

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
LAW BOARD MEETING  
City Commission Meeting Room  
1101 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS  
May 17, 2021 12:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**Members Present:**            Kathryn Focke                            John Ford  
   Patricia Hudgins                        Linda Morse  
   BeEtta Stoney                           Barry Wilkerson  
   Robert Ward

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:**                Director Dennis Butler                Assistant Director Kurt Moldrup  
   Captain Erin Freidline                Captain Brad Jager  
   Captain Josh Kyle                      Captain Greg Steere  
   Captain Derek Woods

**Recorder:**                      Victim/Witness Coordinator Lisa Hafliger, Riley County Attorney's Office

- I.     Establish Quorum:** By Chairperson Morse at 12:00 p.m.
- II.    Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Butler led the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency (Law Board) in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III.   Consent Agenda:**
- A.    Approve April 19, 2021 Law Board Meeting Minutes
  - B.    Approve 2021 Expenditures/Credits
  - C.    Juvenile Transport Reimbursement
  - D.    RCPD Related County Expenditures (*Review*)
  - E.    Seizure Expenditures- (*Review*)
  - F.    Riley County Jail Average Daily Inmate Population- (*Review*)
  - G.    1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Reports: Synopsis- (*Review*)
    - 1.    Monthly
      - a)    Monthly Crime Report
    - 2.    Quarterly
      - a)    1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Uniform Crime Report (82.1.4)
      - b)    1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Traffic Accident & Enforcement Analysis (61.1.1)
      - c)    1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Seizure & Forfeiture Report (84.1.8)

Secretary Wilkerson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Member Ford seconded the motion. Chairperson Morse polled the Board and the motion passed with Focke, Ford, Hudgins, Morse, Stoney, Ward and Wilkerson all voting in favor and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0.

**H. Additions or Deletions:** Vice Chairperson Ward moved to add an item to the general agenda. He requested to add an Executive Session prior to Item N, 2022 Budget Development, for the reason of attorney/client privilege, to include the Director, the Board attorney and the attorney for RCPD as necessary parties to that session. Secretary Wilkerson seconded the motion. Chairperson Morse polled the Board and the motion passed with Focke, Ford, Hudgins, Morse, Stoney, Ward and Wilkerson all voting in favor and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0.

**I. Public Comment:** Dr. Lorenza Lockett shared that he works with the Coalition for Equal Justice (CEJ) and with the RCPD in regards to Fair and Impartial Policing. He shared that the CEJ is concerned about the process of appointing members to the Law Board and that people whom have applied were not informed why they were not selected. He stated that clear criteria for becoming a Law Board Member is not established or information what potential applicants can do to put themselves in a better position to be selected. Dr. Lockett shared that people that have applied represent minority population groups that need to be included on the Law Board. He emphasized that the process for appointment should be legitimate and consistent and that the people that take the time to apply receive feedback or acknowledgement of their application.

Chairperson Morse shared that when she was mayor she appointed many people to various boards. She stated that the process included each person applying through the City and that the County has a similar process. She noted that many people only include one or two sentences with very limited information about themselves or why they should be selected. She would encourage applicants to tell more about themselves and how their experience/connection to the community would aide them.

Dr. Lockett inquired if this information is written down and accessible so that people know what the criteria is and how best to complete the applications. He added that this still does not address the lack of feedback or response the applicants received. Dr. Lockett is hopeful that these conversations will lead to action being taken that will maximize the process and ensure that all people that are interested in serving have a clear understanding of the criteria.

Member Ford shared that the County has put together a set of criteria for the boards that are available to serve on. In the future they do plan to implement an interview/public hearing aspect to the process as well. He stated that this particular board is unique and the process of appointing members does need a little more openness and transparency. He shared that along the way they may need to clarify where to obtain information and have the opportunities be more visible for the community. He added that they are still working on this process and will continue to develop it.

Chairperson Morse shared that the City has not gone through the process of setting up questions or criteria, and while there are several boards that are unique, the Law Board is the only one that has taxing authority. She stated that previous City and County Commissions have felt that it would be better to have elected officials serve as they have some background experience with taxes/budgets. There are currently three citizens on the Law Board which complies with the statutory requirements.

**J. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge#17 Comments:** Rachel Pate, President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #17, stated that they are planning their annual torch run. Some other agencies in Kansas are holding theirs in June, but the RCPD plans to have theirs in conjunction with National Night

Out in October. They believe this will help get the community involved and the Special Olympic Kansas athletes. Rachel commented that at their previous monthly meeting the FOP workforce acknowledged the discussion by the County Commissioners regarding the possible 2% raise for all county employees that would continue into 2022. She shared that RCPD employees request the same consistency that has occurred in the past and emphasized that the employees are committed to serving the community.

**K. Board Member Comments:** Vice Chairperson Ward inquired if the RCPD uses a facial recognition program.

Director Butler shared that RCPD does not currently have facial recognition software. If they would pursue it in the future, they would take into consideration citizen's privacy and constitutional rights and they will have policy in place regarding how it is utilized.

Member Stoney shared that that the Manhattan-Riley County Coalition for Equal Justice (CEJ) and the Riley County Police Department (RCPD) have joined together to establish and build a collaborative relationship through the Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) Working Group. The two groups started working together in July 2020 to build a mutually respectful relationship. They continue to engage in an ongoing series of monthly meetings that address a variety of questions, topics, and community concerns about policing.

The CEJ's interest in fair and impartial policing grew out of Dr. John Exdell's research regarding racial disparities in arrest rates for marijuana possession after routine traffic stops in Riley County. The aim of CEJ is to work toward eliminating racial disparities in all aspects of law enforcement in Riley County. RCPD's ongoing work towards fair and impartial policing is grounded in the work of Dr. Lorie Fridell, a professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida and expert in the field of biased policing. When RCPD looked for a community partner for a FIP working group, CEJ was an obvious choice. And for CEJ, the response to the invitation to work together was a resounding "Yes".

The primary goal for the FIP Working Group is to bring recommendations to the Director of the RCPD in an effort to implement positive changes within the RCPD that would result in the fair and impartial policing for which the group is named.

The FIP Working Group consists of four representatives from CEJ, four officers from RCPD, and Dr. Be Stoney from the Law Board, who acts as moderator. The representatives from CEJ include Dr. Lorenza Lockett, Dr. Alayna Colburn, Myesha Williams, and Maureen Sheahan. Members of RCPD Captain Josh Kyle, Detective Calvin Sanders, Sergeant Patrick Tiede, and Officer Tyrone Townsend.

The group relies on a framework grounded in the work of Dr. Lorie Fridell and focuses on seven areas of intervention:

- Recruiting: using targeted recruiting of underrepresented persons for police officer positions to help the department better represent the community and county demographically;
- Policies: establishing and maintaining policies prohibiting biased policing with community input;
- Training: utilizing meaningful and effective training as it relates to bias and policing with continued evaluation and reassessment;

- Community Policing: shifting to a community policing approach that includes regular, purposeful, proactive, non-enforcement face to face engagement;
- Review of Policing Methods; continuing to explore methods used to examine policing activities for possible signs of police bias;
- FIP Engagement: exposing as many RCPD personnel as possible to the FIP meetings in the hopes of shifting perceptions and operations; and
- Community Engagement: continuing and improving RCPD's participation in community discussions about race and policing.

Look for updates as the FIP Working Group continues to meet and explore these areas of interest.

The FIP Working Group invites individuals to direct questions, comments, or interest to the following sources:

Websites:

CEJ: <https://mapj.org/coalition-for-equal-justice/>

RCPD: <http://www.rileycountypolice.org/>

Facebook communities:

Coalition for Equal Justice, Manhattan KS

Riley County PD

Also find us on Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms

Member Stoney shared that as the moderator of the group they have had great discussions on how to improve the working relationships between RCPD and the community. She stated that the group consists of eight out-going, forward thinking visionaries that work collaboratively to make Manhattan a better place to live.

Director Butler shared that he receives regular updates on this project and he's excited about the work they are doing and the recommendations that are being made.

Dr. Lockett shared that he appreciates the open and transparent work that they are doing. He emphasized that they are not fighting each other and they are trying to make a better place for the citizens to experience law enforcement while holding them accountable.

Chairperson Morse congratulated Member Stoney on her appointment as the Interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at KSU.

**L. 30<sup>th</sup> CALEA Re-Accreditation Anniversary:** Director Butler shared that the May 4, 2021 ceremony was designed to accept their re-accreditation certificate from last year and to recognize their 30<sup>th</sup> year of accreditation. In 1991 they were the first law enforcement agency in Kansas to receive accreditation; currently there are eleven agencies in Kansas that are accredited. This process assists the department in being open and transparent and helps facilitate various working groups, etc. Director Butler feels it is important to educate the community about accreditation and the standards they voluntarily agree to abide by to ensure proper policing.

Chairperson Morse commented that every year CALEA reviews 25% of RCPD's policies and makes recommendations, which prevents stagnant policies from remaining in place and facilitates introspection and self-examination. She added that the Law Board is proud of the work they are doing and the recognition they are receiving.

**M. RCPD Firearms Range Planning Update:** Captain Jager shared that water line has been installed and the grading is complete which allows them to utilize the range to its full capacity. The fencing should be installed this week which will complete the project. They plan to hold an open house sometime in late June that will be open to the public. They have been holding trainings there already and will be using it on an almost weekly basis.

Member Ford commented that he is happy that the process is done as it's been a long project.

**M.1. Executive Session:** Secretary Wilkerson amended Vice Chairperson Ward's motion to include that they go into executive session for thirty minutes and reconvene at 1:02 p.m. Member Ford seconded the motion. Chairperson Morse polled the Board and the motion passed with Focke, Ford, Hudgins, Morse, Stoney, Ward and Wilkerson all voting in favor and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0.

At 1:02 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

Secretary Wilkerson moved that they delay further discussion of the budget today and that they schedule a Special Law Board Meeting to bring forth other budget considerations. Member Stoney seconded the motion. Chairperson Morse polled the Board and the motion passed with Focke, Ford, Hudgins, Morse, Stoney, Ward and Wilkerson all voting in favor and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0.

**N. 2022 Budget Development:** Discussion on this topic was tabled and will be addressed at the Special Law Board Meeting.

**O. Special Law Board Meeting:** The Law Board requested a Special Law Board Meeting be scheduled for late-May.

**P. 2022 Budget for Publication:** Discussion on this topic was tabled and will be addressed at the Special Law Board Meeting.

**Q. Executive Session:** It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed.

**R. Adjournment:** Secretary Wilkerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Stoney seconded the motion. Chairperson Morse polled the Board and the motion passed with Focke, Ford, Hudgins, Morse, Stoney, Ward and Wilkerson all voting in favor and no one voting against. The motion passed 7-0. The May 17, 2021 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.