

DRAFT



**BURLINGTON POLICE COMMISSION
CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL 149 CHURCH STREET, 2ND FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 27, 2024**

1. Agenda

1.1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to order at 6:02pm by Chair Rao

1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All Commissioners Present

In Person

Commissioner Rao
Commissioner Keefer
Commissioner Oski
Commissioner Depper

Online

Commissioner Cox
Commissioner Comeford

City Staff Present

Tim Williams
Cheif Murad
Attonrey Brown

1.3. Additions or Modifications to Agenda

No Modifications of Additions to the Agenda

2. Approve and Adopt Minutes

A motion was made to update the July meeting minutes to include commissioner Keefer as recorded as in attendance.

Motion made, and seconded

Commissioner Oski abstained from the vote, as she was not in attendance at the July meeting.

2.1. Draft Minutes of the Burlington Police Commission meeting 07.23.24

3. Public Forum (Time limited 10 minutes)

3.1. The public is invited to address the Commission

Romeo Von Herman, Burlington Resident -

Lee Morgan, Burlington Resident Ward 3 -

Councilor Grant, City Councilor Central District -

4. Police Department Business (Time limited 20 minutes)

4.1. Chiefs Report

Chief Murad Presented the Chiefs Report to the commission, and presented an opportunity for the commission to ask questions.

Commissioner Cox asked what if anything the commission may do to assist the Department in their efforts to recruit new officers and retain current officers. Chief Murad, expressed that he was not certain but felt continued expressions from various people, including the Police Commission, Mayor and City Council.

Commissioner Depper, asked if there was data or information available from the officer interview. Chef Murad expressed that he had not yet collected or reviewed that data.

Commissioner Comerford, asked if the Chief could expand on the recent incidents involving youth in the community. Chief Murad, expressed recent activity is reminiscent to activity metastasized in the gun violence as seen in 2020, and 2021 followed by an apex in gun fire incidents in 2022. He proceeded to say that if action is not taken we will likely see a similar situation, though it does seem to be escalating at a more rapid rate. Commissioner Comerford followed up asking if a task force beyond the BPD was being mobilized to engage youth.

Commissioner Rao asked when the Chief believes the youth involved in recent incidents may be accessing firearms. the Chief stated that he believes they are accessing the firearms via theft from vehicles or homes.

4.2. Use of Force Report - June 1 - June 16th

Commissioner Rao, would email Chief Murad and Deputy Chief Labrecque a request for review of items 1,2,4,5,6,7,9,10,11 from the report. Specifically in reference to Departmental directives DD05, DD1303.

5. Commission Business (Time limited 30 minutes)

5.1. Protocol for public meetings and executive sessions

5.2. Discuss Commission Process of Citizen Complaints

Commissioner Rao, thanked Commissioner Keefer for their work coordinating the work on the citizen complaint process.

Commissioner Rao also suggested that a subcommittee be formed of two members who serve on a rotational basis for a period of 6 months, and that this subcommittee would bring forward complaints to be reviewed by the commission as a whole on a monthly or as needed basis.

Commissioner Oski and Commissioner Cox volunteered to be a member of the subcommittee, for the first sixmonth rotation.

5.3. Process and outcome of reviewing Use of Force Body Worn Cameras

Commissioner Cox - stated that while looking at the BPD annual report, and highlighted that from their view the section on use of force was not as fleshed out as they would like to see, and has been in communication with the city's data analysts fleshing out some of that data. Specifically, cases that fall under DD13.3 may all include use of force incidents.

Commissioner Cox also highlighted a desire to start a conversation with BPOA about reviewing body-worn camera footage of incidents that do not involve use of force, as a way to examine what techniques may have worked to avoid escalation in those incidents.

Commissioner Rao followed up by asking what the desired outcome the commission would like for the incidents that are viewed and discussed.

Commissioner Rao requested a list of all training for officers to be included in the commissions annual report, and ask that the record be submitted ahead of the September committee meeting.

5.4. Deliberations about DD40 as they relate to CNA Recommendations

Commissioner Cox highlighted that the document, as shared by commissioner Keefer, that it may be a good starting point for the commission's annual report, and to be included in the annual report.

6. Commendations (Time limited 5 minutes)

Chair Rao shared summary of the attached written commendations.

6.1. Citizen note to officers injured while in line of duty

6.2. Word of Praise email from Westport Hospitality group (Hotel Vermont and Courtyard Burlington harbor Hotel)

7. Commissioner Comments (Time limited 15 minutes)

Chair Rao, thanked Tim for staffing the commission and noted that the meeting would be his last. A job description for staffing the committee was shared with the Mayor's Chief of Staff Jacobson. furthermore the office is working on restoring funding for an independent council for the committee.

Commissioner Oski - noted that though they received information about BPD's recent press conference but were unable to find information online on how to view it, additionally noted that recent incidents had not information accessible on social media for those who might not have access to the BPDs press releases.

Commissioner Oski also wished to respectfully express my concern about the Cheif's continued criticism of the Council's proposed Charter. Change regarding police oversight. Sayingh that "The criticism is divisive and not unifying more oversight should be welcome, even if it is as you characterize it as Snow tires in Florida. Because climate change is real, as is the lack of trust between many parts of our community and the Burlington Police Department."

Commissioner Comerford - wished to highlight the need for a collective community response to recent youth violence incidents.

8. Executive Session

Motion made to proceed to the executive session in regard to special findings made by commissioner Oski, seconded by commissioner Keefer.

Motion passes unanimously, meeting moved to executive session and will not return to public meeting at 720pm

9. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

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