

# BOWIE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE!



## Minutes of the July 28, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Meeting called to order: 7:32 pm by the Chair

### Attendance:

Del Billings, Chair  
Bill Healy, Member  
Bill Grayson, Member  
Jill Hochman, Vice Chair  
Jeffrey Cooper, Member  
Monica Best-James, Esq. Member  
Jackie Rhone, Member

### Ad Hoc Members

Deputy Chief Preston, BPD  
Council Member Ingrid Harrison

### Guests:

Tameka Washington  
Arthur Washington

### Excused:

Ronnie Gill, Member

**Approval of June Minutes:** Motion by Bill Healy, seconded by Monica Best-James to accept the minutes. Approved.

### Reports:

#### City Council Update—Council Member Ingrid Harrison

- Community Policing event anticipated to be held on Thursday, August 26 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Allen Pond Amphitheater.

#### Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Update – Chief Jonathan Howard

- Not present

#### Police Department Report – Deputy Chief Dwayne Preston

- Spike in thefts from autos, especially around Allen Pond and Bowie Town Center, and Jerry’s Resturant
- Target burglarized- ATM with approximately \$45,000, taking approximately 4 minutes. Two vehicles used.
- Other jurisdictions also have had similar incidents

- National Night Out is scheduled for August 3 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- COVID
  - All employees with public contact required to be vaccinated
  - Once final approval of vaccine is received, all employees will be required to be vaccinated
- Traffic master plan
  - Still being developed
  - Speed camera program being expanded by October 1 to include residential areas with speed limits not more than 35 mph
  - Plan to use current provider
- Vacancies: 4 in Dispatch and 5 Police Officer positions
- City Community Code enforcement of parking transferred to the Police Department, position to be transferred also
- Speed cameras outside of school zones on local roads that have speed limits of 35 mph or more have been authorized by the State.
- City Manager approved new Hiring Incentive for police officers
  - \$3000 signing bonus, + \$1000 for an AA degree, +\$1000 for a BS/BA
  - Lateral transfer \$1000/year for a maximum of 3 years
  - Citizen referral will receive \$500
  - Starting pay is approximately \$54,000
  - Planning on developing a recruitment video with citizen involvement

### **Bowie Public Safety Committee**

- NNO Bowie Volunteer Fire Department will again assist in promoting citizens be trained in CPR.
- Bill Healy provided an update on the Public Safety Awards Ceremony.

**Next meeting:** August 25, 2021, 7:30 pm (virtual meeting)

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jill and seconded by Monica—Unanimously passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.