



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office  
Citizens' Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2024**



**CAC Community Forum - Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee: Approved**

**Present:** Amy Brown, Toni Chavis, Shana Gist, David Gorwitz, Linda Hutchinson, Jenny Joyner, Eileen O'Brien, Krystyn Reid, Stephen Roane, Ashley Smith, D'Shawn Wright

**CHAIR:** D'Shawn Wright

**YPSO:** Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Lt. Damon Radcliffe

**Secretary:** Linda Hutchinson

**Bylaws & Membership:** David Gorwitz

**Treasurer:** Krystyn Reid

**AGENDA TOPICS:**

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

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

Six cameras have been installed at schools to reduce speeding. The initial 30-day warning period for speeders will culminate on Tuesday September 24, 2024. after which violators will be issued \$100 fines. Speeders will have 30 days to pay the fine or they may choose to go to court. Speeding violations have decreased significantly each week. The fine is allotted thus: \$12 to the camera company to install and maintain the cameras; the remaining amount is allotted to the county. The YPSO does not receive any monies. York High School experiences the highest number of speeders while Bruton HS also has a significant number. Fines from tickets issued for speeding violations, detected by school bus cameras, go entirely to the school district.

Drones monitor school traffic, in particular that of parents driving their children to school. This population has significantly increased this school year causing traffic problems for several schools. The drones have been vital in engaging the YPSO in working to resolve these problems.

The first week of school a dramatic number of threats were made by students over the internet. Sheriff Ron Montgomery and York County School Division Superintendent Victor Shandor will host a school safety forum at the YPSO Office on Wednesday, September 25, to help educate our community on these school safety matters. It will open with a brief presentation and be followed by discussion and questions from community members.

The Rave Alert system replaces the current York Alert system. It is an emergency notification system that communicates via email, text, voice messages, and/or mobile app notification. It provides community updates and alerts citizens to emergencies including

severe weather and public safety threats, including those in schools. York County residents are encouraged to sign up for this program.

The YPSO was requested by the state police to handle all traffic accidents. Lt. Radcliffe, who directs this work, emphasized the large number of accidents last year. He noted that it can affect requests for deputy presence in other parts of the county.

Sheriff Montgomery is working to convince the Virginia General Assembly to make failure to wear seat belts a primary violation. Currently Virginia has the highest mortality rate in the union for deaths resulting from seat belt violations.

### **3. Chair and Community Updates: D'Shawn Wright**

The CAC celebrated the birthday of our beloved Chair D'Shawn Wright.

The August Back-to-School Drive, graciously hosted at General XO's home in Carver Gardens, served numerous children. Residents, Hispanic families and non-English speaking, were provided with the means to be in contact with the YPSO as a result of that event.

The committee discussed work by Chairman Wright and CAC member Rob Carpenter to affect laws for background checks for those who had records as teenagers, but who had reformed as adults. Commonwealth's Attorney Krystyn Reid presented the prospect of expungement and sealing of those records. While unequivocally emphasizing his confidence and trust in Rob Carpenter, Sheriff Montgomery recommended considering the time frame since the occurrence of the crime and the type of crime committed. Efforts to design a reform bill will require considerable work.

The Chair welcomed visitor Crystal Peoples, a guest of Eileen O'Brien.

**Board of Supervisors' Update: Chair Stephen Roane** discussed BOS proceedings in York County to include planting of trees in Yorktown to replace those removed for business expansion. The BOS will vote to revise the zoning ordinance at the September 17, 2024 meeting. Since 2/3 of businesses in the County are home-based, ordinances concerning them will be modernized. In October the BOS and the York County School Board will hold a joint meeting to discuss their cooperation.

**York County Court Update: Commonwealth's Attorney Krystyn Reid** informed the CAC that federal funding only is available for the victim witness program while no local funds have been granted. The court applied for and was awarded a \$25,000 grant for witness protection which will thus enhance prosecutions.

**York County School Division Updates: Chief Academic Officer Candi Skinner** discussed Governor Youngkin's no-cell phone initiative for schools. York County School Division will host community conversations concerning adapting this initiative to County schools.

#### **4. Membership and Bylaws: David Gorwitz**

The membership terms of six members will expire in December. Three of those are single term members and are thus eligible to request a second term. One of the three has already requested reappointment and has been approved.

The other three members will have completed two terms. With the new changes to the by-laws, one of the members has requested a term extension and that has been approved.

David Gorwitz will coordinate with the Sheriff's Office to have information sent out seeking applicants for the vacant positions.

Other significant and approved by-laws changes included: 1) Current practice that members shall be residents of or own a business in the County of York or the City of Poquoson, 2) Members are allowed to serve more than two terms when approved by the Sheriff, 3) A previous committee member who has been off of the committee for 12 months is eligible for reappointment, 4) Regular meetings of the committee shall be held monthly, as determined by a majority vote of the Committee in January of each year, and 5) Created a new position of Immediate Past Chairperson.

Since the Vice Chairperson position was vacant, Rob Carpenter was unanimously approved to fill the position.

#### **5. Adjournment** – Chairman Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024.