

Town of Cheverly
Special Meeting with Chief Towers
July 7, 2020

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

In attendance: Mayor Riazi, Council Members Radloff, Watson, Bryner, Fry. CM Garcia joined the meeting late. Staff: Town Administrator – Dylan Galloway and Town Clerk – TC Hegeman.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Towers gave a status update on the police department. He described his plan for the future of policing in Cheverly and working closely with the community. He also discussed community concerns and undertaking the process of ensuring equitable policing.

Chief Towers introduced a Budget Amendment request, not for additional funds but to reallocate existing funds from salaries and wages (of positions not filled) to the programs being presented tonight. The Budget Amendment will be voted on by Mayor and Council at the next Town Meeting on July 9, 2020.

The Cheverly Police Department will hold the very first virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 pm.

Chief Towers acknowledged and addressed community concerns and requests to end the following programs/policies: stop and frisk, general police calls, the resident radio program, license plate readers, civil asset forfeiture, school resource officers, 1033 military surplus program, freezing all open police positions and to be reallocated to a social worker, releasing the use of force policy.

Discussed understaffing and lack of tenure in the police department with officers having less than five years of experience, except for Lt. Miltenberger and himself. There currently aren't any supervisors.

Elaborated on the benefits of hiring consultants and experts in the field to help facilitate the desired changes that he would like to implement based on input from the community.

Chief Towers introduced his three consultant recommendations to help with organizational development, revamping performance appraisal system and training.

Conducere, the organizational development firm gave a brief presentation to explain their experience, approach, and the proposed engagement with the community. They respond to questions from PCAB and the community that pop-up in the chat box.

The use of force policy consultant, **Ganesha Martin** gave a presentation highlighting her background and experience. She worked in Baltimore on the Freddie Gray case and is an attorney by training and a police consultant. Ms. Martin responds to questions posted by residents.

Chief Towers continues to read and respond to questions posted by residents as well.

The communications consultant, **Julie Parker** details her experience and background. She was a WJLA reporter for 13 years and explains how her services would benefit the Town. She believes the police department needs to a dedicated individual or company to engage, manage, and update their social media presence.

Residents called in to voice their thoughts and concerns. Chief Towers continued to address their concerns and respond to each resident.

Chief Towers then answered questions from Mayor and Council.

Motion to Adjourn: CM Bryner, seconded by CM Fry. Approved unanimously.