

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

August 12, 2020

Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom

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

Staff present: Major Frank Gorham; Lt. Cliff Strout; Sgt. Chris Dyer; Anne Torregrossa

6:03 Call to order via Zoom.

Motion to accept minutes of July 8, 2020. Seconded. Roll call approval 6-0.

PCRS discussed Annual Report and made changes to draft presented. PCRS took public comment, which commented on Annual Report and PCRS efforts in general. PCRS made further changes to draft Annual Report. Motion to accept Annual Report as amended. Seconded. Roll call approval 6-0. PCRS discussed distribution of the Annual Report to include to City Manager, City Council, website, and potential news blast.

PCRS briefly discussed their participation in NACOLE annual conference, which is being held via webinar. All members who have attended have found the webinars very valuable.

Ms. Testa discussed alternative options for citizen oversight. She explained the 13 principles of effective oversight and 7 characteristics. Ms. Testa stated that she believes the current ordinance is inadequate to allow the oversight board to be effective. Ms. Testa then went on to discuss that there are three different “models” of oversight and some hybrid models.

Chair West added comments that changes can and should be positive and that she thinks that transparency can be valuable. Chair West and Ms. Testa agreed that participation from the public is important. Chair West expressed interest in learning more about Cambridge and Providence models and possibly having the chair of one of those cities talk with the PCRS.

Ms. Kerina discussed the importance of engaging the community, gaining community trust, and documenting the process.

Ms. Fournier believes that the changes that the PCRS goes through would be excellent to develop as a learning model for other communities. She asked if there were additional models in New England that the PCRS should be looking at. Ms. Testa stated that New England did not have much police oversight.

Mr. Beland reiterated the importance of community involvement in the process. He questioned whether the PCRS is the right vehicle to engage in this work and that there are other groups that have more visibility in the community. He suggested that the PCRS instead try to contribute to the work of the other bodies that may be better suited to the work.

Ms. West did state that the PCRS does have its own agenda and should engage with the public and engage with other groups that have been formed.

Public comment applauded the efforts of the Subcommittee to look at alternative models and offers recommendations to the PCRS in their work.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Roll call approval 6-0.