

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1700 hours on January 26, 2023 in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Steven Blakeman, Rochelle Blankenship (via Zoom), Tom Cox, Charles Meyer, Walter Morton, Brooke Nelson, Barbara Sanford (via Zoom), Theodore Shanks and Nate Tyler (via Zoom).
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff King, Interim Chief Criminal Deputy Amy Bundy, Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson and Admin Manager Lorraine Shore.
- iii. Guest – Fred Abt
- iv. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the April 28, 2022 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Re-appointment of CCSAC Members:

- a. Blankenship, Rochelle – Term expires 12/31/2025
- b. Nelson, Brooke – Term expires 12/31/25
- c. Tyler, Nate – Term expires 12/31/25

Sheriff King thanked the CCSCAC members and he values their community involvement and feedback.

V. Sheriff Bill King

a. Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson – Independent Investigative Team

Sheriff Brian King introduced Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson who gave a presentation on his credentials and experience. Sergeant Knutson is applying as lead of the Independent Investigative Team.

Prior to this meeting, the CCSCAC members were emailed a PowerPoint of Brian Knutson's qualifications, as well as questions for the CCSCAC members to ask Brian, to determine if he is qualified to be on the IIT. Attachment "B"

IIT Questions

The exact questions for the IIT Oral Board will be as follows:

1. What training and experience do you have that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?
2. What is one specific case that you were involved in, and what was your role in that investigation, that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Brian what training and experience does he have that has prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Brian reviewed the training and experience provided in his PowerPoint presentation. Sgt. Knutson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ashford University and he has been with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office for the last 18 years. He was active duty in the US Marine Corp from 1999 – 2003 prior to starting as a Patrol Deputy with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office. Brian was selected as a Detective in 2013 and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2018. He was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2023 and has extensive training and experience investigating homicides as well as other crimes.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Brian to describe one specific case that he was involved in, and his role in that investigation, that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Brian Knutson gave an overview of a 2013 homicide investigation in Joyce that was extremely complicated and involved working with other agencies arrest the suspect who had fled to Oregon.

Sheriff King said he gained confidence in Brian when there was a homicide in Sunland and Detective Brian Knutson was first on scene. In a matter of hours the suspect was placed into custody with Knutson taking the lead as the Acting Detective Sergeant.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard concluded the questioning of Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson and asked for a motion on whether to recommend his placement on the Independent Investigative Team.

MOTION: (Morton/Shanks) Motion to recommend Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

Sheriff King was asked about the difference between the IIT (Independent Investigative Team) and the OII (Office of Independent Investigations).

IIT	OII
Report to OII within 24 hours	Governor's Office – Statewide – may assume investigation of any serious injury or death resulting from Use of Force
AG will look to see if IIT are following correct processes	Not set-up until end of 2023
IIT can create issues with evidence which is critical to solving crimes. Sheriff King referenced the Sequim Homicide (occurred in County) and a subsequent Use of Force. The IIT rolled both the homicide and UOF into their investigation.	Likely only responds to deaths resulting from Use of Force. If OII assumes investigation, then IIT is firewalled. Concerns about evidence issues in this case.
Minimum of 2 citizen members on IIT.	OII will rely on citizen representative to vett the process.
IIT members are recommended by their agency to the IIT commander	Members directly appointed by Governor. OII has 75 staff. As of

who will ensure they have proper qualifications to serve on the IIT.	Nov 2022, 14 OII members. Not supposed to include LE but if separated more than 2 years they can serve on the OII. A King Co Judge is leading the OII and establishing protocols. Investigators will need to go to training at the Police Academy and they will be heavily reliant on the IIT.
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For more information on the IIT visit:

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/sheriff/Pages/Independent-Investigative-Team-IIT.aspx>

For more information on the OII visit: <https://oii.wa.gov/about-oii>

b. Acquisition of new equipment

Sheriff King is working on acquiring a BearCat which will be used as a regional resource. Generally the appearance of an armored vehicle ends the event. Sheriff King believes it is not military but necessary for public safety. The cost is \$425,000.00 new and takes 9 months to build.

OPNET just seized over \$400,000 in real property so he will ask the BOCC to use those proceeds to purchase the BearCat. The easiest path to acquiring equipment is for OPNET to have a contract that includes language that all agencies will pay for maintenance.

8 officers in back and 1 driver. It can carry 2 patients. It is AWD and Armored with Bullet Proof tires. It can go through 4 feet of water. Has a Ford 550 that can go 70 mph. The BearCat is a versatile piece of equipment for Emergency Management as well as Operations for community safety.

c. Deputy Uniforms

Sheriff King said the department is looking to change their dress hats. Deputies prefer cowboy hats rather than the Smokey Bear hat.

III. Sheriff Personnel Changes

a. Retirements

- i. Corrections Deputy Ray Cooper – Retired 7/30/22
- ii. Sheriff Bill Benedict – Retired 12/31/22

b. Resignations

- i. Corrections Deputy McLeod Hutchin – Resigned 6/8/22
- ii. Patrol Deputy Eric Morris – Resigned 1/31/23

c. Promotions

- i. Admin Specialist Amy Oakes to Civil Deputy – 8/1/22
- ii. Patrol Deputy Harold Edwards to Patrol Sergeant – 1/9/23
- iii. Admin Sergeant Amy Bundy to Interim Chief Criminal Deputy – 1/14/23

d. Transfers

- i. Corrections Deputy Esther McKellar to Patrol Deputy – 5/24/22
- ii. Civil Deputy Nelson Morgan to OPNET Intel Analyst – 8/1/22
- iii. Corrections Deputy Zach Grall to Patrol Deputy – 8/19/2022

- iv. Corrections Deputy Melissa Clark to Records – 11/1/22
- v. Admin Spec Brian Clerici to Corrections Deputy – 11/16/22
- vi. Patrol Sergeant Brian Knutson to Detective Sergeant – 1/9/23
- vii. Detective Sergeant Eric Munger to Admin Sergeant – 1/14/23

e. New Personnel

- i. Theresa Rothweiler – Emergency Management Assistant – Hired 5/1/22
- ii. Reymond Lim – Corrections Deputy – Hired 7/1/22
- iii. Ryan Roman – Corrections Deputy – Hired 8/22/22
- iv. Patrol Deputy Emanuel Herrera – Hired 11/7/22
- v. Corrections Deputy Jeffery Erskine – Hired 1/16/23
- vi. Corrections Deputy Gregory Granum – Hired 1/23/23

Sheriff King would like Jamestown to fund one more position for nights and weekends to deal with drug use. Drug use is illegal under Tribal law and dealt with in the Jamestown Court System. **Rochelle** said she broached the topic of one more deputy with the Jamestown Council and they were supportive. **King** will meet with Rochelle to discuss how to present the council with information, money and stats.

VI. Events

- a. Airport Day – 5/21/22**
 - i. Sheriff's Booth and Vehicles
- b. Jamestown Health Fair – 6/1/22**
 - i. Community Policing/Recruiting Booth staffed by Lorraine and Sgt. Minks
- c. Presentation to Melodie Bowers – Jamestown Banquet Coordinator**
 - i. Sheriff Benedict, Chief King, Sgt. Minks and Lorraine Shore presented a plaque to Melodie in appreciation for her service to the Sheriff's Office.
- d. Sheriff's Awards Banquet – 3/4/23**
- e. KONP Home Show – 3/18 and 3/19/23**
 - i. Community Policing and Emergency Management Booths

VII. Technology Enhancements

- a.** IAPRO/Blue Team
- b.** EI Core
- c.** PoliceOne
- d.** LexisNexis (Accurant)

VIII.

IX. Roundtable

Bundy – She gave an overview of her qualifications for the Chief Criminal Deputy position. Talked about managing the CCSO Bike Patrol program and their effectiveness. Barnard said that public confidence increased due to bike patrol.

Morton – Interested in legislative issues and how citizens can impact legislation to allow law enforcement to do what they need to do. He is also concerned about speeding on Hwy 112/113. Sheriff King said there are two new WSP Troopers living out there now which should help with traffic enforcement.

Blakeman – Asked where Taser and OC fell on Use of Force continuum. Sheriff King explained that OC is a First Level Device and a Taser is an Intermediate Device.

Nelson – Asked if the Active Shooter training in schools is going to start up again. **Sheriff King** said he has been teaching Run/Hide/Fight and taught at Queen of Angels last week. Can be tough to get the program into public schools due to the attitude of school boards.

Shanks thinks the BearCat is interesting idea but that Sheriff will need to sell it to the public. King said the BearCat will save lives.

Rochelle 100% agrees on need for Active Shooter training. She is on the City of PA Public Safety Board and presented general information on the role of an IIT Citizen Member. Tom Cox provided notes to Rochelle and assured attendees that the time commitment was minimal.

Sandford is honored to serve on the CCSCAC and to have served under Sheriff Benedict and now Sheriff King.

Tyler congratulated Sheriff King and spoke about the legislative issues the tribe is dealing with that affect law enforcement. He thanked the Sheriff's EOC Staff and especially Undersheriff Cameron for assisting with the response to the fires in Neah Bay.

X. Public Comments

No public comment

XI. Adjourn

Next Meeting – 4/27/23 at 5pm in BOCC

Adjourned at 6:51pm

Attachments: KCIRT Bios for IIT Member Detective Sergeant Brian Knutson

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by: