

Draft minutes



BURLINGTON POLICE COMMISSION
ROBERT MILLER COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTER, COMMUNITY ROOM 130
GOSSE CT. BURLINGTON VT 05408
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 23, 2024

1. Agenda

1.1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to order at 06:05 pm by Chair Rao

1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Commissioners present online or in person

- Mary Cox
- Shakuntala Rao
- Robert Depper
- Kevin Garrison
- Susan Comeford

City Staff present online or in person

- Staff Support, Tim Williams
- Police Cheif Jon Murad
- Deputy Police Cheif Wade Labrecque
- Sr. Policy & Data Analyst Nancy Stetson
- Chief Of Staff Erin Jacobsen

1.3. Additions or Modifications to Agenda

No Addtions or Modefications for the agenda

2. Approve and Adopt Minutes

2.1. June Minutes

Minutes from the June meeting were presented for approval.

Motion: To accept the June minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Garrison

Motion Passed: Unanimously

3. Public Forum

One member of the public was in attendance online and wished to address the committee.

City Councilor Melo Grant, Central District (Wards 2 & 3)

- Discussed the need for more support for the recruitment team, emphasizing the low number of applications and the importance of increasing interest in the department.
- Suggested forming a subcommittee focused on recruitment, branding, and developing a strategic social media plan.
- Expressed concerns about the Priority Response Plan and its impact on businesses in the Central District.
- Requested more detailed minutes concerning discussions on community service officers and crisis intervention programs.
- Raised concerns about data related to the State's Attorney's office and its relationship with the Burlington Police Department.
- Encouraged the Commission to ensure that their annual reports are completed and published.

3.1. The public is invited to address the Commission

4. Chief's Report

4.1. July - Burlington Police Chief's Report

Chief Murad provided an update on the department's activities:

3rd of July Event: Successful management of the event, with partnerships including the Vermont State Police and the Fire Department.

Staffing Update: The department had 67 officers as of July 1, with four new recruits joining since then.

Reassignment: The Domestic Violence Prevention Officer and the Narcotics Officer were temporarily reassigned to patrol duties due to staffing shortages, with these positions expected to be filled again by October.

5. BPD Annual Report Presentation

5.1. Presentation from the City's Planning Department - 2023 BPD Report

Commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the findings of the report, focusing on key areas such as community outreach, response times.

Chief Murad, highlighted some notes of concern specific to traffic stops, and use of force incidents being up 50% as a number, and arrests are up 58% as a number. Chief Murad also stated that, of those traffic stops the department would do a review of those traffic stops to assure the department of Justice's standards are being met. The Chief and the commission discussed how the report data may highlight a need for additional implicit bias training.

Commissioner Depper, inquired about being able to access the raw data that was used to make the report. Nancy Stetson informed the commission that the raw data is available via the City's website on the open data portal.

6. Use of Force Report

6.1. May Use of Force Report - May 01-May 31, 2024

Commissioner Cox, requested renewal of body-worn camera footage. Deputy Chief Labrecque explained that the method used for sharing body-worn camera footage is limited to 3 days settings, and that when a commissioner requests a renewal, all commissioners are granted the renewal.

7. Commendations

7.1. May and June Accommodations

Chair Rao, truncated the written and submitted comments, chair Rao also shared an commendation for the officer who was recently injured while in the line of duty the evening prior.

Written Comments highlighting the works of
1st - CSL Mara
2nd - Sgt. Mellis
3rd - Officer Brown

8. Commissioner Comments

Chair Rao shared the need for a paid staff member for the committee to work on the clerical needs of the commission.

- Citizen complaints categorized and placed before the commission via their internal SharePoint site.
- Annual report of the commission.
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9. Executive Session

Commissioner Cox made a motion to go into executive session and not return to the public meeting.
Second, by commissioner Harrison,
passed unanimously

public meeting adjured and moved into executive session at 08:31pm

9.1. Executive Session

10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

10.1. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call Lori Olberg, Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. This meeting will also air on Town Meeting TV the Wednesday after the meeting, starting at 8:00 pm and repeating at 1:00 am and 7:00 am the following day. The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information.