MR. O'ROURKE: Well, the big hand, as they say, is on the 6, so let's call the meeting to order. And for rollcall, we have Michael and Tom and Tracy and William. Who is TD? I can't hear you. You're muted, John.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It's Teresa.

DR. DEWS: Teresa. I'm here.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. You're just not a picture.

DR. DEWS: I'll be right there.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. No problem. No problem. And so we're missing Abby and let's see, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, we're missing Abby only. Good.

Has everyone had the chance to review the minutes, which were sent to us sometime back -- as just before you got here, I was saying that I was thinking minutes are going to be minutes as opposed to your report, which isn't a bad thing. I'm just saying has everyone had a chance to review the minutes that Nancy took at our last meeting?

MR. JEANS: Yes.

MR. MILLER: Yes.

MS. HOEFLING: Yes.
We also have a contract with the Cleveland Division of Police where we do all of their cadet training at our police academy. Our fire academy is training firefighters for 50 years. We have a paramedic EMT training program. This effort is headed up by our vice-president of public safety and he also serves as the college's chief of police. His name is Clayton Harris. Clayton serves on countless committees, working groups, commissions, throughout the state task forces. He was appointed to many organizations by the Governor and the Attorney General. He represents the county chiefs, the state chiefs of police, the state campus police chiefs, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Scenario Village that we have built carries cadets and other law enforcement through scenario-based training. There is a firing range, there is a simulation system where the police actually go through simulation training in very heightened situations that typically they encounter.

The Village includes housing, building structures that simulate banks, different types of community kinds of scenarios, and that's where all of the training takes place.

We have the driving of police cars out there, so we have a driving range for the police to navigate their various scenarios.

So it is an organization that is currently involved in, I think, some of the same kinds of challenges that we're facing here in Bratenahl, particularly when it comes to what we call diversity, equity, and inclusion, sensitizing individuals and addressing some of the issues that have been addressed by the various, I guess I call them, civil rights agencies, if you will. That kind of gives you a summary of the kinds of things that we're doing.

Mr. O'ROURKE: And how is it that Bratenahl can work with Tri-C or gain knowledge from Tri-C or whatever we need to do to help us,
Because a lot of the ACLU report, we have an issue on. I'll make sure whatever format he can share it can be adapted. And then every time there is an update, our officers must sign off on that. Can we have a couple of volunteers to go through the ACLU report as it relates to Bratenahl and look at specific items that we can address at our next meeting with the chief so that we have something concrete to talk about and perhaps, William, you can share the report with him ahead of time?

MR. GARY: Okay. Russell, if you would resend e-mails, if you could resend me the report or give me the link, I'll be happy to share that with the chief in advance.

MAYOR LICASTRO: That hasn't come from anywhere. But I'll make sure whatever format he can share it can be adapted. And then every time there is an update, our officers must sign off on that. Can we have a couple of volunteers to go through the ACLU report as it relates to Bratenahl and look at specific items that we can address at our next meeting with the chief so that we have something concrete to talk about and perhaps, William, you can share the report with him ahead of time?

MR. GARY: Okay.

MAYOR LICASTRO: And one more comment. With the closing of the Cleveland Heights OPOTA Academy, Tri-C is one of the few left in the area, so its role in that vein is even more important.

MR. GARY: Yes.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you.

MR. GARY: Thank you.

MAYOR LICASTRO: It's something about a company called Lexipol that gives constant updates with changes in state law or policies so it can be adapted. And then every time there is an update, our officers must sign off acknowledging the change.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. And that's available to all of us to look at. So we should, I think it's a good idea that we all take the opportunity and we can -- that hasn't been given to all of us, John, I believe. So should they contact Diana or Angela or --

MAYOR LICASTRO: That hasn't come from our chief or lieutenant, so let me take that task on. I'll make sure whatever format he can share

MAYOR LICASTRO: I think when your chief, William, attends this meeting, have our chief on the meeting as well.

MR. O'ROURKE: I think that's perfect.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you.

MR. O'ROURKE: No, thank you.

MS. HOEFLING: Russell, this is Tracy.

MAYOR LICASTRO: I’ll volunteer to review their report.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay, Tracy. That's great.

DR. DEWS: Russell, this is Teresa.

I'll work with Tracy.

MR. O'ROURKE: Great. We'll work separately.

MR. GARY: Russell, if you would resend me, so I don't have to look through 20,000 e-mails, if you could resend me the report or give me the link, I'll be happy to share that with the chief in advance.
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with you will be shared.
MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. Yeah. We had that
put together the last time we were together in
November. At least between him and me. And so
he had said that could be shared in some form,
but I forget exactly what he was telling us
about.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Some of it's
proprietary, but whatever we can share, we will.
MR. O'ROURKE: Perfect. Does -- those
are really the things that I wanted to get
through today.

Does anybody have any old business that
we need to talk about? Or any new business? I
think the new/old business is just confirming
that this time is going to be a good time every
month to meet for our meeting, at least for the
foreseeable future.

As summer rolls around, we may have
different ideas, but 5:30 on this Tuesday is
going to be good for everyone going forward?
Tell me if you don't. Otherwise, I'll just
assume everybody is happy.
Okay. Is there anything else anyone
would like to discuss before we --
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MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah, I'd like to make
an offer.
MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.
MAYOR LICASTRO: So every other Tuesday
beginning with this evening we have Mayor's
Court. We have COVID restrictions, but we can
begin to bring each of you individually, I can't
bring you as a group because that violates
Sunshine Law, but I can bring one of you to a
Mayor's Court on an every-two-week basis so you
can observe the function of the court, get a
hands-on perspective on how we do business. I
think that would be very helpful since that's
part of your task to see it real time.

MS. HOEFLING: Agreed.

MAYOR LICASTRO: So looking at the
calendar, today is the 16th, so the 30th would be
the next court. Whoever would like to attend,
I'll make arrangements for you to sit -- it
starts about 5:00. If you sit in for an hour,
hour and 15 minutes, you'll get a real feel on
how we function. I think that would be very
helpful to each of you.

MR. MILLER: This would be in person,
John?

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MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah, it would be in
person. Of course, it's COVID, masks,
distancing, we'd keep you 6 feet away, but
since it was the Mayor's Court that spurred the
ACLU report, I think viewing that real time is
critical.

MR. MILLER: Sure. I'd like to go,
maybe skip the next, the 30th. I get my second
vaccination on the 30th. The one after that,
I'll be in good shape. Two weeks after the
second shot, supposed to be all ready to go.

MAYOR LICASTRO: So whoever's schedule
accommodates that date, just let me know and I'll
make arrangements for you to be there.

MR. O'ROURKE: So it's 5 until when?
MAYOR LICASTRO: It starts about 5:00.
It goes until about 6:30, 7:00. If you stay an
hour, you get a real feel. You're welcome to
stay the entire time.

MR. O'ROURKE: I'm just thinking since
there are seven of us, to get through one at a
time is going to take three, four months. So
maybe we do a split shift. Would that work,
John, for getting a good feel?

MAYOR LICASTRO: You know, let me -- I

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think that observing a court, we can probably be
a little more flexible regarding the Sunshine
Law. You're not there to discuss business;
you're there to observe.
Let me check with the attorney, because
getting two of you in really makes it a
no-brainer. I can't do any more than that
because of COVID restrictions, but a couple of
you put your name forward and I'll have an answer
on that in the next day or so.

MS. HOEFLING: And, Russell, this is
Tracy. I could do the 30th.

MR. O'ROURKE: I am virtually positive I
can, but if somebody else wants to do it, and
they know they can right now, please go ahead.
I'm good if nobody else wants it.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay. Russell, I'll
share with you the details, but plan on the 30th
at Village Hall and be there before 5:00. Again,
I think you'll find it very helpful with this
endeavor.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. So that will be
Tracy and me then.

MS. HOEFLING: Okay.

MR. O'ROURKE: And I know, Teresa, you're
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1 really more available after 5:30, right?
2 DR. DEWS: Right. I just looked at the
3 next couple of meeting dates and I actually have
4 conflicting meetings other than the one for this,
5 for the next one here.
6 MR. O’ROURKE: Okay.
7 MR. JEANS: I can raise my hand for the
8 13th of April. I have a conflict on the 27th.
9 MR. O’ROURKE: Okay.
10 MAYOR LICASTRO: It’s every two weeks.
11 MR. JEANS: Yeah, so we got the 30th of
12 March and then two weeks later is the 13th of
13 April.
14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay.
15 MR. MILLER: I’d like to do the 13th if
16 that’s doable.
17 MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay. Again, I’ll know
18 the next day or so. I’m almost sure we can do
19 two. So that -- the next one would be the 27th.
20 Yeah.
21 MR. GARY: You can put me down for that
22 one as of today, schedule, the way things are
23 going at the college right now, I’m kind of up in
24 the air on a lot of things, if you pencil me in.
25 MAYOR LICASTRO: Can you make that

19
1 directed or limited to Bratenahl, but concerns
2 with Mayors’ Courts in general. I only raise
3 this for your reaction on the kind of lens we
4 should have as we are observing, but things seem
5 to be fairness, relationship to municipal income
6 or profits, and disproportionate impact on people
7 of color. Are those the kinds -- that’s what I
8 saw in the report.
9 What should we be observing and to what
10 end, I guess, is my question?
11 MAYOR LICASTRO: So when you talk about
12 fairness, obviously people are in court because
13 they have broken the law. We’re not arbitrary in
14 choosing who comes. People who are there have a
15 violation.
16 If the violation is considered minor, if
17 you’re going less than 20 miles over the speed
18 limit, you can waive the ticket. Most opt to do
19 that. But there’s certain criteria that you have
20 to appear. If you have multiple offenses, let’s
21 say you’re driving under suspension and speed,
22 you have to appear for that.
23 So people that appear do so because
24 they’re mandated to do so or they’re looking to
25 perhaps strike a deal and get -- speak their

20
1 mind, tell their story, and get things reduced.
2 Now, if we have 30 or 40 people in
3 court, I think it’s safe to say that we amend or
4 dismiss almost every single individual. Just
5 multiple offenses we usually dismiss a couple and
6 leave the primary. We almost always reduce the
7 fine. And some of it we can do with free rein,
8 some of it we can’t.
9 For example, driving under suspension,
10 which is a big, big thing in the ACLU report,
11 they don’t think people should be cited for
12 driving with a suspended license. Well, the
13 State of Ohio disagrees. If you have a suspended
14 license, you can’t drive. The fine in that can
15 be up to $1,000. The minimum is $250.
16 So you’ll see when you observe the
17 magistrates and prosecutors at work that we are
18 more than fair, more than generous, and I think
19 that’s really all I have to say about fairness.
20 The third point you mentioned are people
21 of color. If someone is indigent, they need to
22 tell us that. We make it clear and we take that
23 into consideration. Again, the demographics of
24 who appears in court is just indicative of who
25 drives through Bratenahl. We don’t target. We

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don't profile. Some courts will be predominantly people of color. Some not. But that's just arbitrary. It's just a question of who is out there breaking the law.

If any of you drive on the freeway, it doesn't take long to see people breaking the law. The speeds out there are downright frightening.

What was the second point, Michael?

MR. JEANS: The relationship to political profits or municipal income.

MAYOR LICASTRO: Right. So to eliminate any degree of impropriety or appearance of impropriety, I do not sit as a magistrate. I'm there to orchestrate the court. We have magistrates that are paid a flat rate.

Some courts actually, if you can believe this, pay the magistrates a percentage of fines and fees. We do not do that. They're paid a flat rate to be there.

And the ACLU put up a billboard a number of years ago saying Bratenahl brought in $500,000 for whatever year it was, I can't remember. That was skewed for two reasons: Number one, that was a year where there was construction on the freeway where fines were doubled; and if we did not amend and dismiss, it probably could have been twice that.

So you'll see in real time and in practice how that really is a moot point because of the manner in which we -- we are exceptionally generous with all defendants. Now, if someone is there and they get stupid or rude or just act in a manner that is not appropriate, we're not as generous.

But that's why I'm anxious for each of you to see it in real time. They'll conduct themselves when you are there as if you weren't there. I mean, it's just a matter of routine for most of us.

So that's the way I would address those three issues. Is that sufficient, Michael?

MR. JEANS: Absolutely. And I appreciate the context.

MAYOR LICASTRO: And when you're observing Mayor's Court, there's some do's and don'ts. You know, you have to let them do their thing. You can't really interject, but you'll have plenty of downtime where you can ask the magistrate questions, even observe the prosecutors who act more as an advocate for the
CERTIFICATE

I, Nancy L. Molnar, do hereby certify that as such Reporter I took down in Stenotypy all of the proceedings had in the foregoing transcript; that I have transcribed my said Stenotype notes into typewritten form as appears in the foregoing transcript; that said transcript is the complete form of the proceedings had in said cause and constitutes a true and correct transcript therein.

Nancy L. Molnar, RPR, CLR