

Police Commission Special Meeting - Tuesday, May 16th, 2023 @ 6:00 pm. **Hybrid Meeting: In-Person & Virtual via ZOOM.**

Meeting started 6:02 pm, meeting paused to go to executive session at 6:11pm, and executive session paused to go back to the public meeting at 6:56pm, public meeting adjourned 7:21pm to go back to executive session.

Commissioners present:

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

Also Present:

Attorney Anthony Iarrapino and Mohamed S. Ibrahim

1. Agenda

1.01 Call to order

Meeting started at 6:02 pm.

1.02 Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Meeting has a quorum.

1.03 Additions or Modifications to Agenda

Motion moved by Commissioner Seguino to amend the agenda. Commission will go into executive session on the appropriate items that we will emerge from executive session to discuss 2 use of force incidents.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Comerford.

Motion passes unanimously.

Co-Chair Seguino welcomed the new Commission member Mary Cox.

Attorney Iarrapino gave a legal advice on public meetings laws.

2. Public Forum

2.01 The public is invited to address the Commission

None.

3. Executive Session

3.01 Executive Session

Motion moved by Co-Chair Seguino to move into executive session pursuant to one VSA 33166, the Commission, along with its independent counsel enter executive session to discuss the confidential contents of the Commission's prior findings on the use of force complaint involving a juvenile and the executive session should be limited discussion of those confidential findings that would be followed by a public session on the general subject of the Commission's review of use of force incidents.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Rao

Motion passes unanimously.

The Commission went into Executive Session pursuant to discuss a complaint and then emerged to compare that incident with a use of force incident reported at our last meeting.

4. Commission business

4.01 Use of force

Responding to a question raised about race and mental health incidents, Co-Chair Seguino noted that BPD data indicate that the percentage of arrestees perceived by officers to be in a mental health condition is higher for white arrestees than Black, suggesting that disproportionately the police are able to identify a mental health crisis amongst white people, but far less likely to observe a mental health crisis amongst Black people.

The Commission in comparing the two incidents, noted that it still does not have sufficient information on what de-escalation training is nor on whether and when officers have had such training. A comparison of the two incidents suggests that the extent to which de-escalation techniques are implemented is not consistent. Further, Commissioners

noted the importance of looking at incidents in a comparative way rather than individually, so as to better identify patterns or differences in how community members are treated by the police.

It was also noted that the Commission may want to conduct a more thorough audit of use of force incidents, focusing on the application of de-escalation training.

Commissioners also discussed a use of force incident reported at last month's meeting that involved police assistance in an eviction. Two issues were raised – 1) the very large number of officers sent to assist, given the shortage of officers, and 2) the fact that evictions are not even listed in the Priority Response Plan. Commissioner Keefe proposed that the Chief provide an update on the priority response plan at next Police Commission meeting.

The Commission also discussed engaging the community by hosting a showing of Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops. This is a documentary film that chronicles how these officers—both members of the San Antonio Police Department's mental health unit—use an innovative approach to policing to diffuse dangerous situations and divert people from jail into mental health treatment. The Commission will work on developing a plan for a public showing of this film with a community discussion to follow.

5. Adjournment

5.01 Motion to Adjourn

Motion moved by Co-Chair Seguíno to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Co-Chair Rao.

Meeting adjourned 7:21 pm.