

The City of York, Pennsylvania

Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council
 Sandie Walker, Vice President of Council
 Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Member of Council
 Edquina Washington, Member of Council
 Lou Rivera, Member of Council

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COMMITTEE MINUTES September 1, 2020 6:00 p.m.

| Police | Fire | Public Works | E&C Development | Business Admin | Rules & Admin |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Washington Ritter-Dickson Rivera | *Washington Ritter-Dickson Rivera | *Walker Rivera Washington | *Ritter-Dickson Nixon Walker | *Walker Nixon Washington | *Rivera Walker Nixon |

***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

Note: General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

Below are ways the public may watch and comment:

- 1) Public view only link:
<https://zoom.us/j/96057060700?pwd=TzcrNHhDTWpXNFpVK00xaUxoT1ZJUT09>
 Passcode: 2020
- 2) Public call-in number: 1 (646) 876-9923 | Webinar ID: 960 5706 0700 | Passcode: 2020
- 3) Watch the meeting on Comcast Cable Channel 18
- 4) Watch the meeting live on Facebook (Search for “City of York”)
- 5) Watch the meeting online at www.wrct.tv
- 6) Email comments to the City Clerk at dthomps@yorkcity.org no later than 3PM on the day of the scheduled meeting.
- 7) Mail comments to: Office of City Clerk, Attn: Public Comment for 9/1/20, 101 S. George St., York, PA 17401. Comments must be received the day prior to the scheduled meeting date by 4PM.
- 8) Persons with hearing impairments may call the Deaf Center at TDD (717) 848-6765 for assistance.

Council in attendance: Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Sandie Walker, Vice President and Henry Nixon, President.

Administration in attendance: Michael Helfrich, Mayor; and Osborne Robinson, III, Police Commissioner.

Council Staff in Attendance: Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Chairwoman Washington opened the meeting with the following statement:

“Good evening everyone, I call the September 1st police committee meeting to order. This meeting has been advertised according to law. A copy of tonight’s agenda with information on ways to watch and comment can be found on the city of York’s website at yorkcity.org/event. The public call in number is: 1-646-876-9923, Webinar ID: 960 5706 0700, Passcode: 2020.”

“On behalf of our Public Safety Committee, myself, Councilwoman Judy Ritter Dickson, Councilman Lou Rivera, as well as our Council President Henry Nixon and Council Vice President Sandie Walker, thank you to

Mayor Helfrich, Commissioner Robinson, City Administration, and our community for joining us this evening for our Public Safety Committee Meeting. This meeting has been called to address the concerns brought before this Council from its residents regarding increasing problems of community safety, and the social and economic consequences that violence and crime has had on this community. The Administration has been asked on several occasions by myself, Council President Nixon, and Councilwoman Judy Ritter Dickson for solutions, strategies, and answers on the increase in violent incidents occurring in our community, and to no avail, we have not received a response to provide to our constituents.”

“Unfortunately, throughout our city, our residents have been plagued by an increase in incidents of crime and violence, as well as the unspoken residue of trauma that it leaves in the lives of victims, survivors, families, and our entire community.”

“However, we have resilient residents in York, that have expressed their desire to unite with our local government. Who better to unite with, than our residents, the very individuals that have the knowledge to identify the sources of crime, drug use, drug dealing, and juvenile delinquency. They have seen, been victims of, and have experienced these types of activities for years.”

“Developing sustaining partnerships with our residents, calls for strong local leadership from the police, local and elected officials, community members, clergy, not for profit, and for profit entities in order to build a healthier York City. Good governance requires the leaders of this community to respond to the needs and cries for help from our residents.”

“We must recognize crime and safety as a quality-of-life issue, work across jurisdictional boundaries, recognize the crucial role of political leadership, and develop tools and measures of success that involve the community and victims of crime.”

“Having the tools to promote community safety is not enough. We need a clear understanding of the underlying problems. It is important to not just focus on the symptoms of crime or only on visible crime in public places. Working on a long-term process to deter crime itself, may be more important than focusing on current fads, or quick results.”

“With that said, thank you Mayor Helfrich and Commissioner Robinson for sharing your ideas with our residents on your plans to help curb violence and crime in the City of York. I now open the floor to the Administration.”

POLICE

- **The Mayor and Police Commissioner to discuss their plans to help curb violence and crime in the City of York.**

Mayor Helfrich opened the meeting by outlining initiatives the Administration are working on to reach the public to receive their feedback on community concerns. Such initiatives include Community Ecosystem Coordinators, business and school collaborations, and various outreach programs. He then discussed the GVI (Group Violence Initiative) and how it operated and its successes. He then showed a PowerPoint presentation wherein he discussed in detail incidents of persons struck, shooting incidents, and criminal homicides as of 8/27/20. (Click [here](#) to view PowerPoint Presentation)

Commissioner Robinson then discussed in detail the 8/23/20 through 8/29/30 COMPSTAT Report wherein he outlined the 2019-2020 percentage change in the number of homicides, non-fatal shootings, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, vehicle theft, theft from auto, and arson. He said there has been a -22% drop in these crimes between 2019-2020. (Click [here](#) to view report)

Mayor Helfrich and Commissioner Robinson then answered questions from Council and received comment from the following members of the public:

Ralph Serpe discussed the performance measures of the York City Police department.

Cora Jensen discussed police being held responsible when they use excessive force.

Logan Hullinger, Political and Investigative Reporter at The York Dispatch, discussed creating a police committee to look at police reform such as body camera footage access and the Police Department's partnership with York College to monitor progress with GVI.

Grace Seebold discussed holding police officers accountable/make reports of unacceptable conduct, the vetting process for hiring officers and the city's handling of complaints of police misconduct.

Carmen Ibrahim discussed how statistics will help young people in the community with preventative measures such as programs for these teens to keep them off the streets.

Rebeka Giuffrida discussed a problematic intersection that has many accidents.

Arwen Artemis Martinez called for better lighting on all streets.

Lois Garnett discussed the city's Use of Force Policy for the Police Department.

Samantha Dorm discussed records management and nuisance abatement and the need for partnerships. She suggested a strategic plan with an implementation strategy specific to the police department and that Council should meet with the County Commissioners to discuss concerns regarding crime in the City.

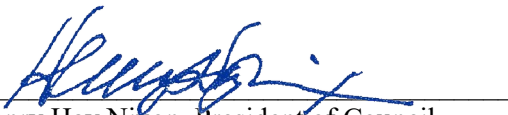
II. Adjournment

Chairwoman Washington made the following closing statement:

"In closing, thank you to everyone for joining us this evening and sharing your ideas, concerns, and strategies in regards to the safety of our community. Your comments and concerns are respected, valued, and trusted. The only true way that positive change can occur is if it is done in unity, (and) with that being said, we appreciate you and we want to work together with everyone in decreasing crime within our community. This will not be our last Public Safety Meeting, we plan to hold a second meeting within 90 days, to provide you, our community, with an update on comments, suggestions, and concerns shared with us. Have a great evening everyone, and let's continue to work together in making York a wonderful place to live, work, play, and pray."

There being no further business, the 9/1/20 Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk


Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council