**Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of April 9, 2025**

The Citizens’ Advisory Committee met in Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (VBVRS) Station #14 Conference Room on April 9, 2025. Twenty-seven (27) people attended.

After a round of introductions, **CAC President, M. C. “Connie” Agresti** opened the meeting by recognizing **Officer George Annunziata** as the **Officer of the Quarter** for the Fourth Quarter of 2024. Officer Annunziata, who was accompanied by many colleagues of the Oceanfront Community Oriented Policing (OCOP) unit was presented with a certificate, an engraved paperweight, and a gift card. His citation accompanies this memorandum.

**Mr. David Lavanne, General Manager of The Dome**, briefed us on the multi-faceted entertainment venue that is an anchor of the Atlantic Park project. The Dome, which opens May 4, 2025, and offers indoor, outdoor, seated (for 2,400 guests), and standing venues for a total of up to 5,000 guests.

Mr. Lavanne stated that The Dome seeks to be a good member of the community that will offer up to 100 events featuring world-renowned entertainers across musical genres, comedians, private events, etc. throughout the year, albeit on a relatively smaller and more manageable scale beach-based events. The Dome will have its own parking, accessible from Baltic Avenue and 20th Street, but he could not speak authoritatively to reports of valet parking.

Grand opening event on May 4 features **Three Dog Night**, followed on May 5 by **Melissa Etheridge and Joss Stone**, and **Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo** on May 7; so the scheduled events seek to attract concertgoers across demographics. Visit <https://www.thedomevb.com> for the schedule of events, membership information, and a virtual tour. (Note: recommend hotlinking or typing in the URL otherwise a web search for “The Dome Virginia Beach” will take one to multiple ticket-broker websites).

See an overview of Atlantic Park by going to <https://atlanticparkvb.com> .

**Master Police Officer Allen Perry** (email: [ALPerry@vbgov.com](mailto:ALPerry@vbgov.com)) provided an overview of the numerous Police Academy and other training opportunities – **all free** – offered by VBPD. One needs not be a Virginia Beach resident to attend. All offer exposure to police functions, legal considerations of policing, police assets, and resources; tours of crime labs and briefings by specialists (e.g., CSI, detectives, special ops) intended to “humanize the badge.” Apply at [Citizen Police Academies | City of Virginia Beach](https://police.virginiabeach.gov/community/citizen-police-academies) . Courses include:

* Citizen’s Police Academy – 12 weeks, one night/week, offered twice a year. Current class is held on Thursday 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM. Available to all > 18 years of age.
* Senior Citizen’s Police Academy – 10 weeks, one day/week, usually from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Available to those > 55 years young.
* Employee Police Academy – available to all city employees and city volunteers, 18 weeks, 1 day/week, usually 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
* Youth Police Academy – for high school students and home-schooled students of equivalent age, 18 weeks, part of First Colonial HS Legal Studies program; runs January – May.
* Religious Institution Safety and Security – 8 weeks on Saturdays, intended for those tasked with the safety of congregations across faiths.

Graduates of the various citizen police academy courses are offered the opportunity to join the Alumni Association that continues education by exposure to special speakers, tours, and sporting events (e.g., Tides game), etc.

MPO Perry also mentioned the periodic Catalytic Convertor Etching programs conducted by VBPD. The next event will be on May 17.

**Ms. Kate Aicher** represented the **Officer of the Commonwealth Attorney (OCA)** said that they’re continuing to provide support.

**Ms. Ruth Anne Steenburg, VB Crime Solvers,** stated that the organization works hand-in-hand with the media and police and relies on volunteer donations.

She stated that in the last month, Crime Solvers received 75 tips leading to four arrests, including one arrest that netted $78,290.74 in drug proceeds.

Crime Solvers annual Pig-Picking BBQ fund-raiser will be conducted at the Virginia Aviation Museum in Pungo on June 7. A flyer is attached.

**Mr. Mark Stevens, Human Rights Commission**, mentioned that he ventured down to 17th and Atlantic the evening after the “shots fired” incident and felt safe the whole time. He praised the police for their handling of the situation. Some discussion ensued regarding the size and relative youth of the teens who had gathered in the area.

In his role as **President, Old Beach Civic League, Mr. Stevens,** reminded those with resident parking passes to renew them as soon as possible, as the renewal date (April 1) has passed.

**Ms. Jenny Perry, Adopt-a-Muster Coordinator,** still has open weekends for sponsors to support Adopt-a-Muster. She said that while businesses, restaurants, and hotels had stepped up as sponsors, she notes that civic leagues, including many who formerly participated in the Adopt-a-Muster program, are under-represented this year. She asked attendees to address this in their neighborhoods. Mr. Agresti mentioned that there was an abundance of support for the police after the murder of Officers Reese and Girvin and enjoined attendees not to make that a one-off offering. Available weekends are May 10, 24, and 31; July 19 and 26; and August 7, 9, and 16. Please contact her at [adoptamustervb@gmail.com](mailto:adoptamustervb@gmail.com) .

**Mr. Chuck Cayton, Resort Advisory Commission**, stated that this City Council-appointed commission coordinates across public and private organizations to coordinate resort area activities, including planning and design reviews for developers.

**Mr. Mike Leigh, Great Neck Recreation Center**, said that all Rec Centers will be closed on Easter Sunday, but activities continue apace. He spoke of registration for summer programs opening on May 8. Visit the Parks and Recreation website from virginiabeach.gov for activity listings for all Rec Centers. These include Youth (ages 7 – 14) Sports Introduction (May 9), crafts classes (e.g., Under the Sea Treasure Box workshop (ages 6 – 10), and Self-Defense classes (May 31).

**Ms. Amanda Simmes (?)**, also of Great Neck Rec Center mentioned a Fairy Tales Day on May 12 for “little princesses,” aged 4 – 9. This runs 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

**Second Precinct Commander Captain Bradley Wesseler** commented on the “shots-fired” incident and the fact that police try to capture emergent events that are announced on social media. He stated that police are aware of the next two weekend Spring Break crowds.

Capt. Wesseler said that once the school concludes in June, the Second Precinct will be augmented by 26 School Resource Officers.

**Ms. Patty Jarm, CAC Vice President**, mentioned that the **Bulls and Barrels Beach Rodeo** is this upcoming weekend, April 12 – 13. Capt. Wesseler added that this has become a popular event.

Mr. Jarm also asked if the **Mounted Polie Academy Graduation** on 4/11 was open to the public. Mr. Agresti said that **Sgt. Nick Ball** had advised that it was and that he had sent out the notice to all CAC addressees. (Copy attached)

Visit **Logistics for Locals** – [Logistics for Locals During 2025 Oceanfront… | City of Virginia Beach](https://virginiabeach.gov/connect/blog/logistics-for-locals-oceanfront-event-season) to learn about your options during the 2025 Event Season

**Mr. Agresti’s Public Service Announcements:**

* ***VERY IMPORTANT* – Social Security** – amid the media rhetoric one major change to Social security seems certain – the need to have an on-line presence via the government’s <https://www.id.me> website in order to transact business remotely. ID.me requires two-factor identification, which may be difficult for older people who no longer drive or travel and therefore lack a license or passport OR do not access the Internet. The deadline to establish these accounts is this Tuesday, April 14.
* **23andMe:** The Wall Street Journal reports that DNA search company 23andMe has filed for bankruptcy and intends to sell all its assets, including personal and genetic data for its more than 15 million subscribers. Those who have used 23andMe are encouraged to request that the company delete their information from its database.
* **National Police Week is May 6 – May 16**, with **Peace Officer Memorial Day**, May 15. He suggested that all who can burn a blue light from their front porch or a front window to show their support.
* Poll workers still needed for June 17 Primary
* On-line survey open until end of month for citizen comment to advise City Council of their thoughts regarding keeping the 10-1 District format for local elections or to revert to the 7-3-1 format currently cited in the City Charter. The latter format allows for three “at-large” members on City Council and School Boards.
* April is **“Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.”** Mr. Agresti mentioned an organization – **RAINN (Rape, Assault, Incest National Network)** - seeking tax-deductible donations to continue their work of counseling and 24/7 hotline (1-800-656-4673) availability.

Next CAC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 14** in the conference room of VBVRS Station #14, 740 VB Blvd (aka: 17th Street) at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend. Please park on the east side of the building.