

Date: January 21, 2021

Attending: Ali Abdul, Suheir Alaskari, Deb Ibonwa, Kate Knox, Lado Ladoka, Merita McKenzie, Peter O'Donnell, Jonathan Sahrbeck, Louis Pickens, Pious Ali (Co Chair), Lelia DeAndrade (Co-Chair); Samaa Abdurraqib (Facilitator)

Absent: Jerome Bennett, Niki Amaris

Approved minutes January 14

Goal:

- Review some logistical or administrative issues
- Return to conversation about charge 1

Logistics:

- Public Comment written responses- feedback that the format is limiting. We should receive written comment via email.
- Dena Libner is establishing a RESC email address. All members of the committee will receive the info.
- Samaa will be drafting an interim report to be delivered in mid-March; hoping to have a recommendation about establishing the office and/or commission, and an alternative public safety model
- Request to Dr. Medford to research the CAHOOTS model

Update on development of racial equity commission recommendation

- DeAndrade drafted it; and Knox is conducting research to determine where the commission could be seated and what its focus it should have.

Discussion: Police Citizen Review Committee

- Review of the process (complaint filed, internal review for disciplinary action; decision goes to the committee to review the process of determining action and then to city manager)
- There is a conflict of interest in filing a complaint to the body that you have a complaint about.
- There is no sharing of data about their work or how well known is it.
- The committee was established 20 years ago and warrants critical review. It did not address some of the concerns that were raised at the time, in response to contract concerns. It needs more community accountability and warrants full review.
- Committee member will investigate other city models.
- Question will be brought to the corporate counsel- What information from active complaints can the public review?
- Public perception is often that there are no acknowledgements of bad behavior or making mistakes on the part of the police.
- Others have knowledge that suggest that the police leadership take great care in managing internal reviews and evaluating processes. Also noted that the use of body cameras and cruiser cameras have appeared to help reduce complaints
- We should investigate the processes now in place that the police are using to respond to complaints
- The disqualifications for serving on the committee includes criteria that seem problematic (ex. a conviction within the last 10 years)

Recommendations/requests

- There should be some level of non-police review about how they are responding to complaints and what they actually do.

- Recommend again to consider an ombudsman process similar to how it operates at the state level DHHS. It does require someone with experience in the law enforcement system.
 - This focus on interactions between police and the community is the most important, serious issue for us to consider, and has to be reviewed by an outside source.
- Questions:
- Do they have sufficient funding?
 - Are people interested in creating an entirely new body alongside the PCRS
 - Are people interested in investigating and trying to improve the PCRS
 - Committee is split on these questions

Conversation will continue with information provided by committee members and Dr. Medford.

Committee adjourned at 6:40.