



Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2019

Attendees:

Kenneth Winn	Skip Johnson	Larry Marlett	Steve James
Tom Mackenzie	John Nowles (SCSO)	Mike Davisson	Brian Standow
Bob West	Sean Self	Chuck Parker	Ozzie Knezovich (SCSO)

Guests:

Andrew McGee	Josh Ramsey
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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Minutes were approved for the April 8 and May 13 meetings.

New Business:

Two board candidates introduced themselves, gave background on themselves and answered questions from the board.

Andrew McGee – Lived in Spokane his entire life. Served in the Marines for 4 years. His children are grown up now and wants to give back to the community. Active with the Audubon neighborhood council. Associate of Arts from Spokane Community College. Andrew currently works for the City of Spokane in the Wastewater Department.

Joshua Ramsey (JT) – Joshua is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and works as a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for the past 4 years with First Responders. While at LMU he was a NARCAN instructor and worked with the LAPD and homeless. He was a member of the Spokane Valley Economic Development Council and is applying to the WSU/UW Medical School.

The CAB membership is currently at 15 members. During closed session there was unanimous approval for Andrew McGee and Joshua Ramsey. John Nowles will set up the required security test.

Discussion amongst the board members on what we would like to review starting with the September meeting and onward. Would like to have a better understanding of the SCSO implementation of Least Restrictive Alternative (LRA) and its use in two incidents; the mid-May officer involved shooting at 2820 N Cherry and the Bigelow Gulch murder/suicide.

Old Business:

Deputy Chad Gordon – Questions and Answers – Sheriff Knezovich

Why was Deputy Gordon not cited for not wearing his seatbelt?

Difficult to prosecute this type of infraction post-accident

Why was Deputy Gordon not cited for speeding?

Difficult to prosecute this type of infraction post-accident

Why was Deputy Gordon not cited for reckless driving?

Difficult to prosecute this type of infraction post-accident

Why did the union argue for getting Deputy Gordon's job reinstated?

When there are disciplinary actions taken with personnel that are represented by the union there are two tracks to the grievance process, mediation and arbitration. In this case mediation was utilized which resulted in suspension.

Why wasn't his lying (speed, reason for speeding, seatbelt, route taken to destination) considered for disciplinary action

Lying was considered but with a head injury and the statement of "Don't remember" these are mitigating factors, additionally, there is always "Freedom of Speech"

Should blood alcohol/drug test be demanded the event of these types of accidents

There was no probable cause for BAC at the accident scene before the deputy was taken to the hospital

Is there a matrix of disciplinary action?

There is no matrix, each case determined on its own. Disciplinary steps are often progressive and reflect the individual's years of service

How does this disciplinary action measure up to others like it in the past?

There were heated discussions between the Sheriff and the leadership team surrounding this incident. Are there degrees of lying or little white lies? Deputy Gordon was relatively new and there was a feeling of "we can salvage him"

Do the weapons in the car(s) have to be tested after an accident before they can be used again

The weapons were re-certified and are back in service

Sheriff Knezovich stated that the hiring process is competitive and finding qualified candidates to fill vacancies remains difficult. The process in being re-vamped and the Civil Service Board is changing

Going into a two-month recess and reconvening in September. We can expect the case of Deputy Sam Turner at that time. We requested complaint statistics for the past 1/5-year periods (John Nowels will provide). Will review a draft letter from the CAB to the Sheriff on our findings from the Deputy Gordon review.

Next Meeting:

September 9, 2019

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: CenterPlace at Mirabeau Point Park (2426 N. Discovery Place Spokane Valley, WA 99216)

Minutes Submitted by

Tom Mackenzie, Vice Chairman