

## 2024 Springfield Police Advisory Committee Annual Report

### **Executive Summary:**

The following report is respectfully submitted covering the activity of the Springfield Police Advisory Committee (SPAC) for the timeframe of January 2024 through December 2024.

This report highlights the activity reported as Business from the Audience, Business from Springfield Police Department, Policy Reviews and Business from the Committee.

Items that the committee would like to specifically call attention to that reflect our commitment to fostering greater understanding and transparency around police operations and community connection are as follows:

- \* We collaborated with SPD by reviewing 12 policies to help the department ensure the policies are clear, current and relevant.
- \* There was minimal business from the audience this year. We continued to collaborate with SPD to ensure the community is aware of this meeting and there is time available for them to voice their questions and concerns.

Additionally, in 2024, SPAC adopted the following statement of purpose for the committee:

- Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD.
- Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD.

SPAC would like to express our gratitude for SPD for their participation in numerous community gatherings and celebrations, and we'd like to welcome Poker and Taro to the K9 unit. We'd also like to thank Councilor Joe Pishioneri for serving as the Council liaison to SPAC from 2017 through 2024. Councilor Pishioneri's contributions to the Committee were invaluable and should be commended.

Finally, the SPAC would like to highlight the work Chief Shearer and his team have done hiring and training numerous officers to ensure SPD is properly staffed. Additionally, Chief Shearer was honored at the recent 2025 State of the City address as one of the City of Springfield's Employees of the Year! Congratulations!

### **2024 In Review:**

Business from SPD:

*Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD.*

*Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD.*

- The department successfully passed the accreditation assessment, led by Lt. Crolly.
- Substantial support was provided by the department in the immediate aftermath and subsequent week following the 2024 ice storm. This was a complete effort by all members of the department, who aided with tasks spanning from normal traffic management, to conducting health and wellness checks, to delivering essential supplies to stranded residents, to supporting utility and public works crews.
- The annual awards ceremony was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> to honor staff for their significant achievements, teamwork, and valor, as well as members of the community for acts of heroism and selflessness.
- The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Committee member Pastor Daniel Davidson became involved with the Peer Support Program in his role as the department's Chaplain.
- The department was successful in securing grants and congressionally allocated funding to support ongoing efforts to expand situational awareness and tactical training using virtual technologies, as well as purchase of new and replacement safety equipment for patrol staff and tactical response teams.
- Staff promotions during the year included nine members of the department ranging from patrol to administration, to command leadership and detectives.
- Community events such as the K9 Competition, National Night Out and the 2024 Olympic Trials Race Walk provided the department with welcomed opportunities to support and engage with the public.
- The increasing trend of major retail theft was successfully diminished over the course of the year through special operations (i.e., "stings") implemented with funding from the State, and conducted in partnership with major local businesses, leading to several arrests and recovery of thousands of dollars of stolen property.
- One of the department's K9 units was selected to serve as a Task Force Officer with the DEA.
- Chief Shearer was appointed to serve on the Board of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, as well as the State's Medal of Honor Board.

#### Business from the Committee:

- Cultural Community Minority position filled by Josh Aguilar
- Liaison to the City Council – Terri Dillon to continue
- Ice Storm feedback – overall gratitude for SPD going above and beyond
- Developed statement of purpose
- Eric Adams will begin as Chair in 2025 and Daniel Davidson as Vice Chair

#### Next Steps & Discussion

- Continue to bring awareness to community about the existence of SPAC.
- Increase public input at meetings and/or with SPAC members.
- Encourage committee member participation and attendance at community events.

*Build awareness and outreach between the community as a whole and SPD.*

*Review SPD policies as determined by the committee and/or those recommended by SPD.*