



City Council Public Safety Committee *Remote ONLY*** -
Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM
1/25/2022**

Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Virtual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Paul, Councilor Hightower, Councilor Stromberg

Staff Present: Jared Pellerin (Assistant City Attorney), John Murad (Acting Chief of Police), Tyeastia Green (REIB Director)

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Councilor Paul

1. Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to adopt agenda as written.

Motion by Councilor Stromberg, Seconded second by Councilor Hightower.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous/ Councilor Hightower, Councilor Stromberg, Councilor Paul

No:

2. Public Forum

2.01 Public Forum

No one from the public opted to speak during the public forum. The forum was opened at 6:08pm and closed at 6:10pm, seeing no one who wished to be recognized.



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3. Minutes

3.01 Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 11th, 2022 meeting made by Councilor Hightower, and seconded by Councilor Stromberg.

Final resolution: motion passes

Yes: Councilor Stromberg, Councilor Hightower (Councilor Paul was not present for the January 11, 2022 meeting, so abstained from voting)

4. Committee Discussion/Possible Action

4.01 Discussion on CNA Report and Next Steps

DISCUSSION:

Working group members present: Jeff Nick, Melo Grant, Jabulani Gamache, and Isaac Owusu (VRJA) – as well as committee members and city staff.

Councilor Paul opened the discussion by recapping where the Committee currently stood in terms of process and the review of the CNA report. She emphasized the work that had been completed in the previous two meetings that had convened to review the report.

Councilor Paul introduced a document that had been produced by Acting Chief of Police Murad and the staff at BPD, which in sum is a matrix of all the of recommendations that came out of the CNA report and a breakdown of what has or has not been implemented or addressed up to this point. The document also included an indication of how the Department saw each recommendation in terms of priority and some indication as to whether or not the Department agreed/disagreed with the recommendation.

Councilor Paul then opened the floor to the Committee to discuss process and how it best proceed. She also inquired about whether or not the Committee thought it would be a good idea to move forward with the BPD matrix, using it as a guide to move through the recommendations.



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Jeff Nick, a representative from the Burlington Market Place, found the matrix to be helpful and supported the idea of using it to work off of.

Councilor Hightower pointed out that the Committee should consider the level of priority for each recommendation and felt that just because the Department may or may-not feel something is a priority, doesn't mean the Committee can't feel differently. She suggested that the Committee create a "road-map" of priorities for the Department and give expected implementation deadlines for things to be addressed by.

Police Commissioner, Melo Grant, also voiced the concern that the matrix listed some of the recommendations as "done" and that in her view, it may be in progress but until the Committee can verify what has or has not been worked on, nothing should actually be considered done. Discussion was then had around how the Committee could verify what work has been done to implement the recommendations. What information and clarification was needed from the Department?

Questions arose around a column in the Matrix that described things as 1,2,3, QW. Chief Murad discussed that the column was an internal indication of priority for the recommendation. 1 being a top priority, 2 being a medium priority and 3 being less of a priority. QW stood for a quick win, something that the Department saw as an easy and fast change that could occur rather effortlessly to achieve the recommendation.

Councilor Paul, reiterated the need to create a process going forward for examining these recommendations. Councilor Hightower proposed that working group members work on their own version of the spreadsheet by creating a new column to set their own level of priority to each recommendation. The columns could then merge together to see consensus and disagreement around what needs to be addressed immediately and what could be addressed over time.

Chief Murad recognized that some directives could be amended to meet CNA's recommendations very quickly by bringing them to the Police Commission in their February meeting. He believed there is a lot to discuss but he has been working on the recommendations for quite some time. Chief Murad also pointed out that there are recommendations that are superseded by State law and the contract with BPOA and the Committee needs to be cognizant of that.

Concern around the BPOA contract was brought up and the fact that it will expire in the summer of 2022. Members of the committee expressed the desire to highlight was pieces of the recommendations needed to be bargained for and that those recommendations get brought to the attention of the individuals doing the bargaining on behalf of the City, ASAP.

Jeff Nick pointed out that there may also be unintended consequences to enacting the recommendations (budget increases, pressure on limited staff, etc.) and that the Committee also needs to keep that in mind.

Councilor Stromberg wanted to ensure that the working group had adequate input and everyone was given the chance to



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weigh in.

The members of the working group and the committee all agreed to take the matrix that the Chief offered and create a column where each one of them will prioritize the recommendations in section 1 of the report on the same scale (1, 2 or 3) and then offer any other comments, clarifications or questions. Then Jared will take all of our columns and add them to the Chief's spreadsheet so we can look at them together at the next meeting which will be Tuesday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Going forward the Committee decided to continue to hold weekly meetings at 5:30 on Tuesdays during the month of February.

1. Any Other Business

The Committee discussed that their next meeting would tentatively be held on February 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and will be held virtually.

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Hightower, Seconded by Councilor Stromberg.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous/Councilor Stromberg. Councilor Hightower, Councilor Paul

No:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.