

Western District View

Western District Police-Community Relations Council
8273 Telegraph Road, Odenton 21113

10 October 2020

Our Next Meeting - would normally take place this coming Wednesday, October 14, in Odenton, but due to the pandemic, there will be no normal meeting. Instead, like in September, WD PCRC officers will meet with WD representatives via computer. We hope to stay in contact with the members and to remain functional and able to support WD operations as per normal, until the pandemic moves on and we can resume our normal routine.

Meeting Minutes for 9 September 2020 –

1. WD PCRC Vice President Cindy Williams called the meeting to order at 7 PM. WD Commander Capt. Rodriguez welcomed everyone and introduced the visitors who were on line – Acting AACO Chief of Police William Lowry, an aide of AACO Councilman Andrew Pruski, State Delegate Mike Rodgers and AACO Councilwoman Sarah Lacey. Chief Lowry, a veteran of some 47 years of public safety service, greeted everyone and told us that he considered it an honor to be able to serve the county in his new capacity.

2. WD PCRC President Rusty Bristow then requested and received approval of the June meeting minutes as published. Treasurer Cathy Fleshman reported our current balance as \$4,318.85. The only major expenditure made over the summer months was for a TV for the Lt's room, which cost \$337.38.

3. Capt. Rodriguez then delivered his Captain's Report: while crime activity over these past months has been stable and generally low – perhaps because of the pandemic – WD has been working together with Northern District to monitor activities on the strip on Rt. 198 in Laurel, where motels have been historically the site of various criminal activities. However, motel owners have been cooperating more closely with the police of late and some progress is being made there. WD officers have increased their presence in Still Meadows (where there were shots fired in May and police have seized 7 firearms), Severn and Pioneer City – which included food drives. Residents say they appreciate the increased police presence. A new class just finished at the AACO Police Academy – which will result in 9 more officers for WD. That makes a total of some 25-30 officers in recent months, who will be introduced at a PCRC meeting in the future when it is again possible to meet in person. WD manning, consequently, is good. Chief Lowry noted that minorities constituted over half of one recent class, the most diverse class in county history. Some discussion of how Covid-19 is impacting the community then took place.

4. Western District PCRC Board members will meet to discuss options for our annual Holiday Buffet. We can definitely not sponsor a buffet as usual, due to pandemic considerations. Still, we will want to extend our thanks and appreciation to WD officers and

their families again this year, so, how we will do that will be a subject to be discussed at our October session.

5. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM.

FYI: WD Commander, Capt. Daniel Rodriguez, 410-222-6150, p02817@aacounty.org

Rolland 'Moose' Amos
WD PCRC Secretary
410-551-0526