

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

May 23, 2023

In Attendance

Councilman Chip Henderson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Chair Raquetta Dotley, and Councilpersons Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist. Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill was not in attendance at this meeting.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Jermaine Freeman, Chief of Staff, and Brooke Satterfield, Deputy Chief of Staff;

Community Health: Chris Sands, Executive Director of Community Safety and Gun Violence Prevention;

Chattanooga Police Department: Glenn Scruggs, Executive Chief, and Harry Sommers, Executive Chief;

Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC): Mary Anne Hensley, Chair; and

Trajectory Changing Solutions: Norman Kerr, Founder.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Chair Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (January 31, 2023) meeting were approved as published.

PARC Quarterly Report

Councilman Henderson opened the floor to Ms. Hensley, the Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) Chair, who presented PARC's [Quarterly Report](#) covering the 51 cases reviewed from January – March 2023. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

At the report's conclusion, Councilman Henderson reminded Council and Ms. Hensley of the new legislation that had been passed regarding community oversight boards. He inquired about a response from the State to the letter requesting clarification and insight, to which Mr. Noblett responded. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

CPD Crime Reduction Update

Councilman Henderson opened the floor to Mr. Freeman, who made introductory comments, before inviting Ms. Satterfield to the podium to discuss the City's community violence reduction efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). The presentation focused on the following:

- Revisiting the roadmap of guiding principles in Mayor Kelly’s campaign to end gun violence:
 - Be trauma informed and aware,
 - Reach families, not just youth,
 - Be city and community-driven,
 - Coordinate, amplify, align with, and magnify the ongoing work of others,
 - Center on young people, especially those experiencing gun violence,
 - Be sustainable,
 - Be scalable.
- The City’s and Council’s investment in public safety related projects and organizations:
 - Mentorship programs
 - Workforce initiatives
 - Mental health initiatives
 - YMCA
 - Chattanooga Public Library
 - Camp Hope
- Community Centers will extend hours for the summer as well as offer summer camps
- Every Child Initiative:
 - What it is, what it does & how it does it
 - Will be launching the Mentor Matchmaking Portal this summer
- Children’s Cabinet:
 - What it is, what it does, & the neighborhoods it will be concentrating on.

At this point, Ms. Satterfield turned it over to Mr. Sands, who discussed the Community Safety & Gun Violence Prevention (CSGVP):

- Mission and strategy:
 - Using data to determine where violent incidents occur most often,
 - Employing prevention & intervention tactics to address issues:
 - Implement collaborative programs with community partners,
 - Offer consistent programming during traditionally unprogrammed times
 - Host family empowerment sessions
 - Provide trauma-informed education sessions
 - Utilize the Witness Support Fund to aid witnesses of violent crimes
 - Increase the number of youth & adult intervention specialists
 - Work in partnership with Trajectory Changing Solutions to hire and train Violence Interrupters (*Mr. Sands introduced Mr. Kerr to present this portion*)
- Focus neighborhoods for Summer 2023:
 - Avondale & Bushtown
 - East Lake
 - Westside
 - South Chattanooga

Mr. Sands then asked Executive Chief Scruggs and Executive Chief Sommers to speak about the CPD’s Violent Crime Initiative for Summer 2023:

- Nightlife Engagement Team (NET):
 - Primary mission
 - How it is staffed

- Violence Reduction Team
 - Will collaborate with the FBI and State partners to facilitate proactive policing against gangs, narcotics, weapons, & violent crimes
- Robbery Summer Initiative
 - Will work in conjunction with the Violence Reduction Team to focus on thwarting the disproportionate number of robberies that occur against Hispanic communities and persons
- Investigative Focus on top violent criminals in Chattanooga by using 'Project VIP', a DOJ approved data driven model that uses active intelligence to identify the main offenders
- More intentional allocation of staffing:
 - Using call load & time of incident data to determine when to best staff districts
 - Partnering with other agencies to cover special events
 - Using traffic enforcement in high volume areas
 - Having more senior leadership during overnight shifts
 - Recognizing & preparing for the most violent days & weeks of the year

At the conclusion of the presentation, Councilman Hester and Councilwoman Coonrod had several questions and comments, which Executive Chief Scruggs addressed. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.