

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1710 hours on January 27, 2022. This meeting was held in the Emergency Management Center as well as via Zoom for members who could not participate in person.
- ii. Alan thanked Steven Blakeman, Thomas Cox and Barbara Sanford for continuing as members of the CCSCAC. The Board of County Commissioners reappointed them and their terms expire on 12/31/2024.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Steven Blakeman, Rochelle Blankenship (via Zoom), Charles Meyer, Brooke Nelson, Barbara Sanford (via Zoom), Ted Shanks and Nate Tyler.
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff Benedict, Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King, Chief Corrections Deputy Don Wenzl and Admin Manager Lorraine Shore.
- iii. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (IIT)

Chief King introduced Deputy Cody Anderson who was assigned as a detective with the Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team on January 1, 2022. Chief King explained that OPNET Detectives are usually assigned on a 5 year rotation and Deputy Anderson is replacing Deputy Pickrell, who had been with OPNET for the last 7 years.

Chief King provided a PowerPoint, explaining what an IIT, is to each member of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee prior to this meeting and he reviewed the PowerPoint during this meeting. A copy of this PPT is provided as Attachment "A" to these minutes.

Chief King explained that the Sheriff has the final say in selecting an IIT member. Chief King's presentation was to ensure the Sheriff's Advisory Committee is aware of the selected IIT members and have consensus and agreement on these members.

Sheriff Benedict advised the CCSCAC that the CCSO Detectives will not be investigating any CCSO Use of Force that rises to the level requiring an IIT. Clallam County cannot have their own IIT due to the close working relationships with other agencies on the Peninsula.

The Clallam County Sheriff's Office will be joining the Kitsap County Emergency Response Team (KCERT). Sheriff Benedict reached out to Kitsap County to include CCSO, Sequim PD, Port Angeles PD and Washington State Patrol in KCERT.

Membership in KCERT requires Sheriff Benedict to provide a list of members to the KCERT Board.

In the event of a major use of force incident, the CEO of an agency will call KCERT to get resources for the IIT. The IIT member will travel to join up with the agency IIT to investigate the use of force. CCSO will most likely only assign two detectives so as not to tie up all resources. Those detectives will join other detectives from agencies to make up the Independent Investigative Team.

Definition of IIT – Independent Investigative Team

A team of qualified and certified peace officer investigators, civilian crime scene specialists, and at least two non-law enforcement community representatives who operate completely independent of any involved agency to conduct investigations of police deadly force incidents.

OPNET Detective Cody Anderson presented his qualifications for the IIT to the members of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee. Chief King advised the CCSCAC members that the IIT candidate did not have any disqualifying work history/misconduct that would adversely affect their membership on an IIT.

Chief King provided a PowerPoint of Detective Anderson's qualifications, as well as questions for the CCSCAC members to ask each detective to determine if they are qualified to be on the IIT. Attachment "B"

IIT Questions

The exact questions for the IIT Oral Board will be as follows:

1. What training and experience do you have that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?
2. What is one specific case that you were involved in, and what was your role in that investigation, that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?

CCSO IIT Member:

OPNET Detective Cody Anderson

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Detective Anderson the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a case he investigated while working as a deputy on the west end that involved working with Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The case was a kidnapping that required multiple search warrants, including cell phone warrants. As a result of Deputy Anderson's investigation working with the Jefferson County Deputy and Prosecutor, the suspect pled out and is serving a lengthy sentence. Deputy Anderson said his experience in his previous agencies and CCSO working complicated cases, has prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard concluded the questioning of Detective Cody Anderson and asked for a motion on whether to recommend his placement on the Independent Investigative Team.

MOTION: (Blakeman/Shanks) Motion to recommend Detective Cody Anderson to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

Chief King explained that the Clallam County Sheriff's Advisory Committee is designated as the CCSO Community Representatives in the event there is a shooting or major use of force involving CCSO deputies. Definition of Community Representative:

- A minimum of two non-LE reps
- Participate in selecting IIT
- Review conflict of interest statements within 72 hrs.
- Attend chief/sheriff briefings
- Have access to completed investigation file
- Review media releases
- Review equipment use

The role of the CCSCAC members in an IIT will be very important and is voluntary. It is an involved process and most of the work can be done at a distance, however some travel may be necessary. CCSCAC members can withdraw if they do not wish to be a member of the IIT. PAPD and Sequim PD both have groups so other community representatives can be called upon if needed.

V. Sheriff Benedict

a. Retirement

- i. Sheriff Benedict stated he will retire at the end of his term, 12/31/2022. He has served 16 years as the Clallam County Sheriff and has served with the Sheriff's Office for 25 years. He considers serving as Sheriff of Clallam County his proudest accomplishment in his life.
- ii. The secession plan is for Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King to become Sheriff. Chief King is fully qualified for the position and has demonstrated the ability to lead the agency. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and born and raised in Clallam County.
- iii. Campaign rules are very strict and Chief King cannot discuss his campaign for Sheriff while on duty.

b. Legislative Updates

- i. The current legislation that was passed to address perceived issues in law enforcement has achieved the opposite result. The legislation was passed in response to the George Floyd and Seattle riots.
- ii. The homicide rate in Clallam County is stable; however the I-5 homicide rate is up 40 – 50%. Crime has increased substantially as a result of the legislation and limits it places on law enforcement.
- iii. Sheriff Benedict is hopeful that legislators will pass bills to cure excesses of the police reform legislation. The Use of Force legislation needs to be in line with the Constitution and WA Case Law. Pursuits need to be addressed as well as the ITA (Involuntary Treatment Act) detentions. Legislators wanted law enforcement to be hands off with people in mental illness and leave it to mental health professionals; however they are poorly equipped for that task.

Below is crime data from the Seattle PD website:

Offense Totals by Year 2021, 2020, 2019				
SeaStat Category	SeaStat Offense	2021	2020	2019
Violent Crime	Homicide	40	53	36
	Rape	281	286	386
	Robbery	1,749	1,488	1,553
	Aggravated Assault	3,285	2,656	2,719
	Total	5,355	4,483	4,694
Property Crime	Arson	224	169	110
	Burglary	9,780	10,438	7,639
	Larceny-Theft	26,907	23,281	26,023
	Motor Vehicle Theft	5,308	4,933	3,991
	Total	42,219	38,821	37,763
Grand Total		47,574	43,304	42,457

Below is the summary of reported crimes to the Clallam County Sheriff's Office for 2019 and 2020 from the 2020 WASPC Crime in Washington Annual Report.

<https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/Crime%20In%20Washington%202020-small.pdf>

CLALLAM SO		Clallam County		Population: 45,520		Months Reported: 12	
Offense Overview				Group A Arrest Overview			
Offense Total	1,474			Arrest Total	510		
# of Cleared Offense	601			Adult Arrest Total	490		
Percent Cleared	40.8%			Juvenile Arrest Total	20		
Group A Offenses	Reported 2019	Reported 2020	% of Change	Crime Rate per 1,000	Total Arrests	DV Offense Totals	
Murder	1	1	0.0%	0.0	1	1	
Manslaughter	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Rape	10	13	30.0%	0.3	1	5	
Sodomy	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Sexual Assault w/Object	5	3	-40.0%	0.1	3	3	
Fondling	12	15	25.0%	0.3	2	9	
Aggravated Assault	31	58	87.1%	1.3	38	12	
Simple Assault	253	222	-12.3%	4.9	147	137	
Intimidation	25	29	16.0%	0.6	4	4	
Kidnapping	9	4	-55.6%	0.1	4	3	
Incest	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Statutory Rape	3	3	0.0%	0.1	3	0	
Human Trafficking Offenses	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Violation of No Contact/Protect.	78	81	3.8%	1.8	47	52	
Robbery	4	7	75.0%	0.2	3	2	
Burglary	132	137	3.8%	3.0	30	3	
Larceny-Theft Offenses	335	391	16.7%	8.6	91	9	
Motor Vehicle Theft	32	40	25.0%	0.9	4	2	
Arson	2	5	150.0%	0.1	2	1	
Destruction of Property	184	223	21.2%	4.9	32	49	
Counterfeiting/Forgery	26	23	-11.5%	0.5	5	0	
Fraud Offenses	26	57	119.2%	1.3	4	3	
Embezzlement	1	0	-100.0%	0.0	0	0	
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Bribery	0	1		0.0	1	0	
Stolen Property Offenses	26	25	-3.8%	0.5	18	1	
Animal Cruelty	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Drug/Narcotic Violations	83	80	-3.6%	1.8	47	0	
Drug Equipment Violations	14	32	128.6%	0.7	17	0	
Gambling Offenses	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Pornography	7	2	-71.4%	0.0	0	0	
Prostitution Offenses	0	0		0.0	0	0	
Weapon Law Violations	25	22	-12.0%	0.5	6	0	
Grand Total	1,324	1,474	11.3%	32.4	510	296	

c. CCSO Recruiting Video Update

- i. The updated CCSO Recruiting Video was played for the CCSCAC. <https://youtu.be/Ryj2-myl0e0>
- ii. Sheriff Benedict said recruitment is down due to anti-police sentiment. Veteran officers are quitting to pursue other fields outside of law enforcement.
- iii. The county is proposing a hiring bonus of \$15,000.00 for Lateral Deputies. The money would be given incrementally (\$5,000.00 each year). An Entry Level Deputy generally takes over a year to hit the road after finishing the academy and field training. Seattle PD is offering a \$25,000.00 hiring bonus and King County is offering \$15,000.00 hiring bonus.
- iv. It is difficult to hire for Corrections and the Jail is short staffed. Mandatory overtime is difficult for morale but not an issue for the budget. Benefits are almost 50% of the cost of an employee so overtime is less expensive than hiring new personnel.
- v. There is Republican sponsored legislation that would funnel one tenth of one percent to local governments specifically to be used for law enforcement salaries. Currently the majority of the sales tax collected goes to Olympia and does not stay with the local cities and counties. This year the legislature is working with an 800 million surplus in the budget.
- vi. The Clallam County Sheriff's Office needs three or four more deputies on the road. If the legislation passes, the Sheriff's Office would receive 1 – 1.5 million per year for salaries.
- vii. The Sheriff's Office received a grant from WASPC for \$450,000.00 for a full-time Medical Assisted Treatment Coordinator.

VI. Sheriff Personnel Changes

a. Retirements

- i. Corrections Deputy Gary Gort – Retired 11/13/21

b. Resignations

- i. Patrol Deputy Elizabeth Boyden – Resigned 10/31/21
- ii. Mental Health Counselor Emma Watson – Resigned 11/15/21
- iii. Corrections Deputy Nathan Swanson – Resigned 11/25/21

c. Personnel Changes

- i. 2022 Court Security Deputy Melissa Clark
- ii. 2022 Court Deputy Nate Pence
- iii. 2022 Transport Deputy McLeod Hutchin

d. New Personnel

- i. Nicole Salim – Property and Evidence Manager – Hired 12/6/21
- ii. Nicholas Cannady – Hired 1/3/2022

VII. Roundtable

Barnard – Alan said there will be an Airport Day on 5/21/22 at the Fairchild Airport in Port Angeles which will feature Public Safety and Veteran Organizations. The Clallam County Sheriff's Office will have a presence with vehicles at the event. The CCSO will focus on recruiting for employees and volunteers. Alan is very involved in the CCSO ODT Bike Patrol and they are doing very well patrolling the trail, picking up litter and identifying issues for deputies and code enforcement. There are 5 new recruits for Bike Patrol with a total of 9 volunteers. Alan drafted a news release on the Bike Patrol which the Sheriff's Office published.

Nelson – The Port Angeles Association of Realtors had a meeting with CCSO Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King and Port Angeles Police Chief Brian Smith. They provided a crime update and explained how realtors can help their clients when it comes to crime prevention. Brooke noted that the schools seem to have a lot of activity i.e.: more sexual assaults reported. Teachers and the administrators have been talking about students getting into more trouble and are attributing it to the pandemic. The School Resource Officers in Sequim and Port Angeles have been a big help. She likes Nextdoor and CodeRED has been helpful in notifying citizens of issues.

Shanks – The parking lot at Hwy 101 and Diamond Point has been hit with vehicle prowls and Ted's vehicle was broken into. It took about 45 minutes for a deputy to arrive. He said the glass repair shop told him that there have been a lot of smash and grab prowls. Ted suggested putting cameras at the trailheads. **Benedict** said vehicle prowls are typical at Trailheads. **Chief King** said that parking lot has been an issue. There is a property close by that is full of junk vehicles which is an attractant to thieves. Most forced entry to vehicles happen at trailheads and Jamestown plans to put in a truck stop with a gas station at the corner of Hwy 101/Diamond Point. **Barnard** said the Bike Patrol Volunteers patrol trailheads and parking lots and report suspicious activity to deputies. **King** said there are two game cameras currently deployed at trailheads and there have not been a significant increase in vehicle prowls. He is working with Code Enforcement to clean up the junk vehicles at Eagle Road.

Meyer – In Seattle, the police department is down 150 officers and only 800 are currently on the police department. "Seattle PD Chief Diaz stated in 11/21 that the department was down 400 officers and needed 1400 officers to safely patrol the city and in December 2021 the number grew to 500 officer vacancies" Charlie felt the lack of support from the city leaders was the main reason for officers leaving the police department. Charlie is involved in the Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise scheduled for June 13 – 16th. Sequim will have a full exercise while Clallam County only plans a tabletop exercise. Charlie said the exercise will focus on the 8 steps they will take in a disaster:

- 1) Activate the Emergency Management Coordination Center in Sequim.
- 2) CERT – Volunteers will walk neighborhoods looking for people needing assistance
- 3) Transportation – Hwy 101 and bridges will be walked by volunteers who will look for alternative routes.
- 4) Big Box Stores – Locked up to prevent a run on supplies – Preparation for distributing supplies in an organized fashion.
- 5) DART – Airlift and Reconnaissance
- 6) ARES – Communication between Sequim and Port Angeles
- 7) Mesh Network – Private Internet for emails and file sharing
- 8) Shelter Exercise – Simulated shelter operation with Trinity United Methodist Church which will be an example for other churches. The goal is to have a 1000 bed shelter capacity.

Charlie said the Map Your Neighborhood program is another way to protect neighborhoods. It organizes residents to check on each other in the golden hour after a disaster.

Blankenship – Rochelle thanked Sheriff Benedict and Chief King for attending the Tribal Council. She asked about the agreement to hire one more Jamestown Deputy. **Benedict** said he and Ron Allen are working on an agreement.

Rochelle said the 7 Cedars rolled out their disaster plan. She talked about the recent Pot Shop robberies and was thankful to Jamestown Deputy Titterness who trained employees on safety which provided comfort to the staff.

Sandford – Barbara said she is concerned for the safety of our deputies and asked if there are plans for better equipment or a protocol to increase safety. **Benedict** stated the increase in officers killed and injured was occurring mainly in large urban areas. **Chief King** said that every year there is an increase in line of duty deaths and nationally ambushes and assaults are occurring at an alarming rate. Washington State has not seen that type of issue so far. Violent crimes have increased and we are trying to keep that from happening here. The Sheriff's Office has very good support from our citizens.

Tyler – Nate invited Chief King to speak to the Makah tribe when he declares his intent to run for Sheriff. Neah Bay has extended its closure to the end of February. Mental Health, Drug Abuse and Addiction have been magnified in Neah Bay. The council has discussed opening in March 2022. Neah Bay Chief Jasper Bruner has a lot of duties, including emergency management. Neah Bay's doctor was in the hospital for 5 months and there have been 12 new cases of COVID. The floods in December resulted in the loss of access on Hwy 112 due to the slide in Clallam Bay. Everyone was stuck for three weeks and couldn't get supplies. The Clallam Bay Prison Bypass opened up the area for supplies and Nate is hoping Hwy 112 is addressed soon. Nate said the tribe has benefited from working with Clallam County and particularly Undersheriff Cameron during flood emergency.

Blakeman – Steve is working with Sue Ford in the legislature on gun control. He said Deputy Earls is a friend of his and he enjoys the CCSO and feels supported.

VIII. Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting – 4/28/22 at 5pm in EOC

Adjourned at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by: CCSCAC Unanimously Approved 4-28-22