



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2025**



Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee: Approved

Present: Toni Chavis, Rebecca Crocker, Shana Gist, David Gorwitz, Linda Hutchinson, Stephen Roane, Ashley Smith, Tara Taylor, D'Shawn Wright

CHAIR: D'Shawn Wright and Rob Carpenter

YPSO: Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Lt. Damon Radcliffe, Dep. James Robinson.

Secretary: Linda Hutchinson

Bylaws & Membership: David Gorwitz

Guests: Demi Christie, Virgil Thornton

AGENDA TOPICS:

1. **Call to Order** – Chair D'Shawn Wright called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

1. Chair and Community Updates: D'Shawn Wright

The Chair opened by wishing everyone a Happy Women's History Month, saying it is or should be celebrated every month.

The Chair followed up on last week's discussion of community concerns about trash on roadsides and parking lots. York County businesses are also very concerned about this problem. Consequently, the April meeting will be devoted to the community service task of roadside trash cleanup. The decision on location will be determined at a later date. Stephen Roane will inquire about favorable locations.

Community Reports:

York County Schools Update: In Candi Skinner's absence Ashley Smith, York County PTA President, discussed the forum on bullying to be held on April 29, 2025 from 7-8:30pm at Grafton HS. High school students and eighth graders are invited. The goal of the discussions is to broaden the understanding of students, families and the community about the severity and pervasiveness of bullying and to discuss measures to combat it. At Ms. Smith's invitation, Sheriff Montgomery will speak to the York County Council PTA Meeting on May 1, 2025 about the dangers of realistic BB and pellet guns.

Board of Supervisors Update: Stephen Roane

The City Administrator will submit the proposed budget to the BOS which is in the midst of the budget development process. Issues and ordinances being discussed: 1.) prohibiting sexually oriented businesses from being near schools or homes. It is a complicated issue for government to ban private businesses. An open meeting will be held for public comment.

2.) The Cruise Ship Ordinance prohibits ships with 400+ passengers from using Yorktown docks. 3.) An ordinance prohibiting severe overgrowth of trees and shrubbery will be open to public discussion. Regulation could be beneficial from a public safety perspective while it is troublesome for the government to be acting as a county HOA. Mr. Roane is exploring uniting churches to assist homeowners who are unable to maintain their own properties.

Last month Chair Wright spoke to the YC Youth Commission and spoke very highly of the young people involved in that organization.

Virgil Thornton, a guest and longtime friend of Chair Wright spoke to the committee. He is a foster parent, mentors troubled young men, and teaches leadership skills at Natasha House.

Chairman Wright asked Secretary Hutchinson to introduce her guest Demi Christie. Ms. Christie told about her imminent graduation from the Sheriff's Business Academy and her desire to become a YPSO deputy.

2. YPSO Updates: Sheriff Ron Montgomery

The Woods of York invited the YPSO to assist with their Community Field Day on April 19, 2025 from 11am-3pm, particularly with kickball, volleyball and providing hot dogs and other foods. CAC members are invited to assist.

On March 13, 2025, the YPSO was named the 13th Certified Crime Prevention Community in the Commonwealth of Virginia due to a comprehensive joint effort by businesses, county government and citizens. The Department of Criminal Justice Services Committee praised the YPSO for submitting the most comprehensive packet they had ever received.

Sheriff Montgomery participated with other Virginia law enforcement leaders in discussing local law enforcement's role in complying with Governor Youngkin's executive order to support ICE and the Virginia State Police in apprehending illegals in their respective communities. Sheriff Ron stated that the YPSO has been fully cooperating with ICE within Virginia State law. 53,000 of those residing in Hampton Roads have voluntarily registered and will self-deport. They are then eligible to return legally after a certain period of time.

Last week the YPSO received a call that Tabb High School a student was on campus with a firearm. Although it was a BB gun, it looked exactly like a real gun with the capacity to inflict great damage. Since the student also had a knife, he was arrested and put in juvenile detention. The Sheriff will be making a public service video about the dangers of pellet and BB guns.

David Gorwitz asked the Sheriff about the legality of panhandling along county and state roadsides. The Sheriff explained that by state law, it is not a crime unless the person impedes traffic. If the person is impeding access to a business, the YPSO will handle that.

In response to a question by Toni Chavis, Sheriff Ron explained his informative videos "Not in York County". In discussing the killing of two Virginia Beach police officers during a traffic stop, Sheriff Montgomery stated emphatically, "There is no such thing as a routine traffic stop!"

The newest K9 sheriff's deputy will be at work in the department around the first of May. Sgt. Brett Schultz, having lost Saber to cancer in October, has been and will be working with the Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd deputy.

Lt. Damon Radcliffe discussed his major work with traffic, acknowledging Deputy Robinson for his instrumental role in that work. Traffic data collectors are working well to reduce speeding. A grant will enable the YPSO to put up data collectors and messaging signs to educate the public. Areas of major concern include Rt.17 and Victory Blvd. A recent study showed 118 red light violations between 6am and 10pm at that location. School bus cameras are still in the process of being installed.

3. Membership and Bylaws: David Gorwitz

The CAC has an opening for another member. The committee will select the final member at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment – Chairman Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2025 and will be a community service activity.