



Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 9, 2020

Attendees:

Mike Kittilstved (SCSO)	Leigh O'Neill	Skip Johnson	Charles Parker
Tom Mackenzie	JT Ramsey	Matt Cronrath	Amber McLeod
Brian Standow	Verne King	Tim Kelley	

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM

The September minutes were approved with the addition of the entire "Initial Analysis of The Spokane Sheriff's Office Race and Contact Data" document. The October minutes were approved as also approved with no changes.

Old Business:

It was decided by the group to write a letter to the Sheriff regarding the use of force policies. Tom would have liked us to call out the choke hold, but after a vote of the group it was decided that we would send a letter accepting the sheriffs current use of force policies and not calling out any one particular type of use of force. Amber agreed to write the letter and the group will edit electronically though email.

New Business:

Matt Cronrath & Tim Kelley introduced themselves to the group. It was voted and unanimous to add them to the CAB.

WELCOME MATT & TIM!

The CAB voted to skip the December meeting. We will meet again in the new year.

Patrol K-9 Tactics by Jason Hunt (jhunt@spokanesherriff.org / 509-220-9297)

Also in attendance: Corporal JP Melton & Sargent Ron Miya

Deputy Hunt:

- 12 Years' Experience
- K-9 since 2011
- WSPCA Master Trainer
- WAC Evaluator
- Department Trainer
- Instructor for K-9, EVOC, PIT

K-9 Services:

- Tracking
- Area Searches
- Building Searches
- Evidence Searches

- Explosive Detection
- Drug Searches
- Less Lethal Option

Why Use K-9's:

- Dogs are expendable.
- Superior sense of smell
 - Large Olfactory
 - Evidence
- Speed to overtake suspects.
- Limited use of force
- Handler / Officer protection
- Deterrent - Normal people afraid of dogs

General K-9 Info:

- 1/1000 Patrol officers involved in shooting in an 8-year period.
- 1/100 K-9 officers involved in shootings in an 8-year period (K-9 officers are more likely to be involved in shootings)

Police Dogs and Use of Force:

- In the last 107 years of use on American soil, only 3 deaths have been attributed to police dogs.
- The use of properly training police dogs has not yet been ruled by the nation's top courts to be deadly force.

Bite Pressure of GSD (German Shepherd Dog):

- On average 238 lbs. to 320 lbs. of pressure for German Shepherds.
- Belgian Malinois average approximately 190 lbs. of pressure.
- Bite pressure is a measure of pounds of pressure per square inch.

Special note:

- All Spokane County K-9's have bullet proof vests. They are given to the SCSO by a non-profit group and are approximately \$3,500.00 each.

Bite & Hold vs. Guard & Bark Training Styles:

- Most Washington State agencies use bite & hold training.
- There are draw backs for the guard and bark:
 - The dog can provoke the suspect to move and thus bite.
 - The dog will just stand in the suspects face and incessantly bark.
 - The handler can lose control of the situation easier with a guard & bark trained K-9.

K-9 Training:

- Initial 400 hour of training are required for new deputies that work with K-9's (K-9 Academy)
- Maintaining certification requires 16 hours of training each month
- Philosophy / Theory
- Legal / Liability
- Public Relations
- Care and Maintenance
- Obedience
- Building Searches

- Evidence Search
- Direct Pursuits
- Master protection
- Tracking / Trailing
- Area Searches

Dog Selection:

- German Shepherd
 - 85% are Belgian Malinois (statistics have changed recently to 50% according to Jason)
 - Males
 - 12 months to 30 months of age (depends on maturity)

Desired Qualities:

- “Self-Right” (good stable temperament)
- Balance of prey and aggression drive

Legal precedents:

- Graham vs. Connor
 - A police dog is primarily a locating tool.
 - Secondary purpose – Use of Force.
 - 1st – Distraction (suspect)
 - 2nd – Hold (suspect)
 - 3rd – Pain / Compliance
 - Objective/Reasonable Standard Influence Decision
 - Type of crime
 - Dog capacity /potential
 - Actively evading / resisting arrest
 - Threat to officers &/or others

Topics for Next Meetings:

TBD - IA / Complaint Statistics

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Next Meeting:

January 11, 2021

5:30pm – 7:30pm

@ TBD

Minutes Submitted by
Leigh O’Neill, Secretary