

# Western District View

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

10 July 2021

**Our Next Meeting** – Since WD PCRC never meets in the summer months of July and August, our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at 7 p.m. For more than a year now, because of the pandemic, WD PCRC meetings have taken place virtually via computer. These zoom meetings, though not always ideal, did permit us to maintain regular contact with WD police and to conduct necessary business. By September, however, we hope to again be holding regular meetings at WD Headquarters in Odenton. Should that not be the case, we will so notify everyone in advance. We want to again thank all of you who have supported us – financially and otherwise – during this pandemic. We are very much looking forward to resuming our normal routine, when we can once more all get together face-to-face.

## Meeting Minutes for 9 June 2021 –

1. WD PCRC Vice President Cindy Williams called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She immediately requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of WD PCRC President Rusty Bristow who is no longer with us. Rusty was WD PCRC President for over 5 years, but he also served the community in many other positions and capacities. We will miss him greatly. Again, we wish to pass along our sincere condolences to his family and friends.
2. Cindy Williams then held a brief business meeting: the April minutes were approved as published; the May meeting was cancelled as requested by Captain Rodriguez; PCRC Treasurer Cathy Fleshman reported a balance of \$4,619.18 as of May 31, which included all expenditures made for our Merit Award ceremonies and the latest donations received.
3. Cindy announced that there will be a special election at our September meeting to elect an interim president, who will serve until February 2022, when newly elected officers (determined by the regular election in November) will assume their duties.
4. WD Commander Capt. Daniel Rodriguez then presented his Captain's Report. He confirmed that WD was planning on regular meetings by September, but also proposed that our future meetings might also be zoomed to accommodate that audience that might find that method more convenient for following meeting events. (WD technicians will be working on that.) He also had kind words to say about Rusty and suggested that WD find some appropriate way to honor Rusty's services. Problems (narcotics dealing, a robbery, a stolen car, confiscation of handguns, etc.) continue in the Laurel area, which has led to several arrests. WD crime stats continue to trend downward, some significantly: property crime was down some 15%, TFAs,

down 51%!, burglaries – commercial and residential – likewise, down. Eleven recruits are currently undergoing training at WD and will be ready for active duty by August and September. These new officers will be introduced at some future meeting. A fatal drug overdose was reported at Latella's. Some shootings have taken place in WD, including a pregnant woman. The Ride Along program will again be activated in the near future. FLASH! Capt. Rodriguez is being reassigned as Commander of the Special Operations Center – effective immediately! In his new job he will command some 40 people who provide all special tactical resources, as needed – like K-9 support, aviation, traffic safety, crowd control, motorcycle unit, hostage negotiations, etc. Capt. Rodriguez's replacement as WD Commander will be Captain Thomas Kohlmann. Captain Rodriguez will introduce him at our September meeting. Captain Rodriguez announced a new Bureau of Community Services which will be headed by Major Fred Plitt. Captain Rodriguez then entertained a Q&A session.

5. A number of announcements were then made by VIP visitors (Brian Kemmet for County Councilman Andrew Pruski, Linda Harris for County Councilwoman Sarah Lacey, and Kristin Etzel for the County Councilwoman Allison Pickard).
6. Cindy adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

**FYI:** New WD Commander, Capt. Tom Kohlmann, [tkohlmann@aacounty.org](mailto:tkohlmann@aacounty.org), 410-222-6150

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