**Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of February 12, 2025**

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

After a round of introductions **CAC President, M. C. “Connie” Agresti** invited **Officer Christopher Grimm** to the front of the room to be recognized as the Officer of the Quarter for the third quarter of CY 2024. Mr. Agresti and **Lieutenant Jennifer van Note** presented Officer Grimm with an engraved desk ornament, a certificate of achievement and a gift card on behalf of the CAC.

**Lieutenant Jennifer Van Note,** sitting in for Captain Wesseler, began her comments by mentioning that oceanfront events began the previous week with the Polar Plunge. She said that the St. Patrick’s Day weekend (March 14 – 16) will be busy with the Yuengling Shamrock Marathon, Mini-Marathon, and other racing events being held concurrently with the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Division I Track and Field Championships at the VB Sports Complex.

 LT Van Note then reported on **Police Chief Neudigate’s** presentation of 2024 Crime Statistics to the City Council the previous evening. Highlights are:

* Violent crime was down 22.3% over the previous year and down 21% compared to the three-year average
* Of all 7,977 crimes in 2024, only 5.5% were violent
* Sheeting incidents decreased 49% from 2023 and shooting victims numbered 39, down significantly from 88 in 2023
* Significantly, all 13 homicides were cleared; a closure rate of 100% compared with the FBI-reported national average homicide closure rate of 52%
* Property crime was down 4.3% over 2023
* Larcenies from, and thefts of, motor vehicles were down 17% and 27%, respectively
* Vehicle crashes were down 4% over 2023; with fatal crashes down 31%; the lowest fatality rate per 100,000 residents among Hampton Roads cities.

Chief Neudigate attributed the reduction in violent crime to several factors, including focused enforcement and increased uses of technology. Among other things, the focused enforcement led to police confiscation of 1,221 illegally possessed firearms (more than 3 per day).

 **Ms. Mary Souter, North Beach Civic League**, asked about the Flock cameras that have been in the news recently, whether VB has any, and where are they deployed. Lt. Van Note stated that she did not know how many the city uses or where they are located. LT Van Note did state that technological advances in the last two years have greatly enabled the police to perform their mission, more quickly identify suspects, and make arrests.

Mr. Agresti stated that technology has been a “force multiplier” for the police and that he will try to get briefing on the new technology for the CAC in the coming months.

 **Mr. Mark Stevens, Resort Beach Civic League and Human Rights Commission**, stated that some of his workers (at Zero’s subs) mentioned ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raids in the nearby trailer parks and asked Lt. Van Note if she could comment on that. She was unaware of any activities by ICE. Mr. Agresti added that at the previous Monday’s (2/3/2025) Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, Chief Neudigate stated that immigration status is a civil issue from the police standpoint and that VBPD interest is in solving crimes, not someone’s immigration status.

**Ms. Ruth Anne Steenburg, VB Crime Solvers,** stated that their organization’s Annual Awards Banquet was held recently. While the Second Precinct’s Crime Suppression Squad was a finalist, the top award went to the VBPD Detective Bureau for their 100% homicide closure rate.

Ms. Steenburg stated that they have eight vacancies on their 30-member Board of Directors, whose primary mission is to solicit contributions for the monetary awards that Crime Solvers makes to tipsters. During 2024, Crime Solvers received 899 tips and granted > $19,000 in rewards.

In the absence of a representative from the **VB Volunteer Rescue Squad**, Mr. Agresti made a pitch for the annual **Oyster Fest**, that will be held on **Sunday, March 3**. Ticket and sponsorship flyer is attached.

**Ms. Lisa McDonnell** stated that rabies shots and micro-chipping for cats and dogs will be conducted at the **VB** **Animal Care and Adoption Center**, 341 S. Birdneck Road, on Tuesday, February 18. Cost is $10 for each. Cats must be in carriers and dogs must be on leash. Visit <https://vbacac.com> for additional information.

**Mr. Mike Leigh, Great Neck Recreation Center**, stated that all Recreation Centers will be closing for a week during the year for maintenance. Pools in those facilities will be closed for two weeks. The **Seatack Rec Center will be closed** for these activities February 17 – 23. Bow Creek Rec Center will follow March 3 – 9.

**Sixth District Councilman Worth Remick** stated that his **Town Hall** will be conducted **Thursday, February 13** at the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA), 411 Integrity Way (23451). Doors open at 6:00 PM for a 6:30 meeting start.

A young man from the **Mayor’s Youth Leaders in Action** was present but he did not sign in or leave an email. I regret that I could not capture his name.

The next CAC meeting will be **Wednesday, March 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.