Copy of Committee to Review Policing Policies 10/1/2019

Committee to Review Policing Practices

Community Room @ BPD

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019

Generated by Laura Cheney on October 3rd, 2019

Members present: Chief of Staff Jordan Redell, Deputy Chief Jon Murad, Officer Vinny Ross, Police Commissioner Randall Harp, Police Commissioner Jabulani Gamache, City Counselor Joan Shannon, Jim Dunn, Melo Grant, Skyler Nash, Kevin Rodgers, Thomas Nececkas and Carter Neubieser.

Late arrival: Councilor Perri Freeman arrived at 6:56

Absent with regrets: Sergeant Jesse Namdar

Staff present: City Attorney Eileen Blackwood, Clerk Laura Cheney

Public present: Deputy Chief Jan Wright, Sergeant Brian Difranco, Ericka Redic, Jane Knodell, Police Commissioner Shireen Hart, Sylvia Knight, P K Wright, Council President Kurt Wright, Corporal Weinisch, Cassandra Stirling, Lt Jon Young

1.0 Call to Order

City Attorney Eileen Blackwood called the meeting to order at 5:49 PM.

1.01 Agenda – Additions or Modifications

Motion by Joan, second by Jabulani, to approve the agenda with the following amendment*:*

- Add 1.02 to elect a new commission chair following CD Mattison's resignation

VOTING: Unanimous; motion carried

1.02 Elect Commission Chair

Nomination by Skyler to elect Randall as chair; second by Jim.

- Kevin asked if the nominee could speak to his sense of the challenges in play and methods needed to achieve the committee goals.
    - Randall expressed that his responsibility will be to facilitate the meetings and find the most effective way to get consensus to move forward and meet the obligations of the committee.
- Carter requested effective and prompt communication.
- Kevin asked the nominee to speak to his view of the responsibility of the committee as put forth by the City Council.
    - Randall indicated that he senses broad agreement in why the committee was formed – concern around lack of trust in the community in regard to the BPD's responsiveness to incidents involving use of force.
- Kevin asked the City Attorney if there is a conflict of interest in having the potential chair of this committee a current police commissioner, as he sees one role of this committee is to make recommendations around citizen oversight.
    - City Attorney: given the committee can provide recommendations only, there is not a conflict.

VOTING: Unanimous; motion carried; meeting resumed by Chair Harp

2.01 Public Forum

- No speakers

3.01 Approval of Minutes

Motion by Joan, second by Melo to postpone approval of minutes to next meeting.

VOTING: Unanimous; motion carried

4.0 Communication

4.01 Internal and External Organization Structure (available on board docs)

- DC Murad & DC Wright presented on the organization, recruitment and training (pre-basic, Vermont Police Academy, Post Basic, and FTO).
- Melo requested numbers of officers who've gone through ICAT or ERV training, and any hurdles in further training.

4.02 Update on Data

- DC Wright reported that 22 sworn officers have been in the military, which includes National Guard, Navy, other.

4.03 Use of Funds

- The ability of the committee to use the funds for various purposes and/or multiple parties, will be put forth at the next City Council meeting, the memorandum to be drafted by City Attorney Blackwood and presented by Councilor Shannon.

Motion by Carter to postpone discussion on the use of funds until the next meeting; second by Kevin.

- Joan expressed concern for waiting, as the process to hire a consultant will take time.
- Vinny agreed that more time is necessary to determine what type of consultation will be needed.
- Jim remarked that the committee has a broad scope. We should hone in on the priorities - use of force, training, and implications in terms of disciplinary process and oversight, in order to determine what experts we need to bring in.
- Jordan noted it will take time to procure consultants in preparation for future meetings.

VOTING: 9 in favor; 3 opposed; motion passed

4.04 Review Topics, Subtopics & Schedule

- Chair Harp asked where the Union Contract would best fit.
  - Vinny noted it will impact every topic and should be addressed as needed, rather than as a separate presentation.
  - Carter inquired if the committee can make recommendations regarding future contracts.
    - Confirmed by City Attorney Blackwood
  - Perri advocated looking at the contract independently in order to address national shifts that adequately address justice.
  - Melo noted that contracts are under critical review nationally and wants to be sure we address accountability and transparency.
  - Vinny noted this is not a contract committee, but that it will likely arise under all topics. We need to stay focused on policy and practice recommendations.
  - Kevin advised that Articles 15 & 16 are the only areas we need to focus on within the contract, in order to make recommendations for future contract negotiations.
- Chair Harp suggested following up on recruitment and training at the next meeting, prepared with recommendations, as well as a presentation on UOF, policy and training, including non-lethal and lethal force.
- Kevin requested an explanation and clarification of:
  - DD01 - Rule 8, Rule 22
  - DD05 – page 2, page 9
  - DD05 – page 10

4.05 Listening Sessions

Motion by Chair Harp to postpone topic for next meeting, if time permits; second by Carter.

VOTING: Unanimous; motion carried

4.06 Next Mtg Agenda Items & Date

- Agenda items:
  - Committee: discussion of recommendations on training and recruitment
  - BPD: use of force current policy and training presentation, including both lethal and non-lethal force
  - Items postponed: Approval of minutes for 9/17 & 10/1, listening sessions

- Vinny inquired about replacing Mattison with a new member
    - This will be up to the City Council

Motion by Kevin to nominate a vice-chair at the next meeting; second by Melo.

VOTING: 12 in favor, 1 opposed; motion passed to include on next meeting's agenda

- Meeting Date: October 15th at 5:45
- Carter inquired about the location of the meeting.
    - Joan indicated this is a central location and it is the point of access to information.
    - Melo suggested rotating spaces.
    - Skyler felt the listening sessions mitigated concern around providing a space where all community members would feel safe.

Motion by Perri to rotate the meeting location; second by Kevin.

- Joan noted the challenge in finding locations, and suggested alternating between City Hall and the PD.
- Jordan relayed that many locations are booked well in advance and that in many other public spaces, we will need to ensure a staff person is available.
- A member of the public requested not rotating the meeting space, as that would be confusing to members of the public wishing to attend.

VOTING: 4 in favor; 9 opposed; motion failed to pass

5.01 Adjournment

Motion by Joan to adjourn the meeting; second by Skyler

VOTING: Unanimous; motion carried

Adjourned at 8:00 pm.