**Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of January 8, 2025**

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee met in Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (VBVRS) Station #14 Conference Room on November 8. Eighteen (18) people attended.

After a round of introductions and New Year wishes, **CAC President, M. C. “Connie” Agresti** mentioned that the position of CAC Secretary remains vacant (volunteers sought) and admitted that he had yet to review requirements for hosting CAC meetings remotely on Teams or Webex software applications.

He offered some news on prolific scam and fraud schemes making the rounds of social media and encouraged everyone to read the Phishing identification advise flyer that he provided with the meeting agenda. (Copy attached).

Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Agresti watched a Zoom webinar entitles “AI vs. Disinformation.”[[1]](#footnote-2) This webinar was free on <https://www.seniorplanet.org> and is highly recommended.

He addressed the **winter weather advisory** in place for this weekend and offered winter weather driving tips: use headlights in the “on” position during period of reduced visibility; test road surfaces when traveling slowly in neighborhoods; clear all windows before driving.

**CAC VP Patty Jarm** addressed speeding on half-streets, which are little more than improved alleyways. She was advised to address these issues to the Department of Public Works (Traffic Engineering) by searching “traffic calming” on <https://virginiabeach.gov> .

**CAC Treasurer Lisa McDonnell** presented their reports. While the treasury has funds for various specific programs (e.g., VB Animal Control & Adoption Center, Ice Cream Fund, Community Outreach Initiative), there is less than $1,000 in the General Fund. Mr. Agresti said that the CAC must seek donations to the CAC General Fund donations from our organizations and local businesses. **The CAC is a 501(c)3 organization**, therefore **contributions are tax deductible** and will be acknowledged. Contributions can be made out to “Community Advisory Committee” and sent to Lisa McDonnell - CAC Treasurer, c/o VBPD Second Precinct, 820 Virginia Beach Blvd, VB, 23451.

**Adopt-a-Muster Coordinator Ms. Jenny Perry** shared that she has begun the 2025 Adopt-a-Muster calendar. If any organizations desire a specific date, please contact her at her new email of adoptamustervb@gmail.com .

**Lieutenant Jennifer Van Note** sat in for Captain Wesseler. She leads the Oceanfront Community Policing squad, often mounted on bicycles. She mentioned that like any large city, Virginia Beach has been analyzing the New Years events in New Orleans and Las Vegas to identify means to prevent or mitigate similar incidents. Unlike many cities, she added, Virginia Beach has experienced mass casualty events such as during the Oceanfront riot and Building 2 shooting.

LT Van Note stated that police train for these scenarios at least quarterly and are increasing emphasis on Community Outreach to add to the number of foot patrols and officers *“pounding the beat”* (my words) to increase visibility among citizens. This outreach includes meeting with businesses along the oceanfront and discussing scenarios with their security staffs, cataloguing their surveillance systems to enable police access[[2]](#footnote-3), if necessary, and making officers more approachable to individuals.

Responding to Mr. Mark Stevens, et al, regarding the destruction of the 25 MPH electronic signs on 21st Street, LT Van Note stated that Traffic Engineering would probably be the office to report the need for replacement.

**Mr. Paul Powers** and **Ms. Shemeka C. Hankins** of the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney (OCA) introduced themselves. Mr. Powers switched places with Mr. Mike Defricke with Mr. Powers taking the Second Precinct jurisdiction and Mr. Defricke taking Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Serious and Fatal Accident Office. Mr. Powers stated that in 2023, there were more than 2,000 DUI arrests made in Virginia Beach.

Ms. Jarm asked how police judge impairment drivers suspected to have smoked marijuana. While more difficult, both Mr. Powers and LT Van Note stated that there is extensive training conducted and between 11 and 13 additional tests that can be employed with drivers suspected of pot use.

**Mr. Bobby Hill, VBVRS,** stated that the ambulance stolen and wrecked last year was returned to service recently.

Mr. Hill informed everyone that January is **Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month**. He added that since so many cancers are being associated with fire-fighting, that the gear has to be thoroughly decontaminated after each use thereby leading to a shorter service life and therefore higher financial requirements.

Mr. Hill also capitalized on the earlier discussion of mass casualty events by commenting how the New Orleans event forced many citizens into life-saving triage and first aid responders for the scores who were injured. Mr. Hill referred attendees to the **Stop-the-Bleed** training conducted by VBVRS for **free** every month. Visit <https://vbvrs.org> to sign-up for the non-certificate CPR/STB class. The next class is January 18, 2025.

**Mr. Mark Stevens, Human Rights Commission**, mentioned that the annual count of unhoused individuals would be conducted later this month. Given the life-threatening temperatures experienced of late, he encouraged anyone knowing of unhoused persons to refer them to **Housing Resources Center**, 104 N. Witchduck Road, 23462, phone **757-385-5167**.

Speaking for the **Animal Care and Adoption Center, Ms. Lisa McDonnell** stated that rabies shots and micro-chipping are conducted monthly for a cost of $10 each. Visit <https://vbacac.com> for additional information and schedules.

**Mr. Mike Leigh, Great Neck Recreation Center**, represented Park and Rec. He stated that centers are currently crowded with many exercising their New Year’s Resolutions and with the onset of school swimming programs. He also mentioned that the Rec Centers will be closed on January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King birthday.

**Sixth District Councilman Worth Remick** was asked if he had any *bon mots* for the group. Mr. Remick indicated that he would like to see the return of pre-COVID event where fire/police/ EMS all participated to pass on key information to citizens; whether at a CAC (all are invited) or other event because it would likely exceed our meeting room capacity and time slot. Mr. Agresti suggested that Office of Emergency Management might also be considered as an attendee.

The next CAC meeting will be **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the conference room at the VBVRS Station #14, 740 VB Blvd (17th St), VAB, 23451. Please park on the east side of the building.

1. AI = artificial intelligence [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Responding to Ms. Jarm who asked if the entire Boardwalk was covered by cameras, Lt Van Note stated that there was a recent incident where the city’s camera for the location was out of commission. This is the type of situation where business or private cameras can be useful to help police solve crimes, if the owners agree. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)