EPOA Meeting

*02-03-22*

**Call to Order:**

S. Brenneman called the meeting to order at 1731 hours.

**Roll Call:**

Brenneman-VP, Rabelos-SAA, Suarez-SEC, B. White, D. Sanchez, L. Uhden, T. Katzer, D. Frerichs, L. Clifford, N. Given, Z. Wold, R. McDonell, K. O’Brien, A. Ferreira, B. Raby

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Led by S. Brenneman

**Executive Board Update:**

Covid mandatory sick time protocol, have been address. In the past the city has deducted holiday and sick time from officers who had called in sick during holidays. Officer have been mandated or sent home due to Covid guidelines and were still getting dinged. A MOU was sent out to address this issue as well. If you are long term sick leave, your holiday time will not get penalized.

Budget was approved in December, but copy was not sent out. Updated 50K amount to fix EPOA building will be added in, update to kitchen, lights, flooring, sleep furniture, washer and dryer. The remodeling will start possibly in the next two months, as the EPOA will be getting bids. If of the furniture or other items inside belong to any officer/s, please start clearing it out.

Contract negotiations are coming up, if anybody has in interest on being on the contract committee/board, please let an EPOA board member know that you are interested.

Will be updating EPOA bi-laws, as this is just for information for this meeting, but EPOA board is thinking of changing the meeting from once a month to quarterly meetings. The board would put out a newsletter on what was discussed and the votes would be done at the quarterly meetings. If meeting go quarterly, would like to increase the pot drawing up to 500 dollars in order to get more participation from members, and upgrade on food.

Once the EPOA bi-laws are updated, will be putting out for a vote. One change would be changing the payroll ballot votes or electronic votes.

Circling back to upgrading the EPOA building, anyone have any issues with making it nicer to make it more welcoming for officers to spend time at the building to complete reports. If the budget for upgrading the building goes over the 50K already allotted for upgrades, it would have to go to a vote. Want to provide drinks and snacks for officers for free via the vending machines at both precincts and at the EPOA building. There would be a budget of $300 a month, and once the monthly budget is met, we would have to wait till the next month to restock. This would have to be voted on in a future meeting. Sgt. Fletcher would still be willing to stock and run the machines. WIFI and cable will be installed at the building as well.

Danny has dual duty; we will be paying him Treasure’s rate as well as his current rate while Antonito is off at training.

Looking at the bi-laws, we would need to get the committees in order and the most important committee is the Grievance. As of right now Lance is the only one in grievance committee. Would like four people for the grievance committee, T. Katzer and B. White volunteered to be part of the Grievance committee. We would like to have one more person on the committee, if you are interested, please let a board member know.

**WaCops:**

The House of Representatives passed a pair of bills Friday (01-28-22) afternoon to clarify portions of the police reform package passed by the Legislature last year. HB 1719 - Tactics - passed with a vote of 95- 0 and HB 1735 - Use of Force -passed 90-5. The bills head to the Senate, where they are likely to pass easily.

(HB 1054) HB 1719, sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D-Lakewood), clarifies that the prohibition on .50 caliber weapons only applies to rifles and not beanbag rounds or less-lethal munitions launchers. HB 1054, part of the package passed in 2021, banned firearms over .50 caliber. This provision inadvertently banned the use of less-lethal munitions launchers and beanbag rounds, which HB 1719 rectifies.

(HB 1310) HB 1735 sponsored by Reps. Jesse Johnson (D-Federal Way) and Alicia Rule (D-Blaine) clarifies that officers can use force, subject to the newly established reasonable care standard, in behavioral health circumstances, for involuntary treatment commitments, in instances of child welfare, and other related circumstances.

[HB 2037](http://wacops.memberclicks.net/message2/link/345a589b-f334-4a38-9f96-1fdaee74b1a5/7) – Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers - was heard in the public safety committee on January 25th.  Over 2500 people signed in opposed to Rep. Goodman's effort to restore an officer's ability to use force when a person flees temporary investigative detention.  WACOPS was unable to testify in opposition, but submitted extensive written comments relating to committee members that the bill is deficient in restoring your ability to lawfully use necessary force in a reasonable suspicion circumstance.  The bill is scheduled for executive session for a committee vote on February 3rd.  The bill as written, will not adequately allow you to do your job in providing the public safety services the public demands when they are victims of crime and WACOPS will continue to oppose.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Do not have as Antonio is out of town on training.

**New Business:**

Possible contract negation discussion points. If an officer is injured and is on L&I, would like to see the city put into the officer’s retirement fund. As it stands now an officer who is on L&I would have to put his own money into his retirement fund. EPOA board members will be going around to all briefings and start asking around on the general consensus of what members are wanting to see for this next contract negotiations. A vote will then be put out to see what would be the priority items for negotiations. Allow comp time for patrol and use it like vacation time with the possibly to cash it out towards the end of the year. Other major ideas for contract negotiations would be: post-retirement medical coverage, steady pay raise as cost of living has gone up, night shift differential, bi-lingual pay, possibly stack incentives, have the city pay sick leave at 100% for people will are retiring, and have the city up the match for deferred Comp.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn – Katzer, 2nd to Motion – O’Brien at 1820 hours.

**Attendance “Pot of Gold” Drawing:**

Given