

Staff Report

AMES RESIDENT POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

November 14, 2023

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 2 of Ames Municipal Code establishes the Ames Resident Police Advisory Committee (ARPAC). ARPAC is charged to provide an annual report to the City Council outlining the activities of the Committee in the past year.

The following individuals were appointed to the Ames Resident Police Advisory Committee (ARPAC); William Arce, Edna Y. Clinton, Roberto Dubiel, Tim Rasmussen, Emily Rebollozo, Virginia Speight, and Chunhui Xiang. ARPAC held its first meeting on July 13, 2022, and elected Emily Rebollozo as Chair, Edna Y. Clinton as Vice-Chair, Roberto Dubiel as Secretary, and began meeting every two weeks. Later, after several meetings, the group began meeting every other month.

TRAINING:

Committee members have received training in several different areas. The following is a summary of the training topics:

- July 2022
 - July 13- ARPAC Overview - Steve Schainker presented members with the responsibilities of the committee.
- August 2022
 - August 3 - Complaint Process/Collective Bargaining/Due Process/Administrative Leave/Discipline
 - August 17 - Constitutional Law
 - August 31 - Use of Force/Pursuits/Arrest Procedures/Traffic Stops
- September 2022
 - September 14 - Department Division Overviews
 - Commander Jason Tuttle, Commander Dan Walter, and Support Services Manager Aaron DeLashmutt
 - September 28 - Monthly Activity Reports/APD and ISU Traffic Stop Study
- October 2022
 - October 12 - Mental Health Advocate and Police Response/Partnerships
 - Julie Saxton, Ames PD Mental Health Advocate
- November 2022
 - November 30 - Crime Scene Investigation
 - Detective Adi Johnson
- January 2023
 - January 11 - Communications Center/Police Pursuits
 - Dispatcher Laura Lovig
- March 2023

- o March 29 - Complaint Process/Training Accountability
- May 2023
 - o May 31 - Complaint Process/Discussion of Upcoming Special Events
 - o RAGBRAI (July 25-26, 2023)
 - o Cyclone Welcome Weekend (August 18-20, 2023)
 - o UNI v ISU Football (September 2, 2023)
 - o UNI v Iowa Football (September 9, 2023)
- August 2023
 - o August 2 - Introduction to the City's new DEI Coordinator, Cassandra Eames/Police Response to Active Shooter
- October 2023
 - o Special Events and Discussion of the Annual Report to City Council

Also, during that time, ARPAC reviewed the following police department policies:

- 100 Law Enforcement Authority
- 300 Use of Force
- 301 Use of Force Review
- 302 Handcuffing and Restraints
- 303 Control Devices
- 304 Conducted Energy Device
- 307 Pursuits
- 500 Traffic
- 505 Traffic and Parking Citations
- 900 Temporary Custody
- 1010 Personnel Complaints/Internal Affairs

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT:

Six of the seven members of ARPAC attended the annual National Night Out event at Friendship Baptist Church on August 2, 2022. Three members were able to attend National Night Out in 2023 and assisted in both cooking and handing out food to participants. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. While this is a nationwide event, in Ames, the Ames Police Foundation partners with Hope in Christ and several other organizations to provide backpacks and school supplies to those in need prior to the start of school. For the past several years, 800 backpacks and kits of school supplies have been provided. In addition, food is served, and several public service entities have tables and booths to provide services to our community.

Two members attended the MLK celebration on January 16, 2023. The MLK Celebration was held in the City Auditorium this year to reflect on the life and work of ReverEnd Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One member attended the Ames Fly-in on April 29, 2023. This event is another community event to provide an opportunity for the public and the police to interact in a positive way. It also serves as a fundraiser for the Ames Police Benefit Association and the Boys and Girls Club of Story County.

One member attended the Juneteenth Celebration at Bandshell Park. The Juneteenth Celebration this year was held on June 16 and 17. The festivities were at Bandshell Park on Saturday, June 17 where there was live music, food, crafts, and a play about the first African American to fly across the country, James Herman Banning. There was a dedication earlier to rename the Airport as the James Herman

Banning Municipal Airport. The Celebration offered another opportunity for community members to engage with our police department and a member of ARPAC.

Two members participated in the Fourth of July Parade in 2023. Every year at the Fourth of July Parade, first responders participate. This year, two members of ARPAC walked along with the police department to hand out candy and engage with the public.

Three members have participated in police ride-alongs. An important aspect of ARPAC is seeing interactions in person and members have participated in ride-alongs to watch how officers handle calls for service and engage with the public. Some of these ride-alongs occurred during Cyclone Welcome Weekend. This is a very busy weekend for the department and a great opportunity for ARPAC to see them in action.

To help get the word out about ARPAC, they have been featured in a few social media posts and each Monthly Activity Report provides links to contact members of ARPAC including links to the page containing the compliments and complaints. In addition, ARPAC set up an email address to contact the committee directly at arpac@cityofames.org.

THE FUTURE OF ARPAC IN 2024:

ARPAC is looking forward to 2024 and has several ideas for further outreach and engagement. They are in the early phase of planning a larger open meeting after the first of the year where the public will be invited to talk with, ask questions, and relay any concerns to ARPAC members. ARPAC believes they have the knowledge needed at this point to be able to engage at this level.

In addition, ARPAC is looking at different sources to help the department recruit and retain the most talented individuals. While many police departments are struggling to recruit right now, ARPAC believes they can assist in this endeavor by looking for best practices while also providing a voice about why prospective candidates would find Ames a great place to live, raise a family, and be an important part of the community.

ARPAC is also looking to actively reach out to other committees, organizations, and community groups for both input, but also engagement. ARPAC members are looking for opportunities to collaborate and speak with other community partners.

ARPAC will also look to promote its mission with other tools such as continued Social Media activity and reaching out to the Ames Tribune and Iowa State Daily to reach a broader audience.

POLICE COMPLAINTS:

ARPAC members have reviewed several past complaints to learn about the process and the investigation that goes into responding to these complaints. To date, there have been no complaints meeting the criteria for ARPAC review since July of 2022.

A few pictures are attached from the ARPAC members' outreach efforts at the National Night Out events in 2022 and 2023.