

DULUTH CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: Wednesday February 19, 2025

Present board members: President Franklin, VP Blair Powless, Bobbie Underthun, Todd Maas, Melanie DeRosier-Holshouser,

Others in attendance: DPD Liaison Ryan Morris, Human Rights Office representative Marsha Lue, and. Citizen Kathleen Spencer, reporter John Ramos

1. Call to Order and introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 om

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve – DeRosier, Maas – seconded.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Police Liaison Report: Ryan Morris stated 3 new officers start March 24, 2025. The winter hire is slower because they do not get as big of a pool of applicants. Some conditional offers have been made if the candidates pass schooling and testing.

- * One of the hires was a CSO

- * One is a lateral hire from Burnsville, MN, who liked our opportunities and training standards.

- * The other hire is newly graduated

Ryan Morris notes Lt. Ring can speak more on the hiring process, but they will be posting again in April 2025, and there are some good prospects.

Blair Powless asked, “Are the officers retiring a normal amount?”

Ryan Morris replied, “2 Sgt, and 4 officers are at retirement age. It seems to ebb and flow, depending on how hiring goes. Currently we are down 21 officers, but are doing better than other agencies”.

Blair Powless asked, “Has the amount of people applying increased?”

Ryan Morris replied, “No.”

Todd Maas stated, “21 is a big number. Are you not filling some spots? I feel this could contribute to burnout.”

Ryan Morris replied, “It is definitely on our minds. We are short on investigators, down two in violent crimes, but all of the units have places we could put people. Patrol is short, and we spend overtime, but we try to be mindful of burnout. We are not currently at the point where we do not respond to things.”

Blair Powless asked, “What is the impact?”

Ryan Morris replied, “Crash response. We respond to as much as we can, utilize our CSO, and e-reporting so we can be innovative and efficient.”

5. Other Business: President Franklin stated, "Please fill us in on what you hope to accomplish as the new Human Rights Officer."

Marsha Lue replied, "I started last week, there is a lot of planning going on. I am now Human Rights Officer and Equity Officer. I am currently housed in Karl's office, but this may change."

President Franklin stated, "Well congrats, you are definitely much needed."

Blair Powless stated, "I am curious about your duties Marsha, what does it mean?"

Marsha Lue replied, "I will be working with the equity team within city community like Karl did."

President Franklin asked, "Will you have any help?"

Marsha Lue replied, "Yes, it is the two of us; Laura and I will be working together."

6. Announcements and Community Correspondence: Ryan Morris stated, "We just had the Polar Plunge, and 3 million was raised."

Mel DeRosier-Holshouser stated, "\$150-160K just this weekend."

Ryan Morris stated, "There is a commendation ceremony on March 21, 2025 at 1400. There will be a Chief's award, lifesaving award, etc. at PSB."

7. Additional Public Comments: Kathleen Spencer asked, "Have you experienced any changes with our new president of the nation?"

Ryan Morris stated, "I do not feel like we will be changing our trajectory."

President Franklin asked, "Was there a protest gathering?"

Marsha Lue stated, "It was Invisible Day."

Ryan Morris stated, "It went well, everyone stayed on the sidewalk."

Kathleen Spencer stated, "There was at least 100 people there."

Blair Powless asked, "What was the protest for?"

President Franklin stated, "I think it was about the current administration. No harm, no foul, nothing official."

Marsha Lue stated, "I was a national protest held on President's Day."

8. Board Member Questions: Bobbie Underthun asked, "Have we come up with an idea for the board outing?"

President Franklin stated, "The weekend of March 8-May 1st we will try to get something on the board so we can come up with an agenda of goals to tackle. We will get a consensus, and I will get those dates out."

9. Adjourn: Pres Franklin motion – Underthun 2nd – Adjourned 6:36 pm

Minutes taken by board member Underthun during 11/20/24 meeting and typed by Underthun