

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

Meeting Date: August 1, 2022

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

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Phyllis Spiller

Called to Order: by Yolanda Crochrell at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Yolanda Crochrell opened the floor to public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

- Brian Pezza moved to accept the 7.11.2022 minutes; John Harvey seconded; the motion passed with none opposed.

Administrative:

- Chief Fillback presented and answered questions he was given from committee.
 - Protocols for dealing with individuals with mental illnesses and drug addictions was discussed.
 - It was noted that the vast majority of the police officers in the Edwardsville Police Department had completed CIT (Crisis Intervention Training).
 - There was discussion of the fact that while the Police may offer resources, not all resources are always available (hospital beds being full, people being turned away from mental health institutions, etc.).
 - John Harvey expressed appreciation for the CIT and spoke to the value of that sort of training.
 - The idea of the police department hosting a yearly community quorum was discussed. Chief Fillback noted that they are working towards that, but it has been slowed down due to a number of officers retiring.
 - A discussion follow of what sort of support the department could use, if any. Chief Fillback praised the city for it's supportiveness but stated that they are in

need of more applicants. He also expressed displeasure with the government at the State and Federal level, adding that we need to hold those in power accountable.

- The Edwardsville Police Department stated that there had been four complaints made against them in the past three years. Two of the complaints were determined to be unfounded, while the other two were valid. There was a discussion of the fact that the police officers that are more active are more likely to receive a complaint.
- John Harvey asked if there were any mental health professionals on staff for the officers. Chief Fillback said that they had brought in counselors to offer mental health counseling to the officers on several occasions.
- Chief Fillback responded to the question of how the legalization of cannabis in Illinois has affected drug arrests in Edwardsville. He stated that there has been little to no affect as they had stopped arresting people on cannabis charges prior to it being legalized.
- The Edwardsville Police presented the numbers of use of force cases there had been throughout the last five years. There had been nine in 2017, eight in 2018, eighteen in 2019, eight in 2020, thirteen in 2021, and so far in 2022 there have been four instances of use of force.
- Chief Fillback stated that the number of officers becoming injured by civilians is equivalent to the number of civilians becoming injured by officers.
- There was a discussion of the progress on funding body cams.
- Chief Fillback noted that there were no major issues with the local cannabis dispensaries, only minor parking violations.
- The committee discussed the upcoming Unity Fest and Praising in the Park events. John Harvey presented a template he put together to hand out at these events. There was discussion of whether the committee would prefer to hand out something smaller.
- The committee discussed the upcoming Race Relations and Equality Survey.
 - Brian Pezza requested that we update the first question of what ethnicity the survey taker identifies as.
 - David Boyer questioned whether it is redundant to ask what city the survey taker lives in.


Next Meeting:

- The next regular scheduled meeting of the Human Relations Committee will be Monday, September 12, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Yolanda Crochrell at 6:03 p.m.

Amy Covington
Chair

Minutes Prepared by: Shannon O'Brien, Secretary, 7/26/2022

Approved Signature: 
Approved Date: 9-12-22

