



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



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

Present: Amy Brown, Shana Gist, David Gorwitz, Linda Hutchinson, Stephen Roane, Candi Skinner, Ashley Smith, Tara Taylor, D'Shawn Wright

CHAIR: D'Shawn Wright and Rob Carpenter

YPSO: Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Maj. Tommy West

Secretary: Linda Hutchinson

Bylaws & Membership: David Gorwitz

Treasurer: Krystyn Reid

AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Call to Order – Chair D'Shawn Wright called the meeting to order at 6:11pm.

2. Chair and Community Updates: D'Shawn Wright

Committee reports:

- a. Chairman updates: Chair Wright opened the meeting with the quote, "What you are doing, I cannot do. What I am doing, you cannot do. But together what we can do is amazing."

York County citizens frequently find lost dogs in the evening when no government or private organization is available to retrieve them. Consequently, Chair Wright's friend will be working with organizations to help save stray dogs.

Secretary Linda Hutchinson thanked the CAC for the opportunity to work at a Back-to-School event at Yorktown Square Apts three years ago that led to her work with her therapy dog at York Middle School. YMS awarded Linda and her dog River with the school's Volunteer Award which was presented at the November 25 YC School Board meeting.

The Distracted Driving Outreach Event will be held at Body by D Gym on December 21 at 5pm. See Something, Say Something events are conducted by Tammy Guido whose son died in a traffic accident in Tabb, VA in 2020. Ms. Guido works to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving, to affect state legislation and to affect Drivers Education classes to mandate parent participation.

- b. Board of Supervisors Update: Stephen Roane, BOS Chair reported that the Board will be discussing the 2025 York County budget that will examine needs for a Capital Improvement Plan for the next six years. It will also include adding six YPSO deputies, mainly to handle traffic incidents since the State Police requested the YPSO take that responsibility. The Sheriff reports more requests for traffic enforcement than previously in his law enforcement experience, mainly concerning distracted driving, particularly cell phone distraction. Stephen Roane met with the representative of the Anchor Project to discuss working with the organization and subsequently discussed including the CAC in that collaboration.

At the December 17 BOS meeting, the board will recognize the major accomplishments of county organizations and departments. The YPSO will be congratulated for their hard work that resulted in a 94% reduction of speeders in school zones and a 29% reduction of citizen complaints about scams.

- c. York County School Division Update: Chief Academic Officer Candi Skinner discussed the Court Docent Program that will enable sophomores to visit the court house and the YPSO as they explore career opportunities. The No Cell Phone Policy will be initiated bell to bell on January 6, 2025.

Ashley Smith, York County PTSA President, announced the award of a \$5000 grant for a class for students and parents to explore digital life. Students and parents will examine the consequences and ramifications of online involvement.

3. YPSO Updates – Sheriff Ron Montgomery

The shop with the Sheriff on December 7, served the largest number of children with the children receiving \$250 each. The Sheriff recounted touching experiences with the children, including those with special needs.

The Sheriff and Chair Wright are working to rectify a state law that does not allow evidence found in traffic stops to be admissible in court. That would include finding stolen articles in vehicles and finding the driver to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The Sheriff and the Chair have contacted Mothers Against Drunk Drivers to support these efforts. Delegate A.C. Cardoza and Delegate Chad Greene have introduced a bill to eliminate that part of the law.

The YPSO is working with the Board of Supervisors concerning the 2025 YC budget. The new YPSO building is recognized statewide as an example of efficiency and opportunity. Law enforcement officials and representatives from other areas in Virginia have toured the building, and agencies and the public attend classes and other events in the community room and in the classrooms. The Citizens' Academy, which just graduated the largest class, is an exceptionally effective education that changes attitudes about law enforcement. A Women's Self Defense Class (RAD Systems) will be held in March 2025.

Investigator Alexa Weaver was congratulated for earning the rank of Master Deputy Weaver. The rank requires extensive work to earn.

On January 7, 2025 at 6pm the Anchor Project will hold a public event hosted by the YPSO to raise community awareness of the dangers and impact of human trafficking.

4. Membership and Bylaws: David Gorwitz

Over thirty applications were received for CAC membership. After reviewing them Chairman Wright selected seven. The members present at the meeting discussed the seven applications and voted to approve three of those applicants. They will be introduced at the January 20, 2025 CAC meeting.

5. Adjournment – Chairman Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025.