

**Police Commission**  
**Tuesday, February 24th, 2026**  
**Remote via Zoom and In-person in Contois Auditorium City Hall**  
**Burlington, Vermont**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Commissioner Depper, Commissioner Ginorio and Commissioner Paul  
**Members Online:** Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Finneran, and Commissioner Fast  
**Staff Present:** Interim Chief Burke online, DC Young online, Data Analyst Jeff Nicholson online, Command Staff Assistant Shibe Couchman online.

**1. Agenda**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Commissioner Depper.

**1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Required quorum present.

**1.3. Motions for Additions or Modifications to Agenda (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)**

N/A

**2. Adopt Minutes**

**2.1. Motion to Adopt Draft Minutes from January 27th, 2026**

Commissioner Paul moved to have minutes be more detailed and add more information in all minutes. Seconded, approved unanimously. 5.2 and 5.3 specifically modified

**3. Public Forum (Time Limited: 10 Minutes)**

**3.1. The Public is Invited to Address the Commission**

No public in attendance to comment.

**4. Police Department Business (Time Limited: 30 Minutes)**

**4.1. Chief's Report**

Chief Burke gave an overview about personnel and staffing, CAIP leadership update, 2025 incident, arrest, traffic stop, and use of force data, recruitment, and 2025 accomplishments. Jeff Nicholson explains various charts and graphs that examine different statistics regarding arrest by race. Community member Bruce Wilson asks clarifying questions regarding race arrest statistics, in particular racial differences in referral to alternative justice programs.

Commissioners would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by Jeff Nicholson on his report.

**5. Commission Business (Time Limited: 60 Minutes)**

**5.1. Committee Reports from All Committees**

**Complaints Committee**

**Animal Control Committee**

## **5.2. Joint Meeting with REIB and Public Safety**

Commissioner Cox asks questions regarding the 14 days after a final decision is made in the Complaints Committee. Chair Depper asks to discuss this during the next Complaints Committee meeting. Commissioner Ginorio asks for a standing Complaints Committee meeting date once a month.

Commissioner Ginorio updates the Commission that the ACC is working to organize a date for the hearing, hopefully for the start of March.

Councilor Grant has suggested a joint REIB and Public Safety meeting. Commissioner Ginorio supports the idea. Chair Depper suggests creating an agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ginorio moves to reach out and coordinate a meeting, Chair Depper seconds, unanimously approved.

## **5.3. Bylaws Discussion**

Commissioners decide to limit to an hour to discuss the bylaw changes. First, Chair vs Co-Chairs (or Vice-Chair) were discussed. Chair Depper voiced concerns that if one Chair does not give someone the answer they want, that the individual would go to the Co-Chair for approval. Straw poll was made to see how Commissioners felt on the Co-Chair/ Vice-Chair Model.

Commissioner Paul, Commissioner Finneran, Commissioner Cox, and Commissioner Fast are all in favor of writing into the bylaws the potential for a Co-Chair/Vice-Chair model. Chair Depper moves to include in the bylaws a model in which a Co-Chair or Vice-Chair model may be selected by the Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Ginorio. Unanimously approved.

Modification to Public Comment was next discussed. Commissioner Paul votes for 3 minutes to be the allowed time for the public to speak with the caveat with no hateful speech. Commissioner Ginorio brings up the idea that having the limit of time can be harmful to the person speaking, especially since not many people attend to speak. For example, if someone is talking about a traumatic experience. Chair Depper voices concern on policing the speech of any individual. Chair Depper moves to adopt into bylaws an allotted 4-minute time limit for public comment that may run shorter or longer if needed. Seconded by Commissioner Paul, unanimously approved.

## **6. Commendations (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)**

### **6.1. Officer Commendations**

Community Support Liaison Sital Dulal, Sergeant Mellis, and Corporal Yeh recognized.

## **7. Announcement of Next Meeting Date**

March 24th, 2026.

## **8. Adjournment**

### **8.1. Motion to Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned the public meeting at 8:26pm. Moved into Executive Session.