

# WINTER HAVEN **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Public Safety Community Advisory Committee  
Thursday, October 18, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.  
Florida Citrus Building – Florida Room  
500 Third Street NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

## MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Tom Freijo, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL** - Jamie Brown, Committee Clerk

**Present:** Tom Freijo, Chair; Abdul Al-khatib, Vice-Chair; Beth Luxford; Linda Wingate; Shandra Blocker; Christine Fullerton

**Absent:** Daniel Maxwell; Morgan Wilson; Richard Treuman; Melody Johnson

**City Staff Present:** Charlie Bird, Public Safety Director; David Brannan, Police Chief and Committee Liaison; Fire Chief Sonny Emery

3. **EMERGENCY MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA** – Resignation of Committee Member Melody Johnson. Chair Freijo passed out the written resignation to members. Alternate Christina Fullerton will step up to fulfill the remainder of the three-year term.

**Motion by Beth Luxford to accept the resignation letter of Committee member Melody Johnson.**

**Second by Shandra Blocker**

**Motion carried 5:0.**

**Motion by Abdul Al-Khatib, Vice-Chair to accept the appointment of Christina Fullerton to the vacated seat of Melody Johnson to fulfill the remainder of the three-year term.**

**Second by Beth Luxford**

**Motion carried 5:0.**

4. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING MINUTES** – Tom Freijo, Chair

**Motion by Abdul Al-Khatib to accept the September 15, 2022, meeting minutes.**

**Second by Shandra Blocker**

**Motion carried 6:0.**

5. **LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERS** – Abdul Al-khatib, Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Al-Khatib reported that he participated in a ZOOM meeting and arrangements have been made for the training on November 1, 2022 from 8 am – 5 pm in the Florida Room. The list of participants will need to be completed. A recommendation was made for Committee members to reach out to other community members they know and could invite.

6. **MEMBER APPLICATION PROCESS: PROGRESS TO DATE** – David Brannan, Chief of Police

Chair Freijo passed out the by-laws in regards to applicants and member replacement process. Chief Brannan announced no applications have been received to date with the closing of the application period of Oct. 21, 2022. One-year term members will re-apply if so desired by the application deadline. Each Committee member will reach out to at least one person to recommend applying. Any applications received by Oct. 21, 2022 from any other citizen will be considered for the two alternate position openings.

7. **POSSIBLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION** – David Brannan, Chief of Police

Chief Brannan reported that city email addresses are not to be given to anyone other than employees due to security features. Committee members will continue to promote the Committee through their individual contacts.

8. **STATUS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT** -- Charlie Bird, Director of Public Safety

Director Bird gave an update regarding the application process. To date, there are no applications. HR continues to work on a reclassification to entice applicants.

9. **SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Discuss and select new committee members and alternates.  
Follow up on the November training.  
Revise timeline for selecting of new members.

10. **SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE** – January 12, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Florida Room at Nora Mayo Hall

**Motion by Shandra Blocker.**

**Second by Beth Luxford.**

**Motion carried 6:0.**

**11. POLICE CHIEF REPORT - David Brannan, Chief of Police**

**Officer Involved Shooting:** Chief Brannan discussed the brief information regarding the October Officer involved shooting and gave information on the Tenth Judicial District Officer Involved Shooting Taskforce. The recent shooting is still under investigation.

**Police Department Annual Reports:** All of our Annual Reports should be completed by March 2023 and will be provided to the Committee.

**12. FIRE CHIEF REPORT – Sonny Emery, Fire Chief**

**Joint Active Shooter Training:** Chief Emery reported on the joint active shooter training between fire and police.

**New Hires and Promotions:** We have two new fire fighters and two fire fighters have been promoted to Lieutenant

**Annual Open House:** The Annual Fire Department Open House is Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 from 10 am – 1 pm.

**13. PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT – Charlie Bird, Director of Public Safety**

**Hurricane Report:** Director Bird praised the Public Safety Team through Hurricane Ian by utilizing a medic in a police car to speed up response during the height of the Hurricane.

**Code Compliance:** Code has now moved from underneath the Police Department and now under my office of Public Safety.

**Fire Stations 4 & 5 Bid:** We just completed the bid process of new Fire Stations 4 & 5.

**Special Fire and Police Training:** Police and Fire members will travel to Israel in November for Homeland Security and anti-terrorism training sponsored by a private foundation.

**14. COMMITTEE CLERK REPORT: Jamie Brown, Committee Clerk**

**Public Safety Quarterly Community Meeting:** Passed out flier for the Oct. 27 event.

**Oath of Office:** Our next Public Safety Oath of Office is Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the Garden Center.

**15. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS:**

**Abdul Al-Khatib, Vice Chair:** Vice-Chair Al-Khatib brought up ways the Committee can gain visibility through community events.

**Motion by Abdul Al-Khatib for this Committee to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in January 2023.**

**Second by Linda Wingate**

**Motion carried 6:0.**

**Christine Fullerton:** Thank you for the opportunity to step in to the full-time member role.

**Tom Freijo, Chair:** Requested clarification from Chief Brannan about a recent article he read regarding a sentence given to a man released from prison.

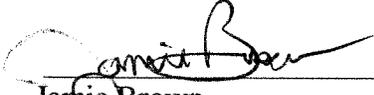
**16. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Beth Luxford to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.**

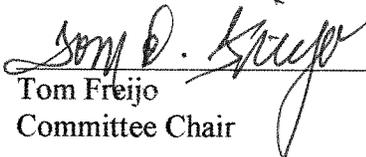
**Second by Shandra Blocker.**

**Motion carried 6:0**

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jarlie Brown  
Committee Clerk  
Public Safety Department

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

  
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Tom Freijo  
Committee Chair