

City of Portland
Police Citizen Review Subcommittee

AGENDA
April 10, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Room 24, City Hall

1. Call to Order at 6:00 pm
2. Public Comment Session
 - a. Acceptance of minutes from March 13, 2019
 - b. Continued discussion on public outreach
 - c. Discuss 2018 Annual Report
 - d. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(A) to review IA investigation IA2018-021
 - e. Vote on review of IA investigations
3. Adjourn

PCRS Community Outreach—Discussion Summary

WHAT

- Communicate the benefits of civilian oversight of law enforcement
- Explain the PCRS role and purpose as defined by the city ordinance
- Communicate how to file a complaint and what to expect from complaint process
- Engage with community, gather feedback and recommend changes to oversight process, if warranted

WHY

- Increase awareness about the existence of an oversight and complaint process and let people know what is being done by the PCRS
- Better understand community needs, especially groups that may have traditionally been underserved or marginalized
- Improve the effectiveness of the PCRS and police oversight process
- Help increase public confidence and trust in police function

HOW

- Attend and present to a variety of community groups, nonprofits, forums, events
- PCRS website, social media, print, other media and communication vehicles

WHO

- By: PCRS members (1-2 members if at public meeting, forum, event)
- To: All city residents...“Where people are and where they go for help”

WHEN

- Routine communication over time; begin Summer, 2019.

Talking Points for Presentation (draft only)

Why we're here today:

- Let you know about the existence and benefits of a police oversight and complaint review process;
- Explain the Police Citizen Review Subcommittee (PCRS) role and purpose as defined by the city ordinance;
- Explain how to file a complaint and what to expect from the complaint process;
- Hear your thoughts and answer your questions about the PCRS role and process.

What is the Police Oversight and Complaint process?

- The City of Portland has a Police Citizen Review Subcommittee (PCRS) that reviews all investigations into citizen complaints conducted by the Internal Affairs area of the Police Department. The PCRS:
 - Is a subcommittee of the Civil Service Commission, created by the City Council in 2001;
 - Has seven volunteer members appointed by the City Council for three year term;
 - Reviews IA investigations to ensure that they are thorough, timely objective and fair;
 - Cannot change the Police Department's decision on an investigation or impose discipline; works as an audit function to ensure the IA division is conducting its investigations appropriately;
 - Reports its findings and recommendations directly to the City Manager for improving police policies and the investigation and training process;
 - Meets second Wednesday of each month at City Hall to review investigations; public comment welcome at the beginning of each meeting;
 - Responds in writing to all persons initiating complaint once cases are reviewed.

What have the PCRS findings been in recent years?

- PCRS has reviewed average of just over 12 internal investigations each year over the past 5 years; all cases determined to have been conducted in fair, thorough, objective and timely manner;

- Common complaint allegations involve Police Department policy violations of conduct toward the public, use of force and personal behavior; annual committee reports available at city website (portlandmaine.gov).

How does a Portland resident file a complaint?

- Complaint forms available at Portland Public Library, Police Station (Middle St), and online at City website.

- All external complaints are reviewed and responded to in writing by the Internal Affairs Department and the PCRS.

What are the benefits of a police oversight and complaint review process?

- Help ensure that the public has faith in the the integrity of the Portland Police Department and confidence in their ability to fairly investigate citizen complaints;

- Advance fair and professional law enforcement that is responsive to community needs.

Your comments and questions...

Thank you!

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