



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held in person in Room 102, First Floor, Bushor Conference Room, of City Hall, as well as Remotely with Virtual Access, please see link below.

City Council Public Safety Committee – Thursday, June 17, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Karen Paul, Zoraya Hightower, Jane Stromberg

Staff Present: Jared Pellerin (Assistant City Attorney) Kerin Durfee (Human Resources Director)

Others Participating: N/A

Meeting called to order at 5:18 PM

1.01 Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda by Councilor Zoraya Hightower

Second by Councilor Jane Stromberg

Final Resolution – Motion Passes

Aye – Paul, Hightower, Stromberg

2.01 Public Safety Committee Minutes

Motion to recognize communication of minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting of the Public Safety Committee by Councilor Hightower.

Second by Councilor Stromberg

Final Resolution – Motion Passes

Aye – Paul, Hightower, Stromberg

3.01 Public Forum

No members of the public wished to speak. Councilor Paul recognized email communication of comments submitted to the Committee Members prior to the meeting, which have been attached to these minutes as Attachment A below.

4.01 Discussion of Community Support Liaison Job Description:



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The Committee invited HR Director Durfee to the meeting to discuss the job description for the Community Support Liaison position. Councilor Paul indicated that this was the Public Safety Committee's opportunity to make changes and bring back to the full City Council. Councilor Hightower had discussed her intention to edit the document prior to the meeting but her schedule prevented her from getting to it, unfortunately. Councilor Hightower wishes to see a diversification of the position and discussed where the position should be housed, to whom the new hire should report directly to. Councilor Stromberg seeks to have the individual trained in how to respond to incidents involving domestic abuse and sexual violence and would like that language included in the job description. There was discussion around issues of opioid problems and how that may also fit under the job description, along with neighborly engagement issues. The Councilors discussed the potential for this job to include medical training and proficiencies, to which Director Durfee indicated was a possibility but could require a different grade when being hired and an increased salary. The councilors encouraged the removal of the word 'diversity' and replacing 'homeless' in favor of 'houseless' from the language of the description and the need for the individual who is hired to be able to show empathy and compassion for the community members they encounter. Committee members decided to table the discussion for this meeting and work on revisions, which they would send to HR Director Durfee's attention. The job description will then be edited by HR and returned to the Committee for further consideration at the next meeting.

4.02 Police Department Oversight Discussion

The Committee held a brief discussion about the continuation of the work of the Joint Committee of the Police Commission and Public Safety Commission and recognized that it would likely continue at the very least through the end of summer 2021. Councilor Paul discussed the Charter change that would give new powers to the Police Commission as it pertained to police discipline and oversight. Councilor Hightower highlighted that the recent NACOLE training, which the Police Commission is engaged in, and the Public Safety Committee has been included in, have encouraged her to consider more authority for the Police Commission, at least as we work through any iteration of police oversight. The Committee recognized that there is a version very similar to the vetoed Charter change language that is being formulated for petitioning. If the petition is successful, it would be added to a ballot this fall in a special election. The Committee discussed seeing the latest version of this document and that they will seek to review and discuss the proposal at their next meeting. As well, there is a resolution that had been drafted a few months ago that included giving greater authority to the Police Commission by ordinance. The Committee will review this draft and see if there is an opportunity to bring forward a resolution for the Council's consideration in July.

5.01 Next Meeting and Items to Review

The Committee discussed a tentative plan to hold the next meeting on July 1st at 5:00pm in Room 102 of City Hall. The Committee will seek to further discuss the Community Liaison Position and review the latest version of the proposed charter change.

5.01 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Stromberg

Second by Councilor Hightower



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Final Resolution – Motion Passes

Aye – Paul, Hightower, Stromberg

Attachment A:

As an elder white woman who cares deeply about police accountability and antiracist public safety, I am interested in the process going forward. I see that the Police Commission is working for more independence from the Police Department, getting more data, and engaging in accountability training with NACOLE.

I support the movement for community oversight of police. If an independent commission is formed I hope this body will maintain effective communication with the Police Commission, as they will both have important work to do in establishing accountability. Several members of the Commission do support community oversight, while continuing to oversee other aspects of policing. It is important to try to maintain communication when handling these matters, to avoid creation of "silos".

Please share my comments with the Committee.