



**York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2025**



Minutes Approval by Chair/Committee: Approved

Present: Amy Brown, Robert Carpenter, Rebecca Crocker, Shana Gist (zoom), David Gorwitz, Douglas Hackworth, Linda Hutchinson, Kristen Nelson, Stephen Roane, Candi Skinner, Ashley Smith (zoom), Tara Taylor

CHAIR: Rob Carpenter and D'Shawn Wright

YPSO: Sheriff Ron Montgomery, Lt. James Robinson

Secretary: Linda Hutchinson

Bylaws & Membership: David Gorwitz

AGENDA TOPICS:

1. **Call to Order** – Sheriff Ron Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Rob Carpenter chaired the meeting.

2. **YPSO Updates: Sheriff Ron Montgomery**

The YPSO has been very busy this month. The large number of people at the rally in Yorktown on Saturday June 14 proceeded with no issues as the attendees were well-behaved. A Juneteenth event scheduled for June 14 was rained out.

The 911 Center has numerous cameras in Yorktown. One week ago four young men were on video smoking weed and drinking beer while also playing with firearms at the end of the fishing pier. As they began to walk away sheriffs' deputies stopped them, arresting three. One was a minor. Their firearms were confiscated and the three young men were all jailed. All of them were from Newport News. The Sheriff has aggressively addressed the problem on social media of residents from other localities coming to York County to commit crimes. The word has spread - "Not in York County"

In meetings with Homeland Security, the Sheriff explained how an aggressive motorcycle gang seeking to operate out of the County also learned "Not in York County".

The YPSO is working with the National Highway Safety Commission to overcome the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer. More accidents occur from Memorial Day to Labor Day than any other time of year. The goal is to make those days the safest days. That will include zero tolerance for driving while holding an electronic device. The Sheriff is working with Virginia legislators to get common sense legislation particularly for traffic offenses separated into Secondary and Primary Offenses. A traffic officer cannot stop a driver for committing a Secondary Offense. Two examples of secondary offenses are driving without a seatbelt and drivers under the age of 18 driving with more than one passenger under the age of 18 yrs. old.

Yet, the passenger age law is a major cause of distracted driving resulting in traffic accidents. Combined with failure to wear seatbelts, secondary offenses too often result in dangerous outcomes. York County Supervisor Stephen Roane will add this to the county agenda.

The YPSO has a contract with a company that provides a citizen database to enable the department to text approximately 21,000 YC citizens. It will be used to provide vital information to citizens.

**3. Chair Updates: Rob Carpenter:
Membership and Attendance**

In discussing the issue of low attendance Chairman Carpenter asked for ideas about a more convenient meeting day. We discussed the purpose for joining the CAC and its origins stemming from Hard Talks following the George Floyd situation. Sheriff Montgomery presented the CAC mission, which is to be a link between the community and the YPSO and to convey truth to the community. It included service events such as the Back-to-School Drive. The CAC can be instrumental in planning that event. Other recommendations included conducting periodic community information nights to discuss, for example, the dangers of the Senior Assassins game, red light cameras on school busses, aggressive action against vape shops selling dangerous substances to minors.

Tara Taylor expressed the difficulty of increasing the number of followers on the CAC Facebook page. As a result of being shown how to make the page known, over 150 followers were added during the meeting time.

Members discussed ideas for CAC participation in major YPSO community events and in CAC Community Forums. YPSO community events include: National Night Out, Back-to-School events, food drives and Shop with the Sheriff. National Night Out will be held the 2nd - 4th week in August in various neighborhoods. The CAC will be notified as soon as those neighborhoods send in their requests. Issues to be addressed at CAC Community Forums could address Senior Assassins and Youth Safety. Candi Skinner and Tara Taylor will help with planning events.

Selection of new members will be addressed at the next meeting.

York County School District: Candi Skinner lauded the YPSO for its collaboration with the YCSD with Career Day in which 130 sophomores and juniors visited and learned about the YC Courthouse and the YPSO building. The feedback was excellent indicating increased interest in legal and law enforcement careers

4. Adjournment – Chairman Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2025.