



C . A . R . E . S .

SHERIFF MARCOS R. LOPEZ

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022

Time Scheduled: 6:00 P.M. **Started:** 6:05 P.M. **Ended:** 6:50 P.M.

Location: Osceola County Sheriff's Office Complex
2601 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Training Rooms: B & C

Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance: Sergeant Joel Nicholson

Invocation: Chairman Fred McCrimon

1. INTRODUCTION:

2. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Chairman McCrimon called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

3. ROLL CALL: Completed by: Sergeant Joel Nicholson

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>
<u>Committee Members Absent:</u>
<u>Speakers and Presenters:</u>

Mr. Ronald "Fred" McCrimon, Mr. Michael Bast, Mr. Hector Acosta, Mr. David Couch

Pastor Leonard Thompson, Ms. Lissette Campos, Mr. Owen McCurdy

Detective James Forgey, Deputy Benjamin MacLean

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Chairman McCrimon asked for a motion to approve the May minutes. The board members approved the minutes unanimously.

5. HOUSEKEEPING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Sergeant Nicholson directed the board to read the Safe Place recommendation response which addressed the concerns the board raised about the program. The board had no further questions or comments.

- B. Sergeant Nicholson asked the board whether they would like to discuss changing to a bi-monthly meeting schedule. Chairman McCrimon motioned to postpone the discussion until the next meeting.
- C. Mr. Couch asked why postpone the discussion.
- D. Mr. Bast asked why shift to a bi-monthly schedule, they were asked to be here.
- E. Sergeant Nicholson advised Chairman McCrimon suggested a bimonthly schedule.
- F. Chairman McCrimon asked if there is anything that needs to be discussed regarding meeting bimonthly.
- G. Mr. Couch advised that the captain could call a meeting if there is anything that the board needs to discuss. Sergeant Nicholson advised that is possible, but the board must vote on it.
- H. Hector Acosta advised they should meet monthly to give the program a chance to grow. He has been trying to promote and get input from the community and has invited people to attend.
- I. Mr. Bast advised there is no reason to change the schedule. Mr. Acosta seconded. Mr. Couch opposed.
- J. Chairman McCrimon advised the schedule will stay the same since only one board member opposes.
- K. Mr. Couch noted the number of board members that are missing and advised they need more participation from board members and the community.
- L. Sergeant Nicholson asked the board for recommendations regarding the old FTO model discussed in May. The board made no recommendations.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Detective Forgey presented an internal investigation summary, IA 2021-0040, completed by Lieutenant Nagy.
 - 1. On December 1st, 2021, a complainant filed a written complaint against a deputy. The complainant was arrested and several deputies were making jokes about the rookie having the most arrests that week.
 - 2. After being transported to the hospital, the arresting called another deputy to bring her a charger. The deputy brought her a charger and they made jokes about the female deputy not shaving her legs, and comments about a sergeant not knowing how to do his job.
 - 3. The second deputy picked up the arrestee's cell phone and took multiples selfies and videos.
 - 4. The arresting deputy left, and the second deputy fell asleep while watching the arrestee.
 - 5. Through investigation, it was determined the deputies did not have their body worn cameras activated.
 - 6. The arresting deputy advised she turned it off when she escorted arrestee to bathroom. The secondary deputy never turned his body worn camera on.
 - 7. The secondary deputy advised that he assumed the phone belonged to the other deputy and thought it was funny. He did not know it was the complainant's phone.
 - 8. Both deputies admitted to having conversations about the sergeant and the deputy's unshaved legs.
 - 9. Lieutenant Nagy determined the finding of Unbecoming Conduct to be sustained. He did not believe the actions were done with malicious intent; the comments were inappropriate for the environment.
 - 10. The finding of Unsatisfactory performance was sustained due to failure to activate their body worn cameras while watching arrestee per policy.
 - 11. The arresting deputy was issued a corrective counseling.
 - 12. The secondary deputy was issued a corrective counseling and an eight-hour suspension because he had previously received a written reprimand.
 - 13. Mr. Acosta asked if this incident could be used as an example in training and teaching new recruits so deputies can learn from this for the future.
 - 14. Chairman McCrimon asked about the agency policy regarding turning off body worn cameras when escorting arrestees to the bathroom. Sergeant Nicholson advised that they

- could deactivate camera in certain instances. However, the deputy received a corrective counseling because she failed to reactivate her body worn camera.
15. Chairman McCrimon advised in the IA the deputy said it is a common occurrence for the deputies to remove their body worn camera in the interview room. Detective Forgey advised the interview room has a camera in it.
 16. Chairman McCrimon asked about the secondary officer not turning his body worn camera on. Detective Forgey clarified he did not turn it on because he was only dropping off a charger.
 17. Mr. Acosta advised if they address the issue in training, they might remember and avoid problems down the road and avoid criticism for the Sheriff's Office.
 18. Sergeant Nicholson advised the process to reactivate camera is quick. He can bring it up to training person who covers body worn cameras.
- B. Sergeant Nicholson turned the floor over to Deputy MacLean to present a PowerPoint on the Crisis Response Team (C.R.T.).
1. Deputy MacLean showed the board a video the Sheriff's Office posted at the beginning of the year addressing the Crisis Response Team and Nancy Rosado's peer counseling program.
 2. The goals of the Crisis Response Team are to:
 - a) Preserve life
 - b) Help community members navigate crises
 - c) Build a relationship with community members affected by Mental Health
 - d) Offer referrals for community-based mental health services
 - e) Intervene crises with a dual response
 3. A mental health crisis is any situation where a person's behavior puts them at risk of hurting themselves or others, and/or prevents them from their daily functions.
 4. Deputy MacLean shared a situation in which he and a clinician built a rapport with a member of the community. She requested the C.R.T. when she had another crisis, and they were able to follow-up.
 5. Narcan deployments have doubled between 2019 and 2021. Statistics show there is a substance abuse problem.
 6. Deputy MacLean shared that they were able to partner with Park Place to get a grant to put a member of the community in a long-term rehab to address his substance abuse.
 7. C.R.T. deputies assist patrol with calls involving mental health and substance abuse.
 8. 35% of the agency is composed of Crisis Intervention trained deputies. In the event they need extra help, C.R.T. responds and conducts follow-up.
 9. The Baker act is a civil procedure where if someone is harm to themselves or others as a result of mental health, law enforcement can put them in an involuntary hold.
 10. Mr. Bast asked if Park Place is adequately funded. Deputy MacLean advised he is not sure but from what he has heard, they receive funding through grants and donations.
 11. Mr. Bast asked if they have any connections with Help Now. Deputy MacLean advised they do.
 12. Mr. Bast asked if they work with the homeless. Deputy MacLean advised they do. The Crisis Response Team helps connect them with resources to get their ID and social security card.
 13. Mr. Bast asked if there are any places for the homeless. Deputy MacLean advised that Park Place will refer them. If there are substance abuse or mental health concerns, they will be referred to Park Place. If they are a veteran, they will be referred to the VA.
- C. Mr. Acosta thanked Sergeant Nicholson for forwarding his email concerning issues affecting the B.V.L. community to deputies. He advised he has noticed a decrease in behavior.
- D. Mr. Couch asked if there is phone number to call if a board member is not able to attend. Sergeant Nicholson advised they can call his number.

- E. Mr. Bast advised the bottom of Sergeant Nicholson's email says the address will be changed in 2021. Asked which email is correct. Sergeant Nicholson advised the email is already changed, and the board has the correct email.
- F. Mr. Acosta asked if the Sheriff's Office in B.V.L. will be manned. Sergeant Nicholson advised that Community Services tries their best to be visible and out with the community, however they are typically busy with community events. He also advised they set up a basketball event in B.V.L. for their P.A.L. program but rescheduled due to the storm.
- G. Sergeant Nicholson advised they are holding summer basketball events and a football tournament. The football tournament will include a High School Flag Football event competing for AAU title and a Law Enforcement and First Responder Donut Bowl. They will be fundraising for P.A.L.
- H. Ethan Fournier advised he is working with Ryan Adams, Head Athletic Director of Osceola County.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A. There were no members of the public available for public comment.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. No other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING:

- A. Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Ronald "Fred" McCrimon
Chairman

OCSO Staff Member