

# Public Safety Committee Meeting Summary

## June 9, 2015

### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Supervisor Hyland, Committee Chair  
Chairman Bulova  
Supervisor Cook  
Supervisor Foust  
Supervisor Frey  
Supervisor Gross  
Supervisor Herrity  
Supervisor Hudgins  
Supervisor McKay  
Supervisor Smyth

**County Executive:** Edward L. Long Jr and David M. Rohrer (Deputy County Executive)

Supervisor Hyland called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in conference Rooms 9/10 of the Government Center.

### **Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

The agenda was approved after a brief discussion regarding a pending lawsuit on data retention for electronic license plate readers. It was agreed that these issues would be discussed in closed session during a next meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The meeting agenda included the following items:

1. World Police and Fire Games Update
2. Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Update
3. Dog Tethering Ordinance Discussion
4. Police Body Cameras Discussion

### **World Police and Fire Games Update (June 26- July 5, 2015)**

Bill Knight, President and CEO of Fairfax 2015, DJ Mackovets, COO of Fairfax 2015, and county staff who have been detailed to the Games, briefed the Committee on aspects such as planning, logistics, venues, volunteers, security, and transportation. Mr. Knight reminded the Committee that the goal of the games is to “honor and celebrate our community heroes and public safety officers from around the world by delivering an amazing athlete experience and fully engaging the community to produce the best games possible.” The Committee indicated that it was pleased with the level of planning to date and the consensus was that the Games would be a success.

County staff participating in the discussion included: Major Richard Perez and Lieutenant Bruce Blechl, Fairfax County Police Department, Lieutenant Tony Shobe, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and Battalion Chief Jerome Williams, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department.

### **Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Update**

Mr. Michael Hershman, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, provided a brief overview of the Commission's work to date, including that of the five standing subcommittees:

1. [Use of Force](#) Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Chair
2. [Communications](#) Merni Fitzgerald, Chair
3. [Mental Health and CIT](#) Del. Marcus Simon, Chair
4. [Recruitment, Diversity, and Vetting](#) Shirley Ginwright, Chair
5. [Independent Oversight and Investigations](#) Jack Johnson, Chair

Mr. Hershman noted that the Commission is looking at the current policies of the Fairfax County Police Department and has reached out to other communities and professional organizations for best practices. The draft timeline is for the subcommittees to present their work to the full Commission at the end of September and the Commission to report to the Board of Supervisors in early October.

The question of diversity was raised and Mr. Hershman stated that the Commission membership is not as diverse as he would like. He explained that the Commission opened up subcommittee membership to other interested individuals in an effort to enhance diversity and encourage different viewpoints. Board members recommended that the Commission have additional public forums located throughout the community. Related to this agenda item Board members requested an update on Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) training. Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, and Tisha Deeghan, Executive Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, provided the update. FCPD has a goal to significantly increase the percentage of officers CIT trained, and one of the next steps to increase understanding for police officers is to add a 40-hour CIT class to the recruit training schedule. However, to meet state requirements these officers will have to attend another CIT class after achieving a minimum of two years of service to obtain certification.

Board members discussed the importance of proper response to mental health issues, and collaboration between County agencies, enhanced training, and proper resources were identified as keys to success. Board members emphasized the importance of staff identifying needed resources to the Board for future budget consideration.

**Staff Actions:**

1. Assist the Commission, as requested, in scheduling additional public forums located in diverse areas of the community.
2. Develop a “Fact Sheet” on mental health issues and our response to these issues.
3. Ensure the Fire and Rescue Department has access to appropriate/collaborative mental health training with FCPD and the Sheriff’s Office.

**Animal Cruelty (Dog Tethering) Ordinance Discussion**

Captain John Naylor, Commander of the Animal Control Division, Kristen Auerbach, Acting Animal Shelter Director, and John Burton, Assistant County Attorney, collaborated to produce a draft cruelty to animals County code section to include restrictions on tethering, and possible restrictions on confinement of animals in vehicles, to enhance animal welfare protection. Staff consulted with neighboring jurisdictions, the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, the Attorney General Animal Law Unit, and community members, and researched model policies as a foundation for this draft ordinance.

**Staff Actions:**

1. Further research best practices and refine the draft ordinance for presentation to the Board for discussion and scheduling of a public hearing.

**Police Body Cameras Discussion**

Chief Edwin C. Roessler, Captain Robert A. Blakley, Commander of the Sully District Station, and Wanda Gibson, Director of Information Technology, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation on Body-Worn Cameras (BWC). The discussion included policy creation, cost analysis, technology, and a pilot project. The BWC system is designed to enhance police services by providing officers with an additional tool to document specific incidents in the field. The Committee discussed the importance of fully researching all aspects of this issue and requested to be kept updated.

**Staff Actions:**

1. Keep the Committee informed on all aspects of the body-worn camera issue.

**Attachments:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Fairfax County Crisis Intervention Training Syllabus

- Draft County Code Cruelty to Animals/Dog Tethering Ordinance
- Police Department Body-Worn Camera Presentation
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Report – *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program, Recommendations and Lessons Learned*
- Police Department Policy/Procedural Memorandum (Draft) for Body-Worn Cameras

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.