

**City of Edwardsville  
Human Relations Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** June 6, 2022

**Location:** City Hall, Council Chambers, 118 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025

**Members Present:**

- Anya Covington (Chair), Yolanda Crochrell (Vice Chair), Shannon O'Brien (Secretary), Dave Boyer, Violet Evans, Brian Pezza, and John Harvey
- Quorum present

**Others Present:**

- Jesse Allen

**Called to Order:** by Anya Covington at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

- Anya Covington invited public comments. Jesse Allen extended a formal invitation to the committee members to attend Unity Fest and represent the HRC.
- The budget was discussed among committee members. Jesse Allen offered to allow the HRC a table without having to pay.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- John Harvey noted that there was an inconsistency in the spelling of Jesse Allen's name. Anya Covington noted that Christin "Ash" Jenkins' first name was spelt incorrectly.
- John Harvey moved to accept the 5.2.2022 minutes; Yolanda Crochrell seconded; the motion passed with none opposed.

**Communications:**

- Amanda Tucker discussed the board terms handout.
- The open meeting act was discussed among committee members.

**Administrative:**

- The officers representing the Edwardsville police introduced themselves.
- The officers discussed various programs that the police support such as the D.A.R.E. program, various charities, youth academy, and PACT camp.
- There was discussion of how use of force reports are completed in house.
- Officers reported 17 instances in which use of force was a result as well as two civil injuries and six injuries upon police officers (all minor injuries).
- There was discussion of the fact that use of force does not always result in a formal complaint.

- The crisis training unit that prepares officers in surrounding areas was discussed as well as specific areas of training such as handling situations with the elderly, situations with people who have mental health concerns, etc.
- The officers discussed how they utilize each officer's different specialties for different situations.
- The officers discussed the demographics of the department, mentioning that there are currently 30 patrol officers, five officers in administrative positions, and four investigators.
- The differences (and growing similarities) between day patrol and night patrol were discussed.
- There was discussion of the enforcement of body cameras on officers that will go into effect in January of 2025. All marked police vehicles are currently equipped with cameras.
- Funding for the body cameras is still an issue that is being dealt with.
- The committee and officers discussed ways in which the Edwardsville police department is preparing for mass shootings such as making recommendations to school districts and training in escalation versus de-escalation.
- There was talk of the number of crimes committed in Edwardsville by residents versus nonresidents. A few groups from across the country were mentioned that are known for traveling to commit crimes.
- Anya Covington thanked the officers for attending the meeting.
- Discussion followed of if the committee would like to invite the Edwardsville Police Department to a future meeting.
- Anya Covington requested that at the July meeting each committee member bring forward three affinity groups that may provide input on the Race Relations and Equality in Edwardsville Survey.
- The committee discussed how to improve the survey while keeping the questions consistent enough to use as a benchmark.


**Next Meeting:**

- The next regular scheduled meeting of the Human Relations Committee will be Monday, July 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Anya Covington at 6:30 p.m.

Anya Covington  
Chair

Minutes Prepared by: Shannon O'Brien, Secretary, 6/29/2022

Approved Signature: 

Approved Date: 7-11-22