

Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of July 14, 2021

Meeting held at Station 14, Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (VBVRS). Twenty (20) persons in attendance. CAC President Connie Agresti opened the meeting with a round of introductions by attendees.

Officer of the Quarter (1QCY21) Jasper A. Cheatham was honored. She was unable to be present, so Mr. Agresti read the nominating citation and Capt. McBrien accepted an engraved glass on her behalf to be presented before her coworkers. Capt. McBrien also mentioned that Officer Cheatham has been selected to attend Detective's training – one of the first selected since before the pandemic.

Mr. Agresti addressed the success of the Adopt-A-Muster program and thanked participants and contributors of the Independence Day event, sponsored by the CAC – pictures below.



CAC VP Barbara Clark mentioned a COVID-19 immunization clinic to be held the upcoming weekend.

CAC Treasurer Lisa McDonnell provided a summary of the coffers (> \$6,700), which includes \$4,500 of \$10,000 pledged by local businesses for the Second Precinct Community Outreach Initiative.

This Initiative has paid for use of an ice cream truck to reach out to local communities thereby enabling a positive police exposure to the youth of those neighborhoods. **Second Precinct Commander, Captain Harry McBrien**, who provided the following photos, mentioned that police are “on the lookout” to obtain a second-hand ice cream truck to paint in VBPD livery and employ regularly in this and other community outreach programs.



Capt. McBrien spoke of his pleasure to be back in the Second Precinct where he “cut his teeth” and served periodically throughout his career. He spoke of additional community-oriented initiatives, including working with residents, community/church leaders, and new owners of the crime-ridden Atlantic apartments to improve basic housing and services to the residents.

Capt. McBrien spoke of marked success reducing violent crime in the Second Precinct and attributed it to proactive community outreach, meeting with business owners (including bar owners/operators), improving oversight through additional officers and multi-law enforcement entity collaboration, focusing on high-crime areas, and leveraging technology. With regard to technology, he spoke of additional cameras within the Oceanfront as well as the recent deployment (just that afternoon) of **Shot Spotter** technology.

Shot Spotter records gunfire in near real time and alerts officers through a cell phone application of the location of the shooting within a circular probability of error of less than 80 feet. This enables immediate self-deployment of officers to locations while crimes are in progress rather than having to wait minutes for 911 dispatch. Capt. McBrien also cited nationwide statistics indicating that more than 80 percent of shooting incidents are never reported to 911.

Capt McBrien mentioned that human trafficking is still a common crime, especially in high-transient resort areas such as Virginia Beach. He spoke of the recent Oceanfront rescue of a 12-year-old from this captivity. These are time-critical issues, so if you see something awry, 911 is the appropriate number to call. (**Editor’s Note:** National Center for Missing and Exploited Children can be reached at <https://connect.missingkids.org> or 1-800-843-5678).

Lastly, Capt. McBrien lauded a citizen's vigilance in taking cell phone pictures – including a license plate – of a suspicious vehicle in her neighborhood. Her efforts thwarted a home burglary and led to the suspects' arrests.

Representatives from **Fire Department** and **Volunteer Rescue Squad** were not present. Mr. Agresti mentioned the resumption of free monthly CPR and Stop-the-Bleed training – visit <http://vbvrs.org> to register.

Mark Stevens (Human Rights Commission) stated that he continues to observe good work from police during their evening patrols and had positive comments about police interaction with the high volume of visitors over the Independence Day weekend.

Andrew Equels (Animal Control) spoke of issuing numerous citations for people having dogs on beaches during the height of the day, when temperatures on the sand have reached 130°. Dogs are prohibited from the beach between Rudee Inlet and 42nd Street (24/7), through the end of the Labor Day weekend. They are permitted on the beach north of 42nd Street and south of Rudee Inlet only until 10 AM and after 6 PM, in part because of the heat of the sand. Additionally, leashed dogs are permitted on the grassy area of the boardwalk only between the morning hours of 6:00 – 10:00 AM. All handler's must pick up after their dogs. The 385-4444 number is for the Animal Control Supervisor, so the best number to call Animal Control remains the police non-emergency number of 385-5000.

A representative from the **Commonwealth Attorney's Office** spoke of increased office staffing and the expanded hours necessary to review police body-camera footage.

Next Second Precinct CAC meeting will be held in the **VBVRS Station #14** (740 VB Blvd, 23452) conference room (park and enter from the east side of the building - through the delightful butterfly garden), at **7:00 PM on August 11, 2021**.