

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose and function of the City of Warren Crime Commission shall be to bridge the gap between law enforcement, city council, government and the community.

## WARREN CRIME COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES April 02, 2025

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

|                |   |   |                    |   |  |
|----------------|---|---|--------------------|---|--|
| Najim Ahmed    | Y |   | Sumon Kobir        | Y |  |
| Tracy Alama    | Y |   | JD Marshall        | Y |  |
| Tracy Antrikin |   | N | Rex Marshall       | Y |  |
| Zsa-Zsa Booker | Y |   | Angela Middleswart | Y |  |
| John Harrison  | Y |   | Kayla Porvaznick   | Y |  |
| Jay Jackson    | Y |   | Mike Riley         | Y |  |

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Caitlin Murphy | Y |   |
| Dave Dwyer     |   | N |
| Henry Newnam   |   | N |
| Melody Magee   | Y |   |
| Capt. Houtos   | Y |   |
|                |   |   |
| PC Hawkins     |   | N |
| Mayor Stone    |   | N |

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Middleswart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Ahmed led the attendees in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion by Commissioner R-Marshall, seconded by Commissioner J-Marshall to approve the Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion by Commissioner Riley, seconded by Commissioner R-Marshall, to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Ms. Bournias obtained a new puppy from Canine Companions; however, it is to young yet for training. Norah, Ms. Bournias former K-9, is doing very well at her college training.

Mr. Pulice stopped by to update the Crime Commission about his neighbor. Nothing has changed. We see extremely more traffic near the end of the month. A lot of picking up and taking off. When the Police are called, his significant other, grabs a bag and jumps in a car and takes off. Captain Houtos would like to talk to Mr. Pulice after the meeting.

Ms. Ludwig attended tonight's meeting to inform the Crime Commission that Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney, Peter Lucido, has not returned her calls. Mr. Lucido has an event coming up, Ms. Ludwig will talk to him at this event.

Mrs. Palowoda stopped by to let everyone know that the next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at her house on Campbell Street. Mrs. Palowoda has been getting calls about the drones and about Citizens Police Academy. The police have been helping with the mini bike problem.

Mr. Strunk stopped by but unfortunately, he had to leave early. He spoke with Ex-Officio Magee.

Mr. Sylvester attended tonight's meeting to inform Captain Houtos that he has speeders on his street and nothing is being done about it. Captain Houtos stated that he will speak with Mr. Sylvester after the meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Patrick Coletta, stopped by to update the Crime Commission on the Hate Crime Grant. It's been roughly a year since my last visit. We have had two convictions in Warren under the Hate Crimes. The grant is not only focused on prosecution but also aims to prevent future incidents by providing specialized training for law enforcements. A new Hate Crime Law took effect April 1, 2025. Under the old Michigan law, a person found guilty received a two-year felony. Under the new Michigan law, it is now a five-year felony. For more information, please see Michigan Legislature MCL Section 750.147b. Also, 1-833-nomorh8(1-833-666-6748).

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Commissioner Middleswart has been in contact with Commissioner J-Marshall regarding a fundraiser for Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner J-Marshall distributed flyers. On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Premium Event Center we will be hosting a comedy night. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance. \$15.00 at the door. Commissioner Middleswart also mentioned that a portion of the proceeds from Commissioner J-Marshall's bottle donations went towards aiding the Jackson family.

**CAPTAIN HOUTOS'S REPORT:** Captain Houtos reviewed the current crime trends in the City of Warren. I am new to this position. I have only been doing it for two weeks. A new program will be starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The new program will have the police department working closely with the courts and social services in a systemic approach to aide domestic violence victims and in an attempt to stop domestic violence offenders from re-offending. The department will be following up with victims with referrals to social services such as Turning Point and the courts will be referring offenders to programs in an effort to stop re-offending.

**CITY COUNCIL EX-OFFICIO'S REPORT:** Ex-Officio's Magee stated that April's Budget meetings will be starting. Also, there will be a Second Chance Celebration & Resource Fair on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon till 3 pm at MRCC Union Hall. This is for citizens who were in jail and are now looking for a skilled trade.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Porvaznick distributed March's Treasurer's Report. Current Written Purchase Orders consists of: Walter Curtis and Bob's Specialties. Office Depot, Donut Castle, Contractual Services and Bob's Specialties are open under Current Encumbrances. Spending for March includes: Consumers Energy, City of Warren – Water, DTE, Contractual Services and Office Depot. Petty Cash is currently at \$100.00. Slap bands are going to be purchased by Bob Specialties. I resubmitted the Purchase Order for Walter Curtis with more clarity on what we were asking for. Currently, Animal Welfare does not have a line item for utilities. Therefore, next year our fiscal budget (2025-2026), for utilities, will be reduced by \$500.00 because we will be sharing the utilities with Animal Welfare. Community Promotions was increased by \$5,000.00 to allow for postage/mailings. The Historical Commission is working on a grant that would renovate the Crime Commission building. We received authorization to spend \$100.00 on potting soil, pots and flowers for the building. A motion by Commissioner Riley, seconded by Commissioner Kobir, to approve March's Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day Park Clean-Up is Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. It will start at City Hall for a brief kick-off and then you head out to your chosen park. Text Commissioner Middleswart if you are interested in helping.

The Mayor's Budget Presentation with City Council will be on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Community Center. Commissioner Middleswart will get with Commissioner R-Marshall to discuss what inventory items we will need to bring.

Commissioner Middleswart received a phone call regarding the old Burnette Branch Library that is located at Studebaker and Van Dyke. The property has been recently sold. There is a plaque, dedicated by the Warren Crime Commission, to Gerald L. Neil that the new owner wanted to know if the city still wanted. Commissioner Riley spoke to Dave Muzzarelli and the plaque is going to be removed and transferred to Beebe Street. The plaque was damaged by the city in the move.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Inventory Restock:** Commissioner Porvaznick stated that all inventory items have been ordered. The slap bands were cheaper through Bob's Specialties than with 4Imprint.

**Badges & Keys:** Commissioner Porvaznick resubmitted the purchase order for the badges with more clarity on what we were asking for. Commissioner Riley distributed new keys to Commissioner's Harrison, Booker, Alam and J-Marshall. If you decide to leave the Crime Commission for any reason, these keys need to be returned.

**Bulk Mailing Prices:** Commissioner Porvaznick stated earlier that Community Promotion budget was increased to reflect postage / mailers.

**Crime Commission Pamphlets:** Commissioner Riley stated that the pamphlets are completed, he was unable to run home and bring them as work ran over. He will send them out for approval and then forward them to Assistant Secretary Martin. Assistant City Attorney Murphy would like to be included in that email.

**Flower Pots:** Commissioner Porvaznick stated that we received authorization to spend \$100.00 for pots, soil and flowers. Commissioner Riley stated that Mr. Casasanta, from Parks and Recreation, has not called him back. Commissioner Riley asked for this to be tabled until May's meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**By-Laws Discussion / Plan Setting for Review:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that the By-Laws should be reviewed at least once a year. Commissioner Middleswart was looking to form a By-Law Committee to review the current By-Laws. After a brief discussion Commissioner's R-Marshall, Riley, Harrison, Middleswart and Assistant City Attorney Murphy volunteered to be on the By-Law Committee. The first meeting will be on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Crime Commission building at 10:00 am.

**Family Safety Night:** Commissioner Middleswart stated moving forward we are going to call it Safety Day. After a brief discussion it was decided that we are going to have it on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Halmich Park. Time to be determined. Commissioner Middleswart would like to have a Safety

Day Committee. Commissioner's Alam, Porvaznick, Kobir, J-Marshall and Middleswart volunteered to be on the Safety Day Committee.

**Handing out Publications and Literature:** Commissioner Middleswart asked Assistant City Attorney Murphy how should the Crime Commission handle when a member of the audience presents literature at one of our meetings. Assistant City Attorney Murphy stated that this should be discussed at the By-Law Committee's meeting.

**Sub Committees:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that since we are fully staffed, we can now form sub committees. This will help alleviate the burden from one person and actively shares it amongst many.

**Council of Commissions:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that Council of Commission's Annual Appreciation Dinner is on the calendar for Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will talk more about it next month.

**Senior Health Seminar:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that the next Senior Health Seminar is on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Does the Crime Commission want to participate at this event? After a brief discussion it was decided that the Crime Commission does not want to participate in May's event; however, we will participate in September's event.

**Goodie Bags:** Commissioner Middleswart stated that since we are not participating at the Senior Health Seminar in May, then we do not need to create goodie bags.

**Bangladesh Town Hall Meeting:** Commissioner Kobir stated that they are going to confirm Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center on Arden. Time to be determined.

**Police Memorial:** Captain Houtos stated no date has been confirmed yet. It will be at the FOP Hall and it might be around May 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. He will find out more.

**Roundtable:**

Martin: Nothing new to report.

Ahmed: Nothing further to report.

Murphy: Nothing new to report.

Porvaznick: Nothing further to report.

Middleswart: I want to welcome to our team, Tracy Alam, John Harrison, JD Marshall and Zsa-Zsa Booker. I appreciate all of you.

R-Marshall: Nothing new to report.

Kobir: I want to say thank you for all who came to the Iona Banquet Hall for Ramadan.

Riley: Nothing further to report.

J-Marshall: Nothing new to report.

Capt. Houtos: Nothing further to report.

Harrison: I won't be able to attend May's meeting. I have a work trip.

Booker: Nothing new to report.

Alam: Nothing further to report.

Magee: Nothing new to report.

Jackson: Thank you for all your support and prayers. It has been a rough 4 ½ months.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion by Commissioner R-Marshall, seconded by Commissioner J-Marshall to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

**Our next Meeting will be on May 07, 2025 @ 6:00 pm. at the Crime Commission building, located at 5959 Beebe Street.**

**Commissioner JD Marshall has housekeeping duties for the month of May.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Martin - Secretary's Assistant