

MINUTES

Community Police Commission (CPC)

September 20, 2013, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

City Hall

600 - 4th Avenue, Room L280

CPC Attendees: Lisa Daugaard, Diane Narasaki, co-chairs; Bill Hobson, Jay Hollingsworth, Kate Joncas, Joe Kessler, Tina Podlodowski, Jennifer Shaw, Rev. Harriett Walden, Rev. Aaron Williams

CPC Absent: Claudia D'Allegri, Marcel Purnell, Kevin Stuckey

CPC Staff: Betsy Graef, Karinda Harris

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public testimony was received.

REVIEW AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No changes were made to the agenda and there were no announcements.

AGENDA ITEMS

Review Meeting Goals

The intent of the meeting was to:

- Approve draft recommendations in three policy areas (bias-free policing, stops and detentions, in-car video recordings);
- Provide guidance on high level, overview language to be used in community outreach involving the policy areas noted above, plus use of force—e.g., frame concise language, understandable to the public, of what the key draft policy changes are and why they may make a difference;
- Develop general questions to ask the public on each of the CPC draft policies; and
- Develop general questions to ask the public about their perceptions and experience with the police.

Overview of Community Engagement Presentation Material

The group reviewed the most current version of the community outreach PowerPoint deck. The purpose for this review was to provide commissioners with a framework for thinking about how material is shaping up for presentation to the public. This will help commissioners get grounded on policy messaging and how questions for the public will

get raised in facilitated meetings. Some suggested changes to the collaterals were offered by commissioners.

ACTION item below

Big Picture Discussion

This discussion focused on how the CPC wants to balance the goals of educating and receiving feedback in its initial community engagement. It also sought to surface ideas on how to frame questions on general perceptions about the police (to provide additional baseline information related to the Monitor's survey).

The primary focus of the initial outreach effort is to receive feedback on CPC policy recommendations. The educational component should be to explain why and how the CPC's work on policy is vital: Policies are the rules that set expectations for police conduct. The CPC's policy recommendations seek to make the rules more fair and clear. Fair and clear rules set standards that help police officers and community members understand their rights and obligations. These policies/rules are the foundation to training officers on department standards—what is expected of them. Then, if officers fail to meet these standards, they can be held accountable and disciplined.

The group discussed the recent release by the Monitor of his survey results and the limitations of those findings. Specifically, there is concern that the survey was conducted by telephone, which likely failed to include representative samplings from important demographic segments. In addition, the Monitor's survey failed to report findings by critical categories (for example, Asians were lumped together; responses by Native Americans and other vital racial/ethnic or immigrant subgroups were not separately reported). While disappointed that the Monitor released his survey results before the CPC has conducted its own survey, the group acknowledged that the Monitor has agreed that his survey does not constitute a baseline of community attitudes about SPD.

The group agreed that in addition to questions that mirror those in the Monitor's survey (multiple choice and close-ended), the CPC will pose some open-ended questions that may be asked in the questionnaire and/or in group meetings (feedback on such questions in the latter setting will be captured in meeting summary documentation prepared by group facilitators).

The group also agreed that the method used by CPC to capture feedback must be memorialized so that it can be replicated. It was also noted that there is a need to ensure sufficient funding so that CPC can conduct additional surveys over each of the next several years.

Policy Review

Staff and commissioner follow-up are required in all of the policy areas covered below.

ACTION items below

Use of Force

The group discussed SPD's draft use of force policy (which was developed in collaboration with DOJ and has been tentatively approved by the Monitor). In the past, the policy simply stipulated that excessive or inappropriate use of force was not allowed. The new policy seeks to provide guidance on how officers can avoid doing so. The draft policy defines force and classifies it into four levels based on the extent of injury inflicted. Except when the injury is transient (de minimis), all force incidents must be reported and investigated (either by a supervisor or through a formal review by SPD's Force Investigation Team).

Joe Kessler will draft an overview document to adapt for use in the outreach effort.

Bias-Free Policing

The group reviewed the draft policy recommendations for bias-free policing. They discussed the issue about whether a supervisor may or must be called when a bias charge is claimed. For the time being, the policy recommendation states that the supervisor may be called, but the group agreed that community input on this issue is needed. The group also recommended using Glenn Harris' PowerPoint presentation as a basis for the bias-free policing overview, but that it would need to be shortened and more concise.

Moved, seconded, and passed (10-0-0): "To approve for public release the draft policy recommendations for bias-free policing, with the understanding that community input received during October may result in revisions prior to final adoption."

[Lunch Discussion]

Review Targets for Outreach (Beyond Community Partners)

There was a general discussion of targets for outreach, but no specific priorities were identified.

ACTION item below

Stops and Detentions

The group reviewed the draft policy recommendations for stops and detentions. Responding to a question about procedures associated with the policy, it was clarified that SPD will report stops data by race and other demographic characteristics (as perceived by the officer), including mental illness.

Moved, seconded, and passed (10-0-0): "To approve for public release the draft policy recommendations for stops and detentions, with the understanding that community input received during October may result in revisions prior to final adoption."

In-Car Video Recording

The group reviewed the draft policy recommendations for in-car video recordings. It was noted that the trigger recommendations are due to the Monitor on September 30.

Moved, seconded, and passed (9-0-0): (one commissioner was out of the room at the time of the vote) "To approve for public release the draft policy recommendations for in-car video recordings, with the understanding that community input received during October may result in revisions prior to final adoption."

Appendix A

This agenda item was postponed for discussion at the next CPC meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff will revise collateral material to incorporate commissioner suggestions.
2. Assigned commissioners (see below) will provide policy overviews and key points of how policy changes are expected to make a difference, suggested policy questions for the public, and any background materials that might be useful collateral to staff by noon on Monday, September 23. Staff will review, edit, format and send to Community Engagement (CE) workgroup members for review by 3:00 pm on September 23. CE workgroup members will return any revisions to staff by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 24. Staff will prepare final versions on Wednesday, September 25 for inclusion in training session to be held with community partners on Wednesday evening. (Assigned commissioners: Jay Hollingsworth and Harriett Walden (BFP); Joe Kessler (UOF); Jennifer Shaw (S/D); Tina Podlodowski (ICV).
3. Staff will send commissioners a list of potential community convener organizations and ask them to identify key organizations for staff to contact.
4. PRR will be asked by staff to prepare general perception questions for inclusion in the qualitative questionnaire.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR UPCOMING CPC BOARD AGENDA

Potential items for the October 2 meeting were not discussed. However, Appendix A is noted as an important item for discussion at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, October 2, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 - 5th Avenue, 40th Floor, Room 4080, Seattle, WA