

Police Commission Meeting - Tuesday, April 25, 2023 @ 6:00 pm. **Hybrid Meeting: In-Person & Virtual via ZOOM**

Commissioners present:

Stephanie Seguino, Jack Keefe, Jessica Oski, Suzy Comerford and Shakuntala Rao.

Also Present:

City Council President Karen Paul, BPD Acting Chief Murad, BPD Deputy Chief Labreque, Deputy Chief LaBarge, Shannon Trammell (staff BPD), CSL Supervisor Lacey-Ann Smith (staff BPD), and Mohamed S. Ibrahim, Police Commission Clerk.

1. Agenda

1.01 Call to order

Meeting started at 6:00 pm.

1.02 Roll call and determination of quorum

Meeting has a quorum

1.03 Motion to amend/adopt the agenda

Motion to amend the agenda by Co-Chair Seguino to add an item under Commission business. The item is related the draft job description for the Assistant Director for Alternative response program with input from City Council President Karen Paul and CSL Supervisor Lacey-Ann Smith.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Oski.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Minutes

2.01 Approve minutes from Police Commission meeting, Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Oski.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Rao.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Public Forum

3.01 The public is invited to address the Commission

Speaker Dave Maher shared his idea about creating a peer review board within the police department which would be the first step in addressing any excessive use of force incidents. He suggested that the board might consist of several senior police officers, a member from City's Human Resources Department, and a member from the Police Union and that the board would review all incidents of excessive force and proposed disciplinary action.

4. Chief's Report

4.01 Chief's report.

Acting Chief Murad briefed the Commission about the head count of sworn officers, with a total of 64 officers. The Commission was updated about new hiring incentives, on the alternative roles of CSOs and CSLs, and the revised priority response plan and incident volume. AC Murad also discussed the rise in overdose incidents.

Commissioner Comerford asked what strategies he was considering for addressing the overdose crisis and how he accounts for the large increase in stolen vehicles. AC Murad replied that the two were intimately connected.

Commissioner Oski asked what percentage of stolen vehicles are recovered. AC Murad answered that most stolen cars are recovered though many cars are often found to be unusable at the time of recovery.

Co-chair Seguino's asked about the work of ComStat, which had been established under former chief Brandon del Pozo. AC Murad responded that ComStat is now run out of a different department of city, not by BPD. Co-Chair Seguino inquired as to the kinds of drugs that are being used on the streets. AC Murad reported that fentanyl and meth are the newer drugs on the street.

Commissioner Seguinto requested AC Murad to share the materials used in the recent BPD anti-bias training developed with the Center for Policing Equity and REIB. The AC was also asked to share BPD's media policy with the Commission.

5. Commission business

5.01 Assistant Director of Alternative Response

The Mayor's office sent to the Commission a copy of the new position for the Assistant Director of Alternative Response, asking for input on the job description. The Commission invited City Council President Paul and CSL Supervisor Lacey-Ann Smith to provide background and answer questions with regard to the program. President Paul informed the Commission the new plan is for the program to be housed in the City of Burlington rather than the Howard Center, in order to implement the program more quickly. Also, there were differences between the City and the Howard Center on data sharing, which is essential for evaluating the efficacy of the alternative response program. CSL Supervisor indicated the assistant director will oversee the CARES team and maintain the relationships with the Advisory Board and with the UVMCC. The Advisory Board of the program is to be created from multiple community stakeholders and would include at least one individual with related life experience. She also discussed the differences between the CAIP and CARES program.

Commissioner Comerford expressed concern as to the program being housed in BPD rather than Howard Center because these two entities have very different organizational cultures and different foci, one being social work and the other being policing.

Co-Chair Seguinto invited Commissioners to give any additional comments related to this position by Thursday.

5.02 Updates to Website. Co-Chair Rao gave an update on the BPC Website. That website is now live

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/PoliceCommission>

5.03 Use of force reports

BPD provides the Commission a report every month on all BPD uses of force that occurred in the prior month.

Commissioner Seguinto assigned reviewing the use of force incidents to individual commission members.

In addition, Commissioner Seguinto discussed a use of force incident from December 2022, in which the officer actions in the video differed from the

synopsis of the incident presented to the Commission. DC Labreque responded that the use of force report supports the synopsis that he had put together and that the synopsis was a generalized version of what occurred. He noted he had not watched the video. AC Murad indicated to the Commission he would have another look at the video and the use of force report.

6. Commendations

6.01 Commendations that have been received by BPD.

Commission's Clerk Ibrahim read submissions from the public. Co-Chair Rao commended the BPD members for their quick response after an incident took place on King Street where a toddler was hit by a car.

7. Commissioner Updates / Comments

No Comments.

8. Anticipated Executive Session

8.01 Anticipated Executive Session

Motion moved by Co-Chair Seguinto to move into executive session.

Motion moved by Commissioner Rao.

Motion passes unanimously.

9. Adjournment

9.01 Motion to Adjourn

Motion moved to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Comerford.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Rao.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

