



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024**



CAC Meeting Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee: Approved

Present: All members were present.

CHAIR: D'Shawn Wright

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

Secretary: Linda Hutchinson

Bylaws & Membership: David Gorwitz

AGENDA TOPICS:

1. **Call to Order** – Chair D'Shawn Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Community Updates - Chair D'Shawn Wright

Committee Reports

- a. **Membership** - David Gorwitz will present information about membership in a future meeting. It will focus on committee members whose terms will expire at the end of the year and those who have completed the maximum two back-to-back terms.
- b. **Board of Supervisors** – BOS Chairman Stephen Roane met with School Board members and Superintendent Shandor to discuss school district priorities, direction, and budget. The first draft of the county budget, proposed at the March 19, 2024 board meeting, will include the allocation of monies to the school district, the VRS and four additional YPSO deputies. In response to a member question, the Sheriff reported that surrounding communities average one law enforcement office per 1000 citizens. York County has the lowest percentage of law enforcement officers per citizens in the area. Mr. Roane attended the Bicycle Co-op of Williamsburg Grand Re-Opening Celebration on March 2 which repairs donated bicycles and then donates them.
- c. **York County Courts** - Commonwealth's Attorney Krystyn Reid gave an update on the behavioral health docket and a recent court case. The caretaker of the baby and the dog, who died in September of 2023 after being left in a hot car, will be charged with second degree murder.
- d. **York County School Division** - Chief Academic Officer Candi Skinner reported that YCSD School Board meetings are available for viewing on YouTube and that questions may be submitted. Positive relationships with the school division, the new school board, and the community are integral. The Board of Supervisors and the York County School Board will continue to meet to discuss budget requirements and the needs of the district. The Resource Fair for People with Disabilities experienced the largest turnout since its inception. Ms. Skinner expressed appreciation for the strong support of the YPSO who attended the event. Ashley Smith, President of the York County Parent Teacher

Association, encouraged the community to openly support teachers, particularly during Teacher Appreciation Week the first week of May.

Linda Hutchinson updated the committee on Paws-I-tivity, the therapy dog program, at York Middle School.

D'Shawn Wright will be working with Lamont Finley of Boxing to Live at Bruton High School to motivate students to become involved in their school, to explore entrepreneurship, and to recognize their potential for success. Candi Skinner acknowledged the dedicated work by principals and the School District Office to bring in community members, such as D'Shawn, to connect to students and to get them involved. Shana Gist, a former Bruton teacher, praised the many dedicated teachers who value and work diligently with underserved students.

YPSO Updates - Sheriff Ron Montgomery

The Sheriff spoke to the Youth Commission about issues concerning them. He discussed the problem of vaping and invasions of unoccupied homes by large numbers of young people. He encouraged students with knowledge about these invasions to speak to School Resource Officers.

Nitro, the newest canine officer, is completing his training and will partner with Ghost when he joins the force in April.

On May 21 the grand opening of the new YPSO facility will include speakers and citizen tours. Those tours will continue on proceeding days.

The Sheriff attended the Future Chefs event at York High School at which elementary children prepared their own unique dishes. He was invited by the Kiwanis to participate in the Men Who Cook fundraiser. He discussed with Candi Skinner applying this idea as a fundraiser in the York County Schools. He also proposed involving the CAC.

Lt. Radcliffe described the work by Capt. Houston who is conducting an advisory board in partnership with BOS Chair Stephen Roane, two sheriff's deputies, the community and towing companies to establish consistent pricing for vehicle towing.

3. Committee Goals – Chairman D'Shawn Wright

Chair Wright recommended increased involvement by the CAC with the Youth Commission, suggesting that the Youth Commission select student representatives to attend CAC meetings. Candi Skinner recommended talking to principals about selecting student ambassadors.

To reinforce the CAC role as liaison between the YPSO and the community and to update citizens on YPSO action, the May CAC meeting will be a Public Forum at Body By D Gym. At that forum the YPSO will discuss the serious danger of scams, the Radar Enforcement Program, the school bus camera program, the Certified Crime Prevention Community program, updates on the completion of the new YPSO building and tours of that building.

4. Adjournment – Chairman Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm.