**Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of August 14, 2024**

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee met in VBVRS Station #14 Conference Room on August 14. Twelve (12) people attended in person. The scheduled Zoom meeting did not connect. Subsequently, Mr. Agresti learned that **CAC Secretary Lynn Hightower** could no longer host the Zoom call due to new employment and is resigning as Secretary. We wish him luck in his new endeavor. We will also seek an alternative for remote attendance.

**CAC President, M. C. “Connie” Agresti** announced that Hurricane Ernesto is well off the coast but is forecasted to generate large swells and strong rip currents along the mid-Atlantic seaboard. He cautioned attendees on the associated risks and asked that the graphic on escaping rip currents be shared with all landlords of short-term rental units.

Mr. Agresti then read a letter (copy attached) from **Virginia Beach Emergency Medical Services Chief Jason E. Stroud** thanking the CAC for the purchase of a new bicycle to be employed by an EMT embedded with the VBPD Civil Disturbance Response Team (CDRT).

Attendees may recall that a shooting victim’s life was saved last year by immediate intervention of the CDRT’s EMT. **Capt. Wesseler** added color to this issue because he was present during that incident. He also mentioned the wear and tear on bicycles, which are typically ridden 30 – 50 miles per day, their need for constant maintenance and periodic replacement.

**Officer Christopher J. Moran** was then recognized by Mr. Agresti and Captain Wesseler as the **Officer of the Quarter** for the first quarter of CY 2024. Officer Moran’s primary assignment is as School Resource Officer (SRO) at Cox High School.

**Second Precinct Commander Captain Bradley Wesseler** announced that with the approach of Labor Day weekend (8/31 – 9/2), several seasonal ordinances would change (e.g., dog walking guidelines, Pacific Avenue speed controls) and that the Second Precinct would lose their summer augments (e.g., SROs, like Officer Moran). Despite these personnel changes, the Oceanfront event season continues apace with such large events as:

* East Coast Surfing Championship (8/18 – 8/25)
* FunkFest (8/23 - 8/24)
* Shriner’s Convention and Parade (9/5 – 9/7)
* NAS Oceana Airshow (9/21 – 9/22)
* Neptune Festival (9/27 – 9/29)
* Boardwalk Art Show (10/4 – 10/6)
* Warbirds over the Beach Air Show (10/5 – 10/6)
* Something in the Water (10/12 – 10/13)

For additional events (and some (*crazy good*) concerts), also visit [Visit Virginia Beach – Your Guide to the Best Beach Destination](https://www.visitvirginiabeach.com/) . (My editorial emphasis re: concerts).

Capt. Wesseler recommended visiting **Know Before You Go** [What You Need To Know Before You Go | Visit Virginia Beach](https://www.visitvirginiabeach.com/plan/know-before-you-go/) and also downloading the ***Waze*** app to your smartphone.

Capt. Wesseler fielded several questions regarding the reckless operation of E-bikes – including unauthorized use on the Oceanfront bike path. He mentioned that the city was evaluating the impact of the expanded use of alternative forms of transportation such as E-bikes, hoverboards, golf carts, electric scooters, etc. He said that education of operators is the key but all recognized that operator maturity and sobriety are equally significant.

**Mr. Mark Stevens** mentioned that vehicles do not seem to be slowing appreciably from highway speeds when they transition to 21st Street. Capt. Wesseler said that VBPD is engaging with the Department of Public Works (Highways) to review alternatives. Mr. Agresti commented that Route 1 in Alexandria, VA has sensors that turn traffic lights red if vehicles are speeding. That, along with several suggestions provided to the Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB) on August 5, are being reviewed. The suggestions to the CAB were:

* Seeking best practices from other jurisdictions with similar issues on clearing gridlock.
* Establishing metrics to gauge traffic flow and performance.
* Establishing a holistic, city-wide approach to moving traffic (e.g., using DPW Highway personnel to manually control traffic lights on egress routes (e.g., 17th and 22nd Streets).
* Moving traffic violation stops out of main thoroughfare (e.g., use parking lots).
* Increasing number of intersections with “Don’t block the box” crosshatch painting and signage.
* Employing camera-driven ticketing for those causing gridlock by “blocking the box.”.
* Funneling pedestrians to limited number of specific street crossing locations.
* Prohibiting through traffic from half-streets (essentially - alleys).
* Sending traffic to I-264 via alternate routes (e.g., VB Blvd/Laskin Rd, First Colonial Road) versus Birdneck.
* Building protected entrance ramps onto I-264 using highway trucks, etc. to block the inner lane thereby allowing clear entry to reduce merge slowdowns.
* Using Ambassadors, etc. to place pamphlets on cars showing zipper-merge process and alternate routes out of resort area so drivers can focus on alternates before entering gridlock (e.g., send 9th Street garage and Rudee Loop traffic south down General Booth).

**Deputy Commonwealth Attorney Michael Defricke** said that his office provided personnel to eleven National Night Out events on August 6. Four of those events were in the Second Precinct.

He also commented on the guilty plea and verdict of Christopher Allman, who stole and crashed a Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Service ambulance from VB General Hospital last year during a mental health incident. Because of the overarching pathology, Mr. Allman was sentenced mostly to probation, treatment, and a $10,000 fine. Regrettably, damage to the ambulance is in the six-figures.

**Ms. Jessica Price, Great Neck Recreation Center,** announced their Halloween Fair will be held at the Recreation Center on Saturday (10/19, from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. This is a free event with vendors, a bounce house, a petting zoo, and other attractions.

**Sixth District City Councilman Worth Remick** will be hosting a Town Hall discussion on Wednesday, 8/21, at First Colonial High School. Doors open at 6:00 PM and the event is expected to last from 6:30 until 8:00.

**Mr. Mark Stevens, Human Rights Commission**, commented upon challenging issues posed by the SCOTUS ruling (*City of Grants Pass, Oregon vs. Johnson*). He said that the HRC is working with several city organizations to resolve homeless squatting in public places (reference – recent *The Virginia Pilot* article on the use of VB Public Library parking lots).

**EMS Open House** “The Heartbeat of the Beach” will be held **Saturday, August 17**, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at VBEMS headquarters, 4160 VB Blvd 23452 (this is in the Thalia neighborhood).

**Ms. Jenny Perry, CAC Adopt-a-Muster Coordinator**, will be leading the Adopt-a-Muster event for the Neptune Festival on Saturday, 9/28, 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Main course is fried chicken, **but she is looking for assistance providing sides and salads**. Please contact her at rhclpresident@gmail.com if you can help. Jenny has done a remarkable job as our AAM Coordinator, but she cannot do it alone. Thanks.

**Illness and Vaccinations:** Several usual attendees were absent from the July meeting, some of whom let me know that they were under the weather. We’re coming into the flu season and the incidence of respiratory viruses (including COVID) is on the rise. Please coordinate with your primary care physicians to get vaccinated, when appropriate.

The **Virginia Beach Department of Health** is conducting an open clinic for **back-to-school** vaccinations tomorrow (**Saturday, August 17**) at the VB Convention Center, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Vaccinations are available at the VDH Headquarters (4452 Corporation Lane, 23462) by appointment. See [- VA Beach Dept. of Public Health (virginia.gov)](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-beach/).

The next CAC meeting will be **Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM** in the conference room at the VBVRS Station #14, 740 VB Blvd (17th St), VAB, 23451. We anticipate a guest speaker from Public Works (Stormwater).

Also, if I can get it to run, I will present a slide show of the Pentagon from 9/11/2001, for those who want to stay after the meeting to see it.