

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, May 21, 2018

PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL SITE VISIT AND TOUR

Palm Beach Gardens Police Department, New Tactical Training Center
10500 Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Members Present:

Barbara Cheives
William Dames
Rachel Docekal
Douglas Duncan
Joseph Ianno, Jr.
Keith James
Kevin Jones
Randolph Johnson, Sr.
Nellie King
James Martz
Krista Marx
Sarah Mooney
Christina Morrison
Gerald Richman
Greg Starling
Stephen Stepp
Erica Whitfield

Members Absent:

Dave Aronberg
Sharon Bock
Ric Bradshaw
George Elmore
Rolando Garcia
Carey Haughwout
Kimber Heddon
Al Jacquet
Dave Kerner
Barry Krischer
John McKenna
Frank Mercurio
Robert Shirley
Lee Waring

Guests Attending:

Bea Lovelace, Clerk & Comptroller's Office
Jennifer Loyless, Public Defender's Office
Grayson Loyless (son of Jennifer Loyless)
Angela Bess, PBC School District
Dave Talley, PBC Career Source
Marvel Joseph, Office of Representative Al Jacquet
Faye Johnson, PBC Assistant County Administrator

Staff Present:

Kristina Henson, Executive Director
Jonathan Hackley, Criminal Justice Analyst
Aleita Kinman, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst
Danny Kreshak, Financial Analyst
Allison Orr, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

- I. Executive Director Kristina Henson called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to members and guests.

II. A silent roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

III. Opening Comments and Background:

Director Henson introduced new Deputy City Manager Stephen Stepp, formerly Chief of Palm Beach Gardens Police Department and the new Chief Clint Shannon. Chief Stepp provided a brief background for the facility and its purpose. The 10,000 square foot facility opened in December 2016 and includes three main components: 1) a defensive tactics area; 2) simulator room; and 3) a firearms range. This Center keeps the Department at the forefront of cutting edge training techniques to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of officers so they respond and react properly. The facility works in tandem with classroom learning on theories, policies, procedures and techniques. After classroom learning, the Facility provides officers variable and realistic multi-faceted scenarios that result in improved safety for officers and citizens, higher levels of quality service, and community trust. The Facility is also shared with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.

IV. Demonstrations:

All present toured the facility and viewed demonstrations which included:

- a. Defensive tactics area that focuses on verbal and physical skills in order to react to individuals who are disorderly, resisting arrest, or involved in a mental health crisis situation. Emphasis is placed on verbal skills to de-escalate confrontations, along with the physical skills required to make arrests and respond to resistance utilizing the least amount of force necessary. A scenario was presented of a man with a club acting aggressively which resulted in a live taser demonstration;
- b. 911 Communication Center for the North County which also serves as a back-up to the West Palm Beach 911 Communication Center and vice versa; and
- c. Outdoor tour of the heavy armored SWAT vehicle and drone operations.

All present divided into three groups and rotated to view demonstrations which included:

- a. Live fire demonstrations on the indoor firearms range which included firearms targeting practice and a scenario of a suspicious person in an alley with a gun;
- b. Simulator room scenario-based use-of-force training demonstrations including a person involved in a mental health crisis, an active shooter in a convenience store, and an active shooter in a school; and
- c. Defensive tactics area overview of the department's mission, guiding principles, and motto which is "Respect, Accountability, and Professionalism".

After all groups rotated through these areas, all were gathered in the defensive tactics area where Chief Stepp closed the meeting.

XI. Adjourn

With the tour concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.