

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.