Leanne Photography, spoke about the coffee table book that the studio is developing to further fund this program in York County. The book will showcase dogs who have impacted lives for their owners and their community. (Note: Please contact the studio if you are interested in participating.) Beth introduced her mother Grandma Ann who participated in the Polar Plunge to raise funds for the Trouble effort.

Sheriff Montgomery pointed out that the timing of this effort coincides with the YCPSO program supporting children with autism.

**United Way of the Virginia Peninsula:** Sheriff Montgomery and Stephen Roane introduced guest Ms. Charvalla West, Director of Community Impact for the United Way, who spoke about the organization's work with the Community Resources Center based in York County. The Community Assistance Network, which serves the entire peninsula, works with 160 partners to mobilize resources for those in need.

The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) program seeks to assist working families in need of financial assistance. They work in synch with many local organizations, such as Lackey Clinic in York County, with the goal of reducing poverty by 10%.

### **3. YPSO Updates: Sheriff Ron Montgomery**

The Sheriff described the results when people working together can resolve problems. An example occurred when a school board member eliminated complications in efforts by a non-profit to donate books to the school division. The non-profit was initially told that permission would be required from each of the 19 school librarians, requiring 19 separate meetings. The school board member was able to connect the non-profit with one school board employee who had the authority to make the decision.

#### **Law Enforcement**

The YPSO is seeking to become the 1<sup>st</sup> law enforcement agency in Virginia to incorporate Live 911 technology into the department, including in all deputies' vehicles. It eliminates the 1-2 minute delay at 911 centers in deputy response time to dangerous situations. The goal is to partner with the York County School Division to use it in all YC schools.

**Other Incidents:** Four persons have been arrested and charged with the May 6 homicide of a Richmond resident whose body was found in York County. With the summertime increase in crime, the Sheriff repeated the reminder to lock vehicles since the majority of handguns are stolen from unlocked vehicles. The Sheriff visited a local business owner who was dissatisfied with the YPSO response to repeated shoplifting from his business. The Sheriff personally apologized and refocused the response to finding the perpetrators. To reduce and stop "grab and go" thefts, a quick response is required followed up by advertising the arrests. The YPSO's relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney's office enables rapid legal action. Major West related that the YPSO arrested those involved in a state-wide electronics theft ring.

The YPSO law enforcement survey had 300+ responses, 98% of which gave 5+ stars to YC community services. Respondents expressed a desire for more community patrols on weekends, and SRO's in the elementary schools. Since this is a budget issue, this will be addressed in the future with discussions between the School Division and the Board of Supervisors.

The YPSO and the YC Fire Department coordinated an active shooter scenario in the York County Schools. Step 2 on December 1 involved parents, explaining the plan for a Reunification Center for children in danger in the school. It will be ready by September. The Sheriff, in cooperation with On Command Dog Training and Linda Hutchinson, will work on a plan to incorporate therapy dogs into this program.

4. **Adjournment:** Sheriff Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.

\* <https://thekennekfoundation.org>