

## Recap of Second Precinct CAC Meeting of September 8, 2021

Meeting held at Station 14, Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (VBVRS). Twelve (12) persons in attendance. Since all attendees were vaccinated, masks were optional.

Attendance was limited due to severe thunderstorms in area. This included absence of anticipated guest speaker, Ms. Jada Lee, Director of Emergency Communications and Citizens Services (ECCS). She will be re-invited to speak at a later date.

**CAC President Connie Agresti** opened the meeting asking people to remember 9/11 losses among first responders. He also mentioned the success that VBPD has had in policing the streets including the recent speedy arrest of a bank-robbery suspect.

**Captain Harry McBrien** noted the collective efforts of citizens and other VBPD elements in solving this and other crimes. He cited the removal 111 illegal weapons from the Second Precinct's area of operations (AO) in the last 120 days and commented on his Community Outreach Initiative to stop violent crime before it starts.

These preventative efforts include focusing on improving the quality of life of the residents living in relative squalor in local trailer parks. Police teamed with **Human Rights Commission (Mr. Mark Stevens)** in a synergistic effort with other city services to provide more than 300 loaded backpacks (as well as more than 500 frozen treats) to children living in challenging socio-economic conditions.

**CAC Treasurer Lisa McDonell** gave a synopsis on the Community Outreach Initiative's fund base - \$9,500 contributed by local businesses, which Capt. McBrien mentioned was also shared across the department.

Pride in reducing violent crime was tempered with the continued effort to reduce property crimes, which are trending upwards largely due to citizen inattention to locking vehicles, homes, garages, and businesses. Property crimes are usually crimes of opportunity abetted by unsecured valuables or keys left in plain sight. Firearm thefts from vehicles and homes remain a bane and attendees were reminded that one of the responsibilities of owning a firearm is to ensure that it is properly safeguarded.

**Officer Euqels (Animal Control)** commented that the "end of the season" has led to fewer warnings and citations for dogs on beaches and the Oceanfront. He commented that sunny days can still render the sand dangerously hot for dogs.

Discussion ensued about the blocking of the bicycle path by dog owners riding bicycles while having their dogs tethered. No solution was reached.

**Mr. Bobby Hill (VB Volunteer Rescue Squad)**, said that 911 calls are tracking upwards and mentioned a new media campaign extolling the networked efforts of the various rescue squads throughout Virginia Beach – Oceans, Sandbridge, Princess Anne, etc. He mentioned the next free monthly CPR and Stop-the-Bleed training will be held September 18 at the Great Neck Station – visit <http://vbvrs.org> to register.

**Ms. Nancy Parker (Resort Area Civic League)** mentioned the importance of the upcoming Flood Protection Bond Referendum, which will be on the November 2 election ballot. This is an ~\$500M first phase of a multi-billion-dollar effort to control storm flooding throughout many areas of Virginia Beach, not just the Oceanfront. The specifics are available at [vb.gov](http://vb.gov) website. She encouraged attendees to “get the word out” to their respective civic organizations.

Mr. Agresti added that this was an imperative since the **Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO)** has ceased holding meetings due to the resignation of key leaders which has left it below the required number of directors mandated by its Corporate By-Laws. The remaining Directors are working on a solution, but this organization – the President of which is invited to City Council closed meetings – is currently ineffective and needs to be reconstituted.

Another attendee asked whether Virginia Beach still had a **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)**. Mr. Hill commented that a CERT continues to exist and is under the control of the Fire Department. Mr. Agresti comments that Fire Department representatives have not been attending CAC meetings (across precincts) at least since COVID-19 hiatus nearly two years ago.

In the absence of Fire Department representation, let me say that October is Fire Prevention Month and the traditional time to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Questions continue to be raised by attendees about ways to control speeding within their respective neighborhoods, although 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets are a recurring theme. Conversely, a recent NextDoor poster bemoaned the amount of time (and traffic lights) it took for him to travel from the Oceanfront to Great Neck Road. Mr. Agresti stated that he would try to get a representative from **Traffic Engineering** to attend a CAC meeting in the near future.

Next Second Precinct CAC meeting will be held in the **VBVRS Station #14** (740 VB Blvd, 23451) conference room (park and enter from the east side of the building - through the butterfly garden), at **7:00 PM on October 13, 2021**. All attendees should be vaccinated. Bring a mask just in case.