

City of Portland
Police Citizen Review Subcommittee

AGENDA
December 8, 2021
6:00 PM

1. ZOOM Information
On Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., the Police Citizen Review Subcommittee will conduct a virtual meeting via Zoom, as allowed by 1 M.R.S. Sec. 403-A. Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83403866251?pwd=S2RnWFh4eXRsc29ZelVxUUQrZ0RUUT09>
Passcode: 793372 Or One tap mobile : US: +16465588656,,83403866251# or +13017158592,,83403866251# Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 Webinar ID: 834 0386 6251 International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83403866251?pwd=S2RnWFh4eXRsc29ZelVxUUQrZ0RUUT09>
2. Call to Order
3. Approval of November 10, 2021 minutes
 - a. Attached.
4. General Public Comment.
5. Review draft letter to Charter Commission Subcommittee (Ms. Hardcastle and Vice Chair Parson)
 - a. Attached.
6. Review draft memo to City Manager regarding PCRS survey results (Chair West)
 - a. Attached.
7. Goal setting for 2022
8. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. Sec. 405(6)(F) to discuss IA2021-009.
9. Adjourn

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

November 10, 2021

Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom

Members present: Emily West, Chair; Reggie Parson, Vice Chair; Kaylin Kerina; Rev. Lewis; Anne Hardcastle; Tim Smith

Members absent: Sarai Manyiel

Staff present: Anne Torregrossa

6:00 Call to order.

Motion to adopt minutes of October 13, 2021. Second. Roll call vote 6-0.

No public comment was offered.

The PCRS reviewed the draft summary of the survey results prepared by Chair West. The PCRS will draft and consider a cover memo to the City Manager in its December meeting.

Motion to adopt report on survey. Second. Roll call vote 6-0.

Chair West discussed her participation in the Charter Commission Subcommittee meeting. During that meeting, she corrected the misperception that the PCRS was simply “HR” or an “internal function” for the PD. She did express that the PCRS could be strengthened.

Rev. Lewis stated that he did share by email the SOPs that the CC Subcommittee asked about or referenced during the meeting. He said that he was not impressed by the preparation or understanding of the PCRS by the CC Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Parson thinks that there is room for education through the Charter Commission or City Council if there are changes to be made. He believes there is an opportunity for dialogue regarding potential changes.

Chair West felt that even after her conversations with the CC Subcommittee members that there was a lack of understanding and there may be a benefit to a joint meeting with the full Charter Commission.

Rev. Lewis explained that the Charter Commission role right now was supposed to be about fact-finding and believes it is incumbent upon the CC Subcommittee to operate from a place of understanding. He would prefer to be able to respond to a substantive proposal than try to generally educate. Rev. Lewis reached out to CC Subcommittee members to question how the Subcommittee was going about its task without talking to the PCRS.

Ms. Hardcastle expressed concern about waiting to participate in the process until there is a concrete proposal and thinks the PCRS should be more proactive in their presentation.

Ms. Kerina questioned why the burden was on the PCRS to educate the CC Subcommittee, rather than the other way around, and she feels that is unfair. She wants to express that the Charter Commission is not doing its job to educate itself about the PCRS.

Rev. Lewis wanted to emphasize that there is a difference between the Charter and City Ordinances, and the Charter Commission's scope is more narrow. He sees that the Charter Commission has an agenda, rather than a desire to learn. The CC Subcommittee could simply have asked about what the PCRS does if it really wanted to know.

Chair West noted that, as a body, the PCRS has not discussed or formalized recommendations about changes to the PCRS role and structure that may be appropriate. She questioned whether it made sense to have a PCRS position on the issues being discussed. Rev. Lewis asked if the PCRS could invite the Charter Commission to a PCRS meeting; and Ms. Kerina suggested that the PCRS hold its own workshop for its own purposes, she also suggested that any meeting with the CC Subcommittee should be just the facts.

Ms. Hardcastle suggested a joint meeting in February with a request for questions up front. Even if the questions are agenda-driven, the PCRS can still give very fact-based answers.

Mr. Smith summarized the Charter Commission timeline as published on its webpage.

Ms. Hardcastle and Vice Chair Parson will revise the draft letter to the Charter Commission for the December meeting.

6:39 Motion to move into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. Sec. 405(6)(F) to discuss IA2021-009; Second; Roll Call Vote 6-0.

7:29 Out of executive session.

Motion to table the review of IA2021-009 until December 8, 2021; Second; Roll Call Vote 6-0.

Agenda for next meeting:

- Complete review and vote on IA2021-009
- Review letter to Charter Commission Subcommittee
- Chair West will draft memo to the City Manager regarding the survey results
- Set goals for 2022
- Potential additional IA case to review

7:39 Motion to adjourn; Second; Roll Call Vote 6-0.

Dear Chairperson Kebede and members of the Charter Commission,

First we would like to thank Chairperson Lizanecz and members of the Departments Subcommittee of the Charter Commission for their time in October in discussing the role of police oversight and allowing a representative from the Police Citizens Review Subcommittee (PCRS) to provide an important perspective.

We understand that the Charter Commission is tasked with the very significant role of developing recommendations to reshape city government in Portland. As the structure of police oversight is one of the key topics being reviewed, it is even more vital that perspectives of those that are part of the PCRS on a day-to-day basis are brought to the table. We too are looking to find ways to strengthen our current structure and believe we have relevant insights to share. We look forward to sharing those insights and information in the near future.

Moving forward, we would like to invite you to attend the next PCRS meeting in January 2022 to further expand our initial discussion on police oversight, and more specifically the learnings and insights gathered from the day-to-day activities of the PCRS. We also encourage you to share any relevant updates with the PCRS you may have as to the work you are conducting on alternative police oversight models for Portland.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to our request. We look forward to engaging in a robust and productive conversation at the Charter Commission's soonest convenience. Thank you as well for your service to the City of Portland.

Signed,

Emily West, Chair

Reginald Parson, Vice Chair

Rev. Kenneth Lewis, Member

Kaylin Kerina, Member

Anne Hardcastle, Member

Sarai Manyiel, Member

Tim Smith, Member

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daniella P. West, Interim City Manager

FROM: Police Citizen Review Subcommittee

DATE: December 8, 2021

RE: Results of the PCRS Community Survey on Police Oversight in Portland

One of the missions of the PCRS is to provide to you “any recommendations and/or proposals for improvements or modifications in the police internal affairs investigative process, policies or training, and for enhancing public confidence in the methods and process of investigation of citizen complaints against police officers.” In furtherance of that mission, the PCRS put out a community survey to gain insight from city residents on possible changes to Portland’s police oversight body, drawing from research on best practice models around the country. A summary of results from this survey are included here and is also available on the PCRS website. While drawing broad conclusions based on responses from 76 individuals is not possible, the results provide diverse perspectives on this issue, as each question allowed respondents to elaborate on their answers in narrative form.

The Subcommittee hopes to engage with relevant city bodies to provide the unique insight regarding police oversight that is gathered from the day-to-day activities of the PCRS, and to offer proposed changes to its structure so that it aligns with current research on established best practices. As a part of this engagement, the PCRS requests that you consider including the Subcommittee in future conversations regarding any changes the City Council may consider for the PCRS.

The PCRS is happy to answer any questions you may have or provide any additional context that might be helpful. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support.