

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019, 6:00 PM
Room 24, City Hall

Members Present: Michael Harris, Chair; Luke Beland; Maria Testa; Reggie Parson; April Fournier; Rev. Kenneth Lewis

Staff Present: Chief Frank Clark; Commander James Sweatt; Lt. Cliff Strout; Sgt. Chris Dyer; Anne Torregrossa, Associate Corporation Counsel

Public Present: None

6:00 pm. Meeting called to order. Chair Harris welcomed Chief Clark to the meeting and everyone did introductions.

Motion to approve minutes from July 10, 2019 meeting. Seconded. Approved 6-0.

Discussion of draft 2018 Annual Report. Chair Harris explained that the goal was to create an independent report for the PCRS. In doing so, some of the history previously taken from the Police Department's IA Annual Report was no longer relevant. Rev. Lewis raised the issue that the description of the allegations contained in the charts may not be intuitive to the public as to their meaning. A discussion of the relationship of SOPs to the descriptions of allegations ensued and balancing the need for clarity with the need for consistency over time. Ms. Testa located a summary of SOPs from South Portland and suggested that such a document would be very useful for Portland to create. Mr. Beland suggested adding the particular SOP to the allegation. Decision to add SOP number and title to chart. Decision to change the term "member" to "employee" for clarity.

Discussion of summary of criteria used to evaluate cases. Committee generally agreed that this summary would be helpful moving forward, including for new members.

Discussion of PCRS pamphlet. PD asked to clarify language around complaint process that also includes commendations. PCRS agreed to change title of the form described to be complaint/commendation. Suggestion to edit "misconduct" language. Decision to change language to "conduct." Chair Harris suggested that pamphlets be used for outreach meetings and possibly placed elsewhere in the City.

Discussion of community meetings. Mr. Parson shared that there is value to holding meetings in the community to try to educate the public better on the subcommittee. Ms. Testa suggested that the key to success for these events will be prior advertising. Rev. Lewis shared concerns about whether community meetings falls outside the scope of the subcommittee. Ms. Testa was concerned that there is no awareness in the public and education is not happening, so the

subcommittee is the only group willing to do this. Mr. Beland, Rev. Lewis, and Chair Harris discussed the importance of the public knowing of the subcommittee and their role. Discussion of the ordinance provisions and the role of the community meetings to be focused on the complaint process and complaint review process. Chair Harris discussed what might be discussed at community meetings, including the role of the PCRS in police complaint review process. Mr. Parson shared that educating the public is important and the schools would be an appropriate location. Ms. Fournier shared that public participation at regular monthly meetings may have barriers to provide participation, including knowledge of the meetings as well as accessibility to families or others who have a challenge attending evening meetings in town. Ms. Fournier also thought there is value in putting a face to the subcommittee and also potential recruitment for future subcommittee members. Ms. Testa shared that the best way to gain public engagement was to go where the people are, and reemphasized that advertising will be key. Rev. Lewis emphasized that the subcommittee's role is education of the public, and that the subcommittee should not be attempting to influence the public in their thoughts about the review process and alternative review models. Mr. Beland agreed that advertising will be key, and focusing the community meetings will be key. Chair Harris asked for a volunteer to revise the meeting talking points. Rev. Lewis suggested asking for City support creating slides or other easily accessible talking points. Decision to use pamphlet.

PCRS revisited the pamphlet. Subcommittee agreed to remove phrase "civilian oversight of police conduct" from the cover. Discussion of whether to modify "misconduct" on the cover – Subcommittee decided to leave that language as is.

7:15 Motion to move into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)A) to review IA investigations. Seconded. Passed 6-0.

7:51. Motion to move out of executive session. Seconded. Passed 6-0.

Motion to find IA2019-001 was timely, fair, objective and thorough. Seconded. Passed 6-0.

Motion to find IA2019-002 was timely, fair objective, and thorough. Seconded. Passed 6-0.

7:53 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passed 6-0.