



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:**

Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov

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Dial-in: 301 715 8592

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**Monday, December 4, 2023
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet - Public Safety Advisory Committee

Work Session - Public Safety Advisory Committee

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

[WS211201.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, to discuss Police Reform Procedures.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd, Judith F. Davis, Ric Gordon, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L. K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Tim George, Assistant City Manager; Chief Rick Bowers, Captain Tim White, Greenbelt Police Department; Chondria Andrews, Public Information and Communications Coordinator; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Stanley Zirkin, Peggy Higgins, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC); Konrad Herling; Bill Orleans; and others.

Update on Current Crimes in Greenbelt:

Mayor Jordan stated that there had been a lot of concerns in Greenbelt regarding the rash of violent crimes. Chief Bowers advised that there have been several incidents this week, three carjackings and a robbery. There had been an ongoing detail that targeted carjackings since the beginning of November. Chief Bowers stated that robbery suspects had been identified and an arrest had been made. There have been modifications to the shift deployments to include additional patrols and specialty assignment officers. Chief Bowers noted that the City's investigators are working closely with the Prince George's County Police Department Carjacking Taskforce, which is working with Montgomery County Police Department and the District of Columbia Police Department, which recently recovered one of the City's carjacked vehicles with an arrest.

Chief Bowers advised that the Police Department would be hosting two-hybrid Community Crime Forums to educate the public and discuss how the Police Department is keeping the community safe.

There was discussion regarding the plan the Police Department has in place regarding crime reduction. Mr. Byrd requested that Council receive a copy of the Police Department responses outlined tonight in writing regarding the plan in place to reduce crime. He noted that several years ago he proposed an Annual Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan produced in writing and requested this proposal be revisited.

Mr. Roberts noted that the City needed the basics, the allotted number of police officers and recreation facilities for the youth, to make a difference, not a crime reduction plan.

Based on a question asked by Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, Chief Bowers explained that there had been three carjackings that occurred Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday; a robbery occurred on Tuesday; and a shooting that occurred on Sunday.

AJ Thies, a Greenbelt resident, asked Council what actually changed in the crime rate over the years, not just in Greenbelt but comparing the data nationally. She also asked if Chief Bowers could provide any insight on how residents can feel safe. Mayor Jordan answered that the Police Department regularly publishes a list of crimes and incidents. He also referred Ms. Thies to the

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments which has a publication that gives an annual regional snapshot of crime.

Based on a question asked by Konrad Herling, a Greenbelt resident, Chief Bowers answered that he would have to do further research on if the recent crimes were committed with ghost guns and would provide the information to Mr. Herling.

Ms. Davis stated that the current format of the police crime report is unacceptable, not helpful and needs to be reformatted.

Police Reform:

Mayor Jordan explained that Council has been working through a set of recommendations to refine and improve how the police department conducts its day to day operations. The initiative was driven by the residents of Greenbelt, Councilmember Byrd, and other Councilmembers who brought up issues and concerns that mirror what's happening across the country. Mayor Jordan advised that the initiatives were submitted to various advisory boards/committees including the Community Relations Advisory Board and Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). PSAC submitted a report to Council with specific recommendations. Mayor Jordan said that tonight's work session was to review the proposed resolution submitted by Chief Bowers and Assistant City Manager George.

Ms. Davis explained that Council agreed to particular language in the previous Police Reform Work Session and when certain words or phrases are left out, it changes the perception and aspect of the resolution. She suggested that the language Council agreed to be added back to the resolution, and the resolution could be placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

There was a discussion regarding the amended language in the resolution. Chief Bowers explained that he and Mr. George never wanted to deviate on what Council wanted in the resolution. The document was completed to create the ultimate policy by removing subsections of policies because they didn't fit and flow. Mr. Roberts suggested restoring the language decided at the last work session by Council.

Council reviewed the amended resolution item by item and discussed the following changes that are listed numerically:

- 1. There was a discussion about changing the language. Ms. Pope, Mayor Pro Tem Weaver, and Mr. Byrd agreed with using the modified language. There was no discussion, and Council decided to use the revised language.*
- 2. Mayor Jordan stated to add "General Order #431" and use the original language.*
- 3. There was no discussion, and Council agreed to use the modified language.*
- 4. There was a discussion about changing the language. Mr. Gordon suggested eliminating "no-knock warrants" from the resolution and adding "restrict the usage of tactics that are required for the preservation of life." Ms. Davis stated that Council discussed an amendment to this line item prior, and it was voted down. She suggested that the current language could be resubmitted for further discussion from Council. Mr. Byrd advised that Mr. Gordon has the right at the next Council meeting to reintroduce the amendment due to the substantive changes. Ms. Pope stated that Council should agree on the changes that were decided upon already or stop and start from the beginning. Mayor*

Jordan proposed going forward with the language that was struck through and that Mr. Gordon or another Councilmember could reconsider the item at the next regular Council meeting. Chief Bowers explained a “no-knock warrant.”

5. *There was no discussion. Council agreed to use the modified language and remove the subsection.*
6. *There was a discussion about modifying the language. Chief Bowers explained that the changes removed two specified general orders and made it broader and global to School Resource Officers (SROs).*
7. *Mayor Pro Tem Weaver explained that language #8 and #9 are modified languages. There was additional discussion. Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Zirkin suggested replacing “completed” with “conducted.” Chief Bowers explained that #8 was for future reports and #9 was for historical reports, and that’s why they were separated. Ms. Davis suggested moving the last sentence from #9 to #8.*
8. *Use modified language*
9. *No changes*
10. *There was discussion. Mr. Byrd expressed his concern with the word “some” because it is too vague and discretionary and requested that word be removed. He explained that if records needed to be redacted, there needed to be more justification and criteria reasoning. Chief Bowers explained the exceptions to the MPIO law, which includes personal identifying records, address, and medical records. He advised that the policy must comply with the state law, and some exemptions could be redacted. Ms. Davis suggested the following language, “to comply with Maryland laws effective October 2021,” and delete “in accordance with April 2021 General Assembly.” Ms. Davis’s following proposal should be presented as an amendment at the next regular Council meeting.*
11. *There was a discussion about using the modified language. Mr. Zirkin stated that the original language was better because complaints should be documented. Ms. Davis suggested adding, “can be documented and properly reviewed.”*
12. *There was a discussion about using the modified language. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver proposed to add the last line regarding consequences to the revised language. Chief Bowers explained that verbiage didn’t appear at the end of any rule and wanted to be consistent. All discipline could include termination for violation of department policy, and it would have been redundant to add it at the end.*
13. *There was a discussion about using the modified language. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver noted only minor changes, and Ms. Davis stated there were spelling errors. Mr. Byrd expressed his concerns with the provisions, including excluding the parties’ names from the settlements. Mayor Jordan suggested leaving it up to the parties involved to have their names released publicly. Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, advised that police misconduct is a public matter, not private, and anyone involved in a lawsuit should have his/her name disclosed.*
14. *There was no discussion; Council agreed to use the modified language.*
15. *There was a discussion about using the modified language. Chief Bowers explained why the particular language was used to hire or contract a specialist. Ms. Davis suggested including “hire or contract in conjunction with the City” and “to assist in improving the diversity of the Greenbelt Police Department, as soon as practical.”*
16. *There was no discussion; Council agreed to use the modified language. Ms. Davis suggested adding “conscious and unconscious” after the word bias.*
17. *There was a discussion about using the modified language. Ms. Davis suggested using the first sentence of the original wording and combining that with the entire modified*

language paragraph. Chief Bowers explained the back of the State citation and the difference between a handwritten citation and an electronic ticket. He noted that the additional time the officer spends at the violator's window detains the driver longer than legally allowed and increases the danger not only to the officer but also to the driver. Lore Rosenthal, a Greenbelt resident, suggested giving the driver options, the ticket explained and provided a copy in English and the ticket explained and provided a copy in Spanish. Mayor Jordan suggested deferring this item if the Council cannot agree.

18. There was no discussion; Council agreed to the modified language.
19. There was discussion; Council agreed to the modified language. Mayor Jordan suggested removing the word "recommended." Mr. Zirkin indicated that the retention period should be no longer than one year.
20. There was discussion; Council agreed to the modified language. Ms. Davis suggested adding, "guardian policing model, to protect and serve."
21. There was discussion; and Council agreed to the modified language. Based on a question asked by Mayor Jordan, Chief Bowers answered that there is no National Use of Force Database.
22. There was discussion; and Council agreed to the modified language.

Mayor Jordan stated that the resolution would be added to Council's next regular meeting on December 13th.

There was a discussion regarding body camera-released footage recommendations. Mayor Jordan noted that he is respectful of PSAC's guidance of tiered footage. Ms. Davis stated that Council wasn't close to setting the footage release date. Mr. Byrd said that ten working days are acceptable. Mr. Byrd advised that he would submit an amendment at the next regular meeting.

Informational Items:

Mayor Jordan reminded Council that the Council Retreat would be Saturday, December 1st at 9:30 am in Council Chambers.

Chief Bowers informed the Council of two upcoming Community Meetings. The Citizens Academy will be kicking off February 2022 on Tuesday nights for two hours, and it is an eight-week session.

Ms. Davis asked who was attending the COG Annual Meeting next week. Mayor Jordan stated he was going. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver said she wasn't going to attend. Mr. Gordon advised that he wouldn't know if he would participate until Monday. Mr. George stated that he would attend.

Ms. Davis stated that the Prince George's County Municipal Association Legislative Meet and Greet is Tuesday, December 14th; the cost is \$50 per person. She said it is open to the Mayor and one other official. Ms. Davis stated that she would be attending as past president and her cost has been paid by PGCMA.

Ms. Davis noted that Council received an invitation to attend the GIS Academy banquet on December 17th. She stated that it is limited to four Council members. Mayor Jordan requested that Ms. Davis circulate the invitation.

Ms. Lore Rosenthal, a Greenbelt resident, stated that the Board of Elections is having a meeting tomorrow night and a group of citizens submitted a lengthy report/document for their discussion. She advised that she can't speak for the Board of Elections or Ms. Anderson, but it might hinder the Board from reporting to Council on the following Monday.

The meeting ended at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk*