

Draft

Police Commission Meeting - Tuesday, May 23, 2023 @ 6:00 pm. **Hybrid Meeting: In-Person & Virtual via ZOOM.**

Commissioners present:

Stephanie Seguino, Jessica Oski, Suzy Comerford, Shakuntala Rao, Kevin Garrison and Mary Cox.

Also Present:

John Murad, Shannon trammel and Mohamed S. Ibrahim

1. Agenda

1.01 Call to order

Meeting started at 6:05 pm.

1.02 Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Meeting has a quorum.

1.03 Motion to amend/adopt the agenda

Commissioner Commerford moved a motion to amend the agenda to conduct the Commission meetings in various neighborhoods in a cooperation with Mohammed Ibrahim, the Commission clerk.

Item will be 5.06 discussing Commission meeting places.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Rao.

Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Rao move item 5.04 Review of revised DD03 Fair and Impartial Policing to be item number 5.01

Motion seconded by Commisisoner Oski

Motion Passes unanimously

2. Minutes

2.01 Approve minutes from Police Commission Special Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Motion moved by Commissioner Oski

Seconded by Commissioner Comerford

Commissioner Garrison abstained.

Motion passes.

Minutes approved.

2.02 Approve minutes from Police Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Motion moved by Commissioner Oski

Seconded by Commissioner Comerford

Commissioner Garrison abstained.

Motion passes.

Minutes approved.

3. Public Forum

3.01 The public is invited to address the Commission.

Sylvia Knight sent a letter to the commission saying: “First, I want to say that as a citizen and ally of Migrant Justice, I wholeheartedly support this directive, and supported and witnessed its passage by Burlington City Council in March 2020. Specific comments and questions: Page. 5: Section VII, Section C. This section needs editing to make it clearer. Section VIII, Sections A & B: How much training have the officers on the force received? How much training do new officers receive? Page 6: Section X, B, 1, Is the “Stone Garden Program” still in effect? Page 7: Section X, E, 3. Are sweeps to detain immigrants still allowed as part of any agreement entered into by the Governor? I hope that you will be discussing these questions and can share the responses with me in writing. Thank you for your oversight of police activities.

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 the CAIP crisis advocacy intervention program and its anticipated structure.

Acting Chief also spoke about hiring incentives, 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 again and non-sworn response activities and its data.

Acting Chief Murad shared the police department activates about memorial week, and honoring officers been lost on duty in a ceremony was made, and 2022 awards ceremony for acts that happened in 2022.

Acting Chief Answered Commission questions about gun fires incidents.

Co-Chair Seguin asked about the narcotics related data in the report.

Commissioner Comerford asked about the rising larceny incidents and Acting Chief explained the department strategy with the available current resources.

5. Commission business

5.01 Update on Priority Response Plan.

Commissioner Oski asked about the deployment strategies based on the priory response plan,

Acting Chief stated that the priority response plan depend on officers availability and calls volume, And it only kicks in a certain circumstances.

Acting Chief valued the idea of public service announcements or front porch forum postings to remind people how to protect their bikes from theft.

5.02 Report on discharge of firearm during training by Pennsylvania officer.(15 min)

Acting Chief stated that the incident happened when a training was conducted by a third party entity.

No harm occurred to any citizens or property.

New standards were set to avoid this kind of incidents in the future.

5.03 BPD policy on handcuffing/arrest where the person involved has a mental health condition or other diminished capacity.

Commissioner Cox asked if there is other alternative responses to people in a crisis instead of detaining and handcuffing.

Commissioner suggested to reform small work groups working together with police officers to talk about alternative responses the way it can be comfortable for the police and comfortable for the community.

Acting Chief stated that the department would adopt such an idea to include officers and trainers.

Acting Chief explained various situations comes with handcuffing, considering reasonable suspicion and the person's behavior.

De-escalation training allows officers to analyze the situation and deal with person in crisis considering safety for everyone as a major requirement when such incidents occur.

5.04 Review of revised DD03 Fair and Impartial Policing.(15 min)

A consultant's report from CNA made numerous recommendations for change to policies and Commission reviewed DD03 that was one of those policies.

Majority of the commissioners agreed to table the Item until next month; Co-Chair Seguíno will be following up with the commissioners to get the precise language.

5.05 Use of force report/s.

Co-Chair Seguíno asked Acting Chief could to explain what is protective custody?

Acting Chief explained that protective custody is defined for people who are incapacitated by drugs or alcohol, and mental health situations does not fall within that.

Co-Chair Seguíno assigned UoF incidents occurred from April 18th to May 15th to the Police Commission members.

6. Commendations

6.01 Commendations that have been received from BPD

CO-Chair Rao read the commendations for this month.

7. Commissioner Updates / Comments

7.01 Commissioner Updates / Comments (15 min)

Co-Chair Rao attended the joint meeting of Charter and Ordinance Committees of the City Council, with Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Oski.

Co-Chair Rao briefed the Commission in a report:

- The committee will have to decide on what oversight entails.
- The role of the Commission was discussed, but only in broad terms, nothing very specific.
- The Commission ought to be involved in all aspects of decision making and the City Council be cognizant of the resources which are assigned to the commission. We are a body comprised of volunteers and while we take this work very seriously, the body will need additional skilled resources if our responsibilities change.

Co-Chair Rao Second report is on the Public Safety Committee meeting for April.

Co-Chair Rao updated the Commission about The Police Commission's website.

Co-Chair Seguíno welcomed the idea of being invited from BPD to attend the Queen City Police Foundation annual event, as it can be a mechanism for building rapport with the department.

8. Anticipated Executive Session

8.01 Anticipated Executive Session

Motion moved by Co-Chair Seguíno enter executive session.

Pursuant to 1 VSA 313 A 4 to discuss a disciplinary action against an employee

Seconded by Co-Chair Rao

Motion passes unanimously.

9. Adjournment

9.01 Motion to Adjourn

Motion moved by Co-Chair Seguíno

Co-Chair Rao Seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.