



VISION: We will be a vibrant, dependable and clean city where services are delivered innovatively and effectively.
MISSION: To provide effective operations of the city through collaboration of members, management and staff.

CORPORATION OF HAMILTON RESIDENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 10:00 am
Mayor's Parlour, City Hall, Hamilton

Present:	Councillor Carlton Johnson, Chairman Councillor George Scott, JP Councillor Henry Ming Councillor RoseAnn Edwards Sarah Thompson, Associate Member Erica Smith, Associate Member
Apologies:	Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP Tracy Marshall, Associate Member Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member
Staff:	Treasurer - Tanya Iris (Acting Secretary) Event Project Manager - Jessica Astwood Communications Manager - Zoe Mulholland
In Attendance:	Councillor John Harvey, MBE, JP Councillor Dennis Tucker, JP City Engineer - Patrick Cooper Superintendent Na'imah Astwood (BPS) Chief Inspector Robert Cardwell (BPS)

1. Confirmation of Notice

The Acting Secretary confirmed that the appropriate notices of the meeting were duly given according to the Meeting Guide.

2. Role of the Chairman

Councillor Carlton Johnson confirmed his role as the Chairman.

3. Open Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting at 4.05 pm.

4. Apologies

The Acting Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from the Mayor, Charles Gosling and Associate Member, Mr. Michael Bradshaw.

5. Public Participation/Presentation

The Bermuda Police Service had been invited to inform the Committee of its strategy in regard to policing in the City and to hear COH concerns. All Council Members and the Infrastructure Committee had been invited to attend the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Na'imah Astwood and Chief Inspector Robert Cardwell (Officer in Charge of Hamilton Police Station). He explained that the Residents Advisory Committee included Councillors from the business community who were elected by the residents of the City. In addition to the elected Committee, he said there were four (4) voluntary Associate Members who were resident in the City. Executive staff of the COH also sat on the Committee. The purpose of the Residents Advisory Committee was to hear and refer the concerns of City residents.

The Chairman raised concerns regarding police CCTV cameras in the City, in particular North Hamilton, Court Street and Laffan Street. CI Cardwell invited the Committee to visit the "Come Up Centre", a control room with 140 CCTV cameras, which were monitored across the Island including the City. Should an incident be seen on the TVs, police officers were sent out to investigate and the CCTV footage would be used to identify suspects.

Councillor Edwards and Mrs. Erica Smith joined the meeting at 4.12 pm.

Addressing the BPS strategy for the City, CI Cardwell said that a recent realignment had been made within the BPS and resources had been shuffled to effect best operational capability. The Visible Action Teams were instructed to take note of parking complaints as they patrolled. Requests had been received from larger stores for police to 'walk through' to provide reassurance in regard to anti social behaviour as well as theft. Store protection advice had also been offered. Mobile Night Patrols were made regularly. A Gang Target Unit, a Police Support Unit and Armed Response Units, were in operation. Every weekend there would be a plan for specific targets. Parish Constables had been established across the island and the City would be included with Pembroke.

The Chairman said that perhaps the CCTV cameras could monitor the illegal dumping of household trash at night by people from outside of the City, particularly at the top of Ewing Street and Tills Hill. CI Cardwell stated that in such instances, he should be contacted and given the approximate times in order for the CCTV footage to be viewed to identify the culprits. Councillor Edwards was nominated to contact CI Cardwell in such cases.

The Chairman commented that there was a perception that the CCTV cameras on Court Street, from the PLP Headquarters to Dundonald Street, did not deter the anti social behaviour. CI Cardwell said that a regular police presence was carried out; the Gang Target Unit and the Police Support Unit visit the area to check for drug dealing; the Visible Action Teams walk Court Street and interact with business owners; police cars drive through and stop to deal with incidences.

Mrs. Erica Smith acknowledged that the Bermuda Police Service was actively addressing the issues in the area between Angle Street and Dundonald Street. She asked if there had been a reduction anti social behaviour, how did the BPS define success and what could the residents do. Supt. Astwood said that performance was measured in that area and had been successful. She pointed out that whenever police checks were carried out and nothing was found, no action would be taken. She said that it was not illegal for people to meet in a particular area and the police would not harass a certain demographic of the community without probable grounds. There had been a targeted operation in this and other areas. She said that a constant police presence would not be practicable and welcomed the support of the businesses to report incidences to the police. She said that this was a community issue with younger people taking the place of those who had left the area. The Parish Constables would consider the issue and make recommendations for a long term solution. CI Cardwell stated that the police did not have the full support of the Courts in respect of punishment for those charged with such offences.

Councillor Harvey spoke about the Bermuda Industrial Union's car park, next to Spinning Wheel. This was previously referred to by Mrs. Smith who said that she walked through the car park daily and there were regularly a group of between 5-20 young men with dogs, who had taken control of the car park on the Court Street side. The men were selling drugs. Councillor Harvey noted that this was private property. Councillor G. Scott said that there were plans to erect a wall on Court Street to prevent entry to the car park. After discussion on the possible design of the wall, it was suggested that the owners should seek the advice of the police.

The Acting Secretary raised the issue of homelessness in the City. She asked how the police tackled the issue and could the COH work with the police. CI Cardwell said that homelessness and mental health were regarded together and police resources were taken off the street for extended periods of time whilst dealing with individuals. He said that a mental health challenged person would be taken to hospital initially to be assessed for admission to the Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute (MAWI). This would take two (2) police officers approximately five (5) hours to complete. Regarding homelessness, Supt. Astwood explained that the police only has power to arrest and deal. CI Cardwell said that it would not be lawful to arrest someone for sleeping on the street. Councillor Harvey suggested that an incentive be given to homeless persons to divulge information to the police regarding night time criminal activity or intention to commit a crime. CI Cardwell said that the Salvation Army offered incentives to homeless persons such as a bed, bath and meals, which was often rejected.

Councillor Johnson raised the issue concerning the parking bays between Flannigans Restaurant and Bank of Butterfield, which were used as a taxi stand after 6 pm. During that period, particularly on a Friday and Saturday, the taxi stand would be used by vehicles other than taxis until late evening, leaving no parking bays for taxis. This causes the taxis to double park beside the seven (7) or eight (8) parking bays outside of A.S. Coopers and Casablanca. Consequently, the double-parked taxis were asked to move whilst the non-taxi vehicles parked in the taxi stand were not ticketed. CI Cardwell suggested that the road markings at the taxi stand should be repainted with extra signage.

At a previous meeting Mrs. Smith had raised the matter of parking outside the shops on Court Street at Christmas time. The shop owners had complained vigorously as their customers were not able to park outside the shops because police vehicles and police officers private vehicles had been parked in non-police bays all day. This had a serious negative impact on the businesses with regard to revenue and sales, resulting in possible closure of stores. Supt. Astwood said that the officers were aware that this parking was not permitted and that the offending vehicles had been ticketed. She would reiterate the problem to the police officers. CI Cardwell said that the offending officers had been identified and were informed that this was not permitted and that they would be monitored. Councillor Tucker said that civil servants were also using the parking bays all day. CI Cardwell said that there were presently only two (2) traffic wardens. He said that the Ministry of Transport had been asked to increase parking fines for Handicapped bays to \$1,000.

Ms. Sarah Thompson raised the issue of residential parking. She said that on Laffan Street, vehicles without a residential parking sticker were parking in residential parking bays. The residents had erected no parking signage in an attempt to clarify residential bays. CI Cardwell advised that Ms Thompson should make a list of offences and call 295 0011 (police line) and ask to speak to the Incident Commander. A police officer would then attend and ticket the vehicle. Ms. Thompson also asked whether there were CCTV cameras on the new roundabout on Laffan Street. CI Cardwell explained that there was not. For a CCTV camera to be erected on Laffan Street, it would have to be taken from another location.

Councillor Edwards said that she recently approached a police officer parked in a loading zone on Court Street. She was unsure whether the car was a police car or not and the police officer said that he was permitted to park there. CI Cardwell said that police vehicles on police business were permitted to park wherever they can to be near to the incident, except in handicapped parking bays.

Councillor Harvey asked whether telephone numbers for contacting police officers directly could be given out. Supt. Astwood said that there would be a launch event for the Parish Constables and she invited COH representatives to attend. The method of communicating with the police would be discussed and telephone numbers would be available. Also, a full page of police contacts would be published in the Royal Gazette.

Supt. Astwood said that she and CI Cardwell would take calls and advised that issues should not be allowed to build up, but rather they should be reported as soon as possible in order for the incidents to be dealt with swiftly.

Supt. Astwood and CI Cardwell left the meeting at 4.50 pm.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. **Minutes of the Previous Residents Advisory Committee Meeting dated 7 February 2019**

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming

Seconded: Councillor G. Scott

The Minutes were accepted as read.

8. **Matters Arising from the Previous Residents Advisory Committee dated 7 February 2019**

8.1 **Presentation by the Bermuda Police Service**

ACTION:

A Special Board Meeting would be arranged for a public presentation by the Bermuda Police Service. The Board, the Residents Advisory Committee and the Infrastructure Committee would be invited. **(Acting Secretary)**

8.2 **Residential Parking Permits**

ACTION:

Write a letter to the Acting Secretary to express concerns, as it relates to the Residential Parking Permit application process. Councillor Edwards read the letter to the meeting. Action item completed.

ACTION:

Add the Landlord's signature to the Residential Parking Permit Application form. **(Acting Secretary)**

8.3 **Pedestrian Lights at Heritage Worship Centre**

ACTION:

That the installation of Pedestrian Controlled Lights at the pedestrian crossing outside the Heritage Worship Centre building on Dundonald Street, as a traffic calming measure, be forwarded to the Infrastructure Committee. **(Acting Secretary)**

8.4 **Traffic Lights at Union/Dundonald Streets**

ACTION:

That the installation of traffic lights at the junction of Union Street and Dundonald Street, as a traffic calming measure, be forwarded to the Infrastructure Committee. **(Acting Secretary)**

8.5 **Truck Traffic at Laffan Street**

ACTION:

Consideration of the container truck traffic in the area of Laffan Street, Canal Road and Woodlands Road, be forwarded to the Infrastructure Committee. **(Acting Secretary)**

9. Resolutions Approved by the Minister

There were no Resolutions approved by the Minister.

10. Recommendations for Review

There were no Recommendations for review.

11. Status Update

11.1 Events

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Traffic Lights on North Street

Councillor Edwards asked for the status of the traffic lights on North Street. The City Engineer said that the lights had been knocked over and the new equipment was on order. The traffic lights would be installed as soon as the new equipment had been delivered.

12.2 Portland Loo

ACTION:

Circulate the Portland Loo specifications to the Residents Advisory Committee.
(Acting Secretary)

13. Meeting Closed at 5.05 pm.