

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

June 24, 2020

Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom

Members present: Emily West, Chair; Maria Testa; Luke Beland; Kaylin Kerina; Rev. Kenneth Lewis; Reggie Parson; April Fournier

Staff present: Commander Jim Sweatt; Anne Torregrossa, Associate Corporation Counsel

6:00 Call to order via Zoom. Roll call with all members present

6:05 Motion to move into executive session to discuss the PCRS rights and responsibilities with Corporation Counsel pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E). Seconded. Passed 7-0.

6:22 Return from executive session.

The PCRS spent a significant amount of time discussing the direction that they would like to pursue with the Committee. Notes of that discussion are included as Attachment A.

Ultimately, the PCRS decided to draft a memo to the City Manager with the following short term recommendations:

1. Collect better demographic information on police interactions.
2. Finish revising the Police Department Complaint/Commendation form.
3. Implement a business card policy.
4. Get citizen input on use of force.
5. Allow the PCRS to review internal complaints.

It also decided to include in the memo its plans for future work for the Subcommittee, including:

- Reviewing the structure and role of the PCRS.
- Reviewing the 21st Century Policing Report and providing recommendations on best practices for the Portland Police Department.
- Reviewing the current feedback process for the Police Department.
- Continue PCRS education of, and outreach to, the community.

Anne Torregrossa will draft a memo for the Subcommittee's review for the July 8, 2020 meeting.

8:40 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passed 7-0.

ATTACHMENT A: Notes on open discussion RE possible short and long term recommendations

Possible Short Term Recommendations to CM

1. Transparency of PD
 - a. Better data on race and other demographics on contacts by type of interaction, arrests, complaints, etc. – recommendation by 21st Century Policing task force
 - b. Include in arrest report when involved use of force
 - c. Fix process for complaints/commendations – promote online, make more accessible, better explain the process, better inform public of PCRS existence and role; ensure that is an accessible reading level (6th grade level); make complaint/commendation form available in multiple languages (accessible, equitable, and just) – paper and online
 - d. Making more information about training publicly available – who is providing; content of training; length; etc.
2. Community engagement by PD
3. Policies and procedures of PD
 - a. Have officers carry business cards with name and how to submit complaint/commendation – recommendation by 21st Century Policing task force
 - b. Take into account “reasonable citizen” standard in review of use of force – have citizen sit on use of force review panel and consider their feedback – one from each civil service subcommittees. In the interim, the PCRS recommends adding a non-PD member of the CM/Chief’s choice to the use of force committee.
4. Community liaison outside of PCRS and/or PD; or third party survey of community
5. Inform CM of direction that PCRS is looking to take in the future. The PCRS will be developing recommendations to both improve policing and improve police review. Specifically, the PCRS will be considering the following areas in the future:
 - a. The PCRS will be participating in the NACOLE annual conference and expect to have multiple recommendations for possible changes to the structure of Portland citizen oversight of policing arising out of that learning experience. We expect to have recommendations on changing the scope of the governing PCRS ordinance.
 - b. The PCRS will be reviewing the 21st Century Policing Task Force recommendations to recommend potential changes to how policing is accomplished in Portland.
 - c. Fix complaint process
 - d. Better education/outreach by PCRS

Possible Longer Term Objectives

1. Consider recommendations to role of PCRS (ordinance changes)

- a. Structural issues in how PCRS operates
 - i. Relying on complaints filed has limited usefulness
 - ii. Want broader information than just those filed through complaint/commendation
 - b. Committee liaison to educate public and gather feedback – elected? Member of the committee? Staff member? Volunteer?
2. Discuss changes to how PCRS currently operates (operational changes)
 - a. Structure of meeting – public comment; executive session w/ PD for questions; executive session w/o PD after for discussion
3. Annual Report – making it more effective
 - a. Need more data to make effective
 - b. Change so that report also goes to HHS/Public Safety Subcommittee
4. Recommendations for fixing complaint process
 - a. Many issues why complaint process doesn't work – don't know about process, don't find it useful, don't feel comfortable engaging with PD
5. Better engagement with other committees/elected officials
6. Better PCRS outreach to community
 - a. Better use of social media to educate and engage with public
 - b. Easier access to City social media accounts, press releases, etc.
 - c. Improve website
 - d. Partner with PD to also get the word out about PCRS – Cmdr. Sweatt to get link to PCRS on PD webpage
 - e. Listen to community as basis for recommendations
 - f. Continue community meetings and better promote them – have larger, better promoted Zoom meeting?
7. Review Appendix E of 21st Policing Report and determine whether any need to be incorporated into PCRS work