

Alvin L. Brooks

President Emeritus AdHoc Group Against Crime

3717 Southern Hills Drive
Kansas City, Missouri ♦ 64137
(816) 719-0670 ♦ alvinbrooks2011@gmail.com

December 12, 2022

To: Members of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners

Bishop Mark Tolbert, Chair; Ms. Cathy Dean; Ms. Dawn Cramer; Mr. Don Wagner; Mayor Quinton Lucas

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Alvin Brooks, ninety years old and a ten-year member of the Kansas City Police Department (1954-1964) and a member of the Board of the Police Commissioners (2010-2017). I served two years as Board chair.

I have followed very closely and attentively the workings of the Department since the summer of 1953 when I decided to become a Kansas City police officer. After Departmental interviews, I was interviewed by the Board of Police Commissioners and was appointed to the 44th Recruit class.

I attended the Board's community meeting this past Saturday at the Mohart Center and heard the presentations of the three finalists for the Chief's position of Kansas City's Police Chief. Please allow me to make the following suggestions as the results of that meeting.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR DECISION ON THIS IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT AT YOUR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH).

Let me further suggest the following:

- (1) That the Board have all three candidates return for three public hearings, with all three candidates on the same panel at the same time. They each would present themselves to the public and then respond to questions from those in attendance. (All questions would be submitted to the moderator on 3x5 cards).
- (2) As you witnessed, the meeting Saturday was a poor representation of our city of nearly a half million residents. Therefore, I suggest further that this process be repeated in three areas of our city: North of the river, mid-town (the Mohart Center) and South.
- (3) One most important suggestion. All three candidates ought to be asked specifically and publicly to address this question: *"How do you define **Community Policing**? If you are chosen to be our next Chief, how and where would you start to implement Community Policing?"*

FYI: Former Police Chief Steve Bishop and I were members of a 6-week think tank of 60 police officers, sheriffs and prosecutors from around the nation. This think tank was organized by two professors at the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University in April and May, 1992. The 60 members were divided into two groups of 30 each and met at alternate weekends. Chief Bishop and I were in different groups. I was the only one of the 60 who was a non-active officer. The purpose of this important exercise was to develop a Community Policing Model. And that we did.

When Chief Bishop returned, he tried the model in the Central Patrol Division where the late Major James Nunn was the commander. I worked very closely with Major Nunn. If one would were to check the crime stats for that period, I think it would show that all crimes were reduced, and specifically violent crime.

After Chief Bishop left the Department and Nunn was transferred, no other Chief took on the implementation of Community Policing Model. I would be more than happy to meet with the Board and share what I know about the Community Policing Model with you. I briefly touched on it during my question and remarks at the Saturday meeting.

As board members you are, of course, aware that cries have come from across the City — including in the press, that the Board has not been transparent in its deliberations in its search for a new Chief. I believe these suggestions can reduce some of the perception of lack of transparency. But I hasten to say that for the Board as a public body, honoring total transparency as provided by law is essential for the community to have faith and trust in your deliberations and conclusions, most especially in the selection of a Chief.

Further, I believe the Board in its fiduciary responsibility owes this to our city and to the Police Department. Please remember that perception over time becomes reality in the minds of those who show an interest in what you do.

I wish you the best and His Blessings with success as Police Commissioners.

TO: all interested parties.

AUTHOR OF

BINDING US TOGETHER

A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST REFLECTS ON A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE