



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

Public Safety Committee

January 30, 2019

Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Adam Roof (AR) (Chair); Brian Pine (BP); Ali Dieng (AD).

Others Present: Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office (Committee Staff); Rachel Jolly (RJ), CEDO Assistant Director; Jane Knodell (JK), City Council; Michele Asch (MA), Police Commission; Peter Bahrenburg (PB), Police Commission; Brian Waters (BW), Michael Fife (MF); Rachel Brandt (RB)

At 5:33 p.m. Chair Roof commenced the meeting.

1. **Agenda:** Motion by BP

Second by AD - passes 3-0

1. **Approval of minutes of 9/12/18:**

Motion by AD; second by BP– passes 3-0

1. **Public Forum:**

MF – Wants to raise concern re Police Chief management of his social media – posting comments re police business on his





CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

personal Facebook page – who monitors ; etcetera – these and other issues relating not to the use of personal social media for city business but also protocols for the use of city social media are in order

DISCUSSION – AR indicates the committee will take up further discussion on this issue during the OTHER BUSINESS portion of the evening’s agenda.

1. **4.01 Community Justice Center (CJC) Court Diversion - Request for Proposal (RFP)**

Intro of RJ by AR

RJ - Presentation of background. CJC – oldest rep board in the state. Now considering the State’s RFP proposal – first time ever open competitive bidding process – Private non-profit Chittenden County Diversion has held the contract previously.

Franklin County/Grand Isle is presently the best example of a multi-jurisdictional model; where there was a merger of a municipally run CJC

Purpose here today is to inform – we will keep City Councilors aware as we proceed but first wanted to make sure that people are aware of our intent to apply

BP – It is my understanding that Chittenden County Diversion is expected to reapply? If so were there discussions to see if the CJC could merge with them; i.e. fold them in?

RJ – we did attempt those discussion, but my sense was that they felt that they were spread too thin to take the time

BP – will it be revenue neutral to the City?

RJ – we expect to bid so that it will be, but that is something we are sensitive to and if awarded the contract we would need to monitor over time

CJC currently has 7 staff – Diversion has 9 – we anticipate that we would need to make new hires





CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

Also under consideration is RICC (Rapid Intervention Community Court) which is currently operated by Lamoille CJC since Emmett Helrick retired – that would mean additional hiring as well

See other models – Pretrial Service Monitoring; DLS program; YSAS (Youth Substance Abuse Services) – Court services administered by municipalities.

AR – If responses are due by February 28th, when would you expect to hear?

RJ – not sure but it would need to be in time to allow for getting up to speed and commence on July 1.

AR – Any action needed now or in the future?

RJ – don't think so but let me get back to you on that

1. **4.02 Discussion/Follow up re 2/16/17 referral from Council re “Appoint Task Force to Assess Responsibilities of Police Commission Using Civilian Oversight Models” resolution**

AR – We have Police Commissioners Asch and Bahrenburg back to discuss the proposed draft policy: Role of Burlington Police Commission in Reviewing Complaints Against Police Officers

Additional time was sought and granted in order to give the new chair time to get up to speed.

MA provides update that the Commission is in support of the new draft policy.

DISCUSSION

JK – I believe that this referral came from a larger discussion of fair and impartial policing



CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

Referral was to explore – do we have a robust system for citizen review of police misconduct

Maybe the policy could include purpose language – e.g. WHEREAS clause – to advance the mission of fair and impartial policing.

AR _ Purpose language should be added – how you do that is up for discussion but I imagine that this committee will insist on something being added in that vein.

AD – raises concerns that the referral to the committee was broader than just review of the policy.

AR and RH read back minutes for the 9/12/18 public safety minutes.

AR and RH clarify the history of the referral to the committee. The matter was address in committee back on June 22, 2017 and was referred to the Police Commission for proposed policy. This is now the follow up from that referral.

Staff (RH) is asked to provide the minutes from the 2/16/17 City Council meeting so that the committee can review the context of the original referral

MA – final comment – the commission is gathering information regarding social media policies nationwide – this in follow up to MF concerns raised here which were also raised at the last commission meeting.

BW – requests consideration of creation of a task force

AR – I think this committee considered that issue and then received draft policy and made referral to and sought response from the commission and that is when the revised policy was put forward.

I am feeling that my concerns and the concerns of the committee as originally constituted have been addressed. But this committee is different – so now maybe not.

BP – We need to look at what other communities are doing – nationwide





CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

BW – other models exist

AD – I request to see the Resolution that past in 2016

AR – Staff will provide for the next meeting along with the minutes from that meeting

5. **Other Business:**

AR: Social Media Policy

Are you confident that you will receive a response from the commission re your concerns as they were raised at their 1/22/19 meeting which you referenced in public forum? And if not can you articulate your concerns.

MF – No, I am not confident. My concern is that the City Police Department needs to have a social media policy and that needs to address:

- Who chooses to post on behalf of the department
- Where do the posts come from (content)
- Who monitors the conversations that take place on the site.
- If individuals charged with crimes are the subject of social media postings by the department, what happens to negative postings about that individual?

6. **Adjournment**

Motion by AR; second by BP – vote unanimous.





CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1/30/2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.