



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office  
Citizens' Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2024**



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

**Present:** Toni Chavis, Shana Gist, David Gorwitz, Beth Hoer, Linda Hutchinson, Jenny Joyner, Krystyn Reid, Stephen Roane, Candi Skinner, Tara Taylor, D'Shawn Wright

**CHAIR:** D'Shawn Wright

**YPSO:** Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Major Thomas West, Lt. Robinson

**SECRETARY:** Linda Hutchinson

**BYLAWS & MEMBERSHIP:** David Gorwitz

**GUESTS:** Ryan McDonald, Anthony Sandifer

**AGENDA TOPICS**

1. **Call to Order** – Sheriff Ron Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. **YPSO Updates – Sheriff Ron Montgomery**

Sheriff Montgomery discussed the issue of the York Poquoson Constitutional Militia whose organizer had requested YPSO support to gather, armed, at the Yorktown monument and to assist the YPSO when needed. Sheriff Montgomery on several occasions denied those requests. However, the militia organization posted a video publicizing the opposite of the YPSO position. That video has recently been deleted, and WAVY news station has published a news article correctly quoting Sheriff Ron regarding the YPSO refusal of support. Also meeting with the militia organizer were CAC Chairman D'Shawn Wright, Commonwealth's Attorney Krystyn Reid and YC Board of Supervisors Chairman Stephen Roane. All officials stated they would support a previously stated goal of community service but unequivocally would not support a militia.

After being shot in the leg, a York County man misidentified one of the suspected shooters. Having reasonable cause, a warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect. The warrant has since been withdrawn and the YPSO Sheriff worked with the man's employer to enable the man the return to work.

The new YPSO building will open to the public in mid-April at which time the CAC and the community will be invited to tour the facility. It will be the most technologically advanced law enforcement office in the area and perhaps in the state.

Sheriff Ron will again present the Radar Camera Program and the placement of cameras on school busses to the Board of Supervisors. The YPSO is working towards the extensive process of being declared a Certified Crime Prevention Community, a six-month process involving collaboration with YC administration, Board of Supervisors, the business community, civic organizations and residents. The Sheriff continues to request county funding for the hiring of 10 more officers.

Vehicle larcenies have been reduced by 48%, reducing gun thefts as well. The YPSO is working to inform the public of the severe problem of scams in York County which have resulted in the loss of a million dollars by community residents.

Major Tom West announced the Police Unity Tour on May 10, 2024 whose primary purpose is to raise awareness of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

### **3. Community Updates – Chairman Wright**

Chair D'Shawn Wright introduced guest Anthony Sandifer, a representative of the Hampton Police Department's citizens committee, who was observing YPSO CAC proceedings, goals, and interactions in order to glean ideas for his organization. He was definitive about the importance of what he had learned from our committee.

Secretary Linda Hutchinson introduced her guest Ryan McDonald. She then described the therapy dog program to begin at York Middle School called Paws-I-tivity. It was initiated through a contact made with the YMS counselor at the YPSO 2022 Back to School event. Secretary Hutchinson also encouraged members to post summaries of the meeting minutes on social media in order promote community understanding of role of the CAC; and therefore, to enhance the connection of the YPSO to the community. She would be emailing out the summaries to the CAC.

Board of Supervisors - Chairman Stephen Roane gave York County updates on the cancellation of Princess Cruise ships at Yorktown, the current focus on the budget, and burgeoning collaborations with supervisors in neighboring communities.

School Board Office – Candi Skinner asked about issues concerning juveniles and legal problems. Sheriff Montgomery addressed the major issue of vaping, which has resulted in arrests of those making illegal sales to minors. Ms. Skinner applauded the excellent relationship between the YPSO and the YCSD. School Resource Officers support the schools and successfully build relationships with students. The collaboration between the two organizations is a model for other communities.

YC Courts – Commonwealth's Attorney Krystyn Reid praised Deputy Robinson's meticulous work in arresting a man for a DUI. Based on the Deputy's training and experience, the court was able to secure a conviction for DUI with no scientific or field sobriety tests.

- 4. Adjournment**— Chair D'Shawn Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6pm.