**Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of March 13, 2024**

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee met in VBVRS Station #14 Conference Room on March 13. Twenty-eight (28) people attended in person with another four attending virtually through a Zoom link provided through the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, **CAC Secretary Lynn Hightower**, Director. This is the highest number of attendees that we have had at a post-Covid meeting and I attribute that to the efforts of **CAC Vice President Patty Jarm**.

Following a round of introductions and opening comments, **CAC President, M. C. “Connie” Agresti** introduced **Captain Michelle Wyatt, VBPD Director of Professional Standards**, for a briefing on the new Off-Duty Management (ODM) “Officer TRAK” program/app/procedure that VBPD will be implementing **effective April 2, 2024**. ODM is designed to increase visibility, accountability, and equity among officers by enabling them to serve in security roles during their time away from official police duties. This program will standardize pay rates across off-duty locations and be centrally managed, which will further assist VBPD leadership in knowing where their officers are exercising police responsibilities at any given time when they are not on official assignments. Businesses and communities seeking to hire officers for off-duty security or patrol functions must comply with the directions in the attached memorandum.

The VB Sherriff’s Office (VBSO) will also adopt ODM at some point in the near future. VBSO point of contact is Captain Jane Harvey, [JLHarvey@vbso.net](mailto:JLHarvey@vbso.net) , 757-385-8363.

**Capt. Harry McBrien, Commander, VBPD Second Precinct,** spoke of continued reductions in violent crime within the Second Precinct and the city writ large.

He spoke of the highly successful field trip to Old Dominion University (ODU) conducted for youngsters of the Seatack neighborhood. The trip was catered by **Zero’s Subs** (please patronize them) and exposed these students to an environment many of them might not otherwise have seen. They were hosted by athletic department officials, toured the campus and training facilities, and were treated to a Lady Monarchs basketball game through discounted tickets coordinated through 99th District **Delegate Anne Farrell Tata**. The FBI Field Office provided some female special agents to assist **CAC Treasurer Lisa McDonnell** as chaperones and escorting girls to comfort facilities. **Capt. McBrien** drove the bus – provided gratis by Venture Tours.

Capt. McBrien also addressed efforts to resolve violent incidents arising from customers of **Croc’s**. Under his leadership, police employed a three-pronged approach consisting of Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC), neighborhood resident and business peer pressure, and police to influence Croc’s to change their business model, especially for Thursday nights.

Capt. McBrien then announced that he was retiring and that **Capt. Brad Wessler** would take over command. Capt. Wessler left Second Precinct as a Lieutenant to service as Chief Neudigate’ s Executive Assistant and subsequently in Special Operations.

From day-one, Captain McBrien, whose sobriquet is “Dirty,” provided a strategic vision to break the cycle of violence facing socio-economic disadvantaged youths of our community through an effort known as “community-oriented policing.” His direct, hands-on outreach efforts he transitioned strategic vision into tactical performance leading to rehabilitation of the Atlantis and other blighted neighborhoods, outreach to youth and families, positive exposure to police, cleaning up homeless encampments, getting assistance to those with mental illness and addiction, reducing the number of illegal firearms from streets, and presenting real, achievable alternatives to youth other than the downward spiral of gangs, drugs, and violence into which so many fall. Through Capt. McBrien’s efforts Virginia Beach is a safer place to live and many have new hope that they could not have previously imagined.

Reportedly, the Chief’s instructions to Capt. Wessler are to “keep doing what Harry has done.”

**Adopt-a-Muster Coordinator Ms. Jenny Perry** reported that “the season” has gotten underway and that there are still open slots for businesses and/or communities to adopt a muster. She designed a tri-fold flyer that summarizes the expectations of Adopt-a-Muster participants much more succinctly than the former one-page, single-spaced document. Both the trifold and current schedule are attached.

**MPOII Frank Been, 2nd Precinct Community Liaison Officer,** mentioned that Neighborhood Watch Program information and requirements have been updated on the VBPD website [Neighborhood Watch Program | City of Virginia Beach](https://police.virginiabeach.gov/community/neighborhood-watch-program) .

MPO Been’s direct phone number is **757-385-1338** – a change announced last meeting, but one that I failed to update in the March agenda. Oops!

MPO Been spoke about a new program using FUCUS by Axon, through which citizens can link their security cameras into VBPD’s Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) to allow police to view images on an as-needed basis (e.g., see whether a suspect vehicle has passed by a particular location). Details are available at [VBPD Launches Keep Virginia Beach Safe… | City of Virginia Beach](https://virginiabeach.gov/connect/news/vbpd-launches-keep-virginia-beach-safe-program) .

**Ms. Ruth Ann Steenburgh, VB Crime Solvers,** said that they have awarded $5,000 in rewards from mid-January through mid-February of this year. She mentioned her 27-years on the board of Crime Solvers and received spontaneous applause from those assembled.

**Mr. Bobby Hill, VBVRS**, addressed the damage sustained to a recently stolen ambulance. If the ambulance is salvageable, repairs will run many thousands of dollars.

VBVRS’ free CPR and Stop the Bleed classes are full until April 20. These are held on Saturdays, between 9:00 AM and Noon. Visit <https://vbvrs.org> to register.

Bobby mentioned that their new Chief, Matt Vest, a Captain in the Army Reserve, was recently deployed from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Ft. Story to help build the Gaza port facility.

**Mr. Mark Stevens, Human Rights Commission,** stated that HRC will be seeking volunteer Observers for College Beach Weekend, April 26 & 27. A solicitation will appear on HRC website soon [Human Rights Commission | City of Virginia Beach](https://hr.virginiabeach.gov/human-rights-commission) .

**Mr. Matt Lighthart, VB Public Library,** spoke of the many free programs that the library offers. He mentioned that there will be a **total solar eclipse on April 8**, and while Virginia Beach will not be in the area of totality, safety glasses for viewing the eclipse are available at the library, as are equipment kits for many other types of indoors and outdoors activities. The price if right folks - $0.00 – young and old can benefit. [Libraries | City of Virginia Beach](https://libraries.virginiabeach.gov/)

**Deputy Commonwealth Attorney Mr. Michael Defricke,** said that the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney (OCA) recently secured a 36-year prison sentence of 58-year-old Jerry Wayne Daisey for Statutory Burglary, Abduction, Strangulation, and Assault and Battery of a Family Member. The sentence exceeded sentencing guidelines because of the length (several hours) and brutality of violence inflicted upon his former girlfriend in July 2022.

**City Councilman Worth Remick** stated that it was budget season and that he was open to comments from any citizens whether living in District 6 or elsewhere. He also mentioned that two City Task Forces have been formed – one to address Festivals and the other to address Short-Term Rentals.

**State Delegate Anne Farrell Tata** also commented on budget season, at the Commonwealth-level in her case, and stated that there are more than 2,000 bills on Governor Youngkin’s desk, many of which are bipartisan supported. Among these bills is an increase in funds for mental health counseling, including establishing a recovery center in Virginia Beach.

The next CAC meeting will be **Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 PM** in the conference room at the VBVRS Station #14, 740 VB Blvd (17th ST), VAB, 23451.

Following **additional announcements** were made at the meeting:

* **VB Public Safety Forum**, hosted by City Councilman Mike Berlucchi, will be held on Wednesday, March 20, between 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Bow Creek Recreational Center.
* VBPD Chief Neudigate will host a **Crime Stats Forum** for 2nd and 4th Precinct CACs on Monday, March 25, 6:00 PM in the new Police Headquarters Building, 2405 Courthouse Drive. Chief Neudigate will present the same briefing that he provided to City Council on 2023 Crime Statistics. Please let Connie Agresti know if you would like to attend.
* Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (**VBCCO**)’s next meeting will be Wednesday, March 27, also at Bow Creek Recreation center, starting at 6:30 PM. Featured speakers include **VB Public Schools Superintendent** Don Robertson, VBPS Chief Operating Officer Jack Freeman, and District 6 School Board Member Mike Callan.
* **Summit 55+ Community Meeting**, hoisted by City Councilman Chris Taylor, will be held on Friday, March 29, from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 VB Blvd. VB Mayor Bobby Dyer and Councilmember Barbara Henley are expected to attend and discuss Mayor’s Commission on Aging and updates to the Senior Resources Center.
* **SpeakUpVB** has three requests for public comment on transportation needs on their website [SpeakUp VB - City of Virginia Beach, VA](https://speakupvb.com/) .