

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2019, 6:00 PM
Room 24, City Hall

Members Present: Michael Harris, Chair; Luke Beland; Emily West; Reggie Parson; Rev. Kenneth Lewis

Staff Present: Lt. Cliff Strout; Anne Torregrossa, Associate Corporation Counsel

Public Present: None

6:05 pm. Meeting called to order.

Discussion of 2018 Annual Report. The Subcommittee requested the following changes to the Annual Report

- Change date of annual report
- Add header row repeat on chart of allegations
- Split race and ethnicity in chart of allegations
- Add totals to the chart of allegations
- Delete the 2017 memo and Council order as appendices
- Add PCRS ordinance as appendix
- Update the sergeant in Appendix I
- Update table of contents

The PCRS also decided to call the various locations listed in Appendix I to ensure that complaint/comment forms are still available.

Motion to accept Annual Report with amendments. Seconded. Passed 4-0.

Motion to accept September minutes. Seconded. Passed 4-0.

The Subcommittee discussed the amended PCRS pamphlet. A question was raised about the PCRS email address, which goes to both Chair Harris and Anne Torregrossa. Subcommittee asked that the list of places to file a complaint/commendation be linked as a separate document on its webpage. Subcommittee agreed to the final version of the pamphlet, as presented.

Discussion of community meetings. PCRS discussed that it would hold regular meeting at an alternative location, but would not review cases at that meeting. A news release of the Subcommittee's schedule of meetings would be helpful. Subcommittee discussed elementary vs. high school locations, the goal is to go to places where people might not know PCRS exists. The Subcommittee decided to keep the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm, and Portland High School will be first location.

Discussion of what will be covered in community meetings. Chair Harris suggested that they basically cover what is in the pamphlet. Chair Harris would do introductions and cover generally why PCRS is there. Others could talk about other panels. Attorney Torregrossa cautioned that individual cases or complaints could not be taken at the meetings. Ms. West questioned whether there was specific feedback that the PCRS wanted from the public, such as how to better accomplish education about the Subcommittee. Could use complaint/commendation form simply as an illustration of what is available. Chair Harris will create an outline of presentation to be discussed at a future meeting. Discussion of whether to have copies of annual report available, and Mr. Beland suggested it might be good to have that information available. Discussion of how to solicit questions or comments on the citizen complaint review process. Could ask broad questions about how much awareness there is and how to better increase community awareness. Mr. Parson asked how many questions to ask and Ms. West recommended they determine based on the audience. Discussion of whether to invite police department in order to show trusting relationship; and Ms. West suggested that perhaps that was not the place to have police department play a key role. As a public meeting, police would be allowed to attend, but PD shouldn't be the focus. Discussion between Lt. Strout and the Subcommittee about goals of the outside meetings. Lt. Strout shared that PD does want to make sure they are receiving the complaints, but is concerned about unfair accusations that are not specific enough to be addressed by PD. At next meeting the Subcommittee will have to discuss how to conduct outreach about the outside meeting. Discussion about what the response may be to someone who is unhappy about the role of the PCRS, and the PCRS agreed that is the role of the City Council and the PCRS is limited by its ordinance. Chair Harris discussed what success might look like, and the Subcommittee decided that more individuals attending meetings and/or additional complaints/commendations. Mr. Beland questioned what resources the PCRS could give to members of the public who don't understand certain policing tactics. Lt. Strout explained that anyone could call the PD to ask questions.

Chair Harris will create an outline of the presentation/questions for discussions at the next meeting.

The members will contact the various locations to determine whether complaint/commendation forms are available.

7:38 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passed 4-0.