



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2024**



Meeting Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee: Approved

Present: Amy Brown, Rob Carpenter, Shana Gist, David Gorwitz, Beth Hoer, Linda Hutchinson, Jenny Joyner, Kristen Nelson, Eileen O'Brien, Stephen Roane, Annette Robinson, Candi Skinner, Ashley Smith, Tara Taylor, D'Shawn Wright

CHAIR: D'Shawn Wright

YPSO: Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Lt. Damon Radcliffe

SECRETARY: Linda Hutchinson

BYLAWS & MEMBERSHIP: David Gorwitz

ABSENT: Toni Chavis, Krystyn Reid

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **Call to Order** – Sheriff Ron Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

2. New Member Welcome: Sheriff Montgomery

The Sheriff welcomed two new CAC members, Candi Skinner and Ashley Smith. after which they introduced themselves. Ashley Smith is President of the York County Parent Teacher Association and is involved with the Virginia State PTA organization. Mrs. Smith emphasizes the importance of supporting our public schools and has a focus on school safety. Her husband is a federal law enforcement officer. Candi Skinner is Chief Academic Officer of York County Public School Division. She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation on analysis and improvement of writing skills. Her two children graduated from York County Schools.

3. YPSO Updates – Sheriff Ron Montgomery

The Sheriff discussed two areas of focus and concern in 2023. 1.) Larceny of vehicles was reduced dramatically due to a strong ad campaign. As a result, gun thefts from vehicles was also reduced. 2.) Telephone scams have increased dramatically. The most common phone scams are a.) A caller, claiming to be in a federal law enforcement agency, warns the citizen that he/she is implicated in a money laundering scheme. To help prove innocence the person is told to withdraw large sums of money from the bank to give to a separate federal agent. b.) A caller impersonating a grandchild calls a grandparent and urgently requests money. c.) A caller claims to be an internet service provider who has found problems with citizen's computer. To solve the computer problem, the citizen must enable the service

provider to take control of the computer. The YPSO, along with Crime Prevention, will launch an ad campaign to combat these scams.

The goal of the YPSO is to move into the new office building in sixty days and to invite the community to an open house at the end of March.

The YPSO will propose a School Zone Radar Enforcement Program to reduce speeding in school zones. Installing radar would not be at a cost to the taxpayers and would positively affect the safety of our school communities. A pilot program in five schools proved to be very successful.

Traffic accidents have increased from 150 in 2020 to 750 in 2023. To address the problem, the YPSO is assessing requesting mobile radar devices. Due to regulations, a speeding motorist will be issued a warning notice rather than a summons.

Due to the increase in housing and, therefore, the population of York County, the YPSO has had an increase of 5000 calls for citizen assistance since 2020. This has resulted in the highest number of calls per law enforcement officer in the area. Consequently, the Sheriff will request an increase of 10 deputies. For adequate safety in an area comparable in population to York County, 126 law enforcement officers are necessary. Currently the YPSO has 100 deputies.

Updates on crimes in York County in 2023: The YPSO has not received autopsy results for the baby who passed away in a vehicle this past summer. The shooting by the store clerk of the attempted robber of the Quick Mart was investigated according to standard YPSO protocol. The FBI is involved in the investigation of the death of the woman found on the side of the road. Suspects have been identified.

4. CAC Chair Comments: D'Shawn Wright

Mr. Wright also welcomed new members Ashley Smith and Candi Skinner. As part of the welcome, each sitting CAC member gave a personal introduction.

The next CAC meeting will be February 19, 2024 from 6:00-7:00pm. The agenda will include CAC objectives met in 2023 and proposed goals for 2024. A representative of a similar citizens' advisory committee for the Hampton Police Division will be present at the February CAC meeting. Inquiries have also been made by a Williamsburg law enforcement citizens' committee.

5. Adjournment— Chair D'Shawn Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:17am.