

10/1/20 Springfield Police Advisory Committee Minutes

Location: Remote GoToWebinar

Committee Member Attendance: Joe Pishioneri-Councilor, Barry Lind – Faith Community, Michael Bean – Local Business, Jack Martin – Neighborhood At-Large (2), Teresa Dillon – Neighborhood At-Large (3), Johnny Kirschenmann – Neighborhood At-Large (4), Jenna McCulley – School District 19, Eric Adams – Willamalane Parks

City Staff Attendance: Chief Lewis, Jessica Crawford, AJ Ripka

1. Welcome and Call to Order – 6:06
2. Roll Call - Completed
3. Minutes Approval for September 3, 2020 Meeting
 - Terri Dillon motioned to approve as is, Michael Bean seconded. All in favor.
4. Business From the Audience
 - Vice-chair Jack Martin shared information to inform public in attendance regarding what the charge and makeup of the Springfield Police Advisory Committee.
 - The process of providing public statements from the audience during “Business From the Audience” was reviewed.
 - Guidelines established at 2 minutes per speaker, 20 minutes total.

Public speakers:

- Gracie Schatz – Lives in Eugene. Wanted to comment on assault that occurred at the protest last night where a member of Black Unity was maced in the face. Concerned that the incident occurred in front of SPD with no action taken. Commented on potential impact of civil lawsuits and SPD deductible impacting the City as a whole.
- Dana Hirchert – Lives in ward 1. Commented on SPD alarming pattern of behavior. Believes laws applied discriminatorily towards Black Unity members versus non-action taken on known counter-protesters. Concerned about civil liberty, legal and potential financial impact from Thurston and future protests. Wonders how long bias continues until it is addressed.
- Pam Myers – Question regarding July 29 protest. Wanted to know status and procedures related to the independent investigation in to the July 29th protest. Her daughter was arrested at the protest. The evidence that her daughter received regarding the arrest was the wrong video and not her daughter. Would like the investigation to be fair and impartial.
- Shawna Heurgue – She was a direct witness to the incident that occurred last night. She and her daughter were a driver at the end of the Black Unity protest. She advised officers that she was a witness to and were impacted by the mace used by Rob Davis. During the protest, she and her daughters were harassed and her car blocked. This information was shared with SPD officers with no response. She was frightened by the

aggressive people and concerned SPD did not stop them. Would like the fact she doesn't feel safe to be addressed.

- Thomas Lawrence – Commented on fact that July 29th was a long time ago and still nothing has happened. Last night there was another incident, there is video of the incident, individual admitted responsibility on Facebook, and wonders why no arrests were made. Believes nothing is happening. Reiterated this is on video and wonders why nothing has been done.
- Holle Schaper – Ward 2. At Council last week they spoke how upsetting the video of the July 29th protest is. She agrees. Would also like to talk about inaction. At multiple protests counter-protesters conduct acts of violence with no consequence and shared multiple examples.
- Alatasi Clancy – Washburne District. Often attends Black Unity protests with her 3year old daughter, but she has increasing fear for her safety as a woman of color. She is aware that a counter-protester used mace against a Black Unity protester and would like to know if any action has been taken, if the suspect was arrested and if not, why. Noted there is video evidence of the incident. Trump supporters have a first amendment right to their beliefs that she would not want to take away. However, data shows white nationalist and right wing militias are a threat to the country. Asked what SPD is doing to prepare and de-escalate scenarios such as last night. Her daughter and herself should be able to attend a peaceful march in her own neighborhood.
- Jan McRae – Has spoken before and concern is the same and echoes the concern of other speakers regarding the selective enforcement in Springfield. She has requested follow up regarding battery against a family member and believes some follow up has been completed. She wonders what the advisory committee's role is regarding requiring accountability. After attending a few meetings, there are discussion and comments, but there is no indication of follow up. She is hoping for constructive improvement will be made.

Jessica advised about 2 minutes remaining, there are 4 more people who have asked to speak with 20 minutes remaining requiring 8 additional minutes. All committee members agreed to grant additional 8 minutes to hear remaining speakers.

Joe Pishioneri commented that he approved of adding time this evening, but suggested that the public comment time frame be followed more closely in the future. Further discussion for future meeting framework will be discussed in agenda item 7.a.

- Heather Gardner-Madras –Lives in Springfield near Marcola. Has viewed very concerning video. Springfield is making history right now. It seems like the direction of SPD and

Springfield in general is they will try and wait out the movement without making changes or reforms to benefit the community. She had to evacuate her home due to the recent wildfires and there was vigilantism there too. There is a lot of trust that needs to be rebuilt.

- Elizabeth Utterback – Ward 3. Concerns regarding SPD engagement in blatant racism and other behaviors that have resulted in community harm and distrust. Incidents may have financial impact on the City budget due to SPD’s liability insurance \$250,000 per claim fee. Referred to concerns mentioned in her August written statement that, as well as SPD officers seen sharing back the blue t shirts with white supremacists at pro-police events, which are coded white nationalist rallies. SPD stood by at multiple rallies while white supremacists arrived with riot shields and wasp and bear spray. Last night bear spray was deployed while SPD stood by and did nothing. At the July Thurston protest, video shows SPD sharing strategy with a white supremacist. Believes there is a pattern SPD does not protect and serve everyone. She wants to know from the committee how they will ensure Chief Lewis and SPD distances themselves from white supremacists and how they will address racism within SPD.
- Carolyn Rasche – Ward 3. She was present at the July 29th Thurston protest. Previous speakers have addressed many of her concerns. Based on actions last night, she is concerned there is a trend of incidents not being investigated or prosecuted. At the Thurston event, she was confronted by angry, weaponized individuals displaying symbols associated with neo-Nazi groups. One person present is a white supremacist that had recently served time due to aiding with racially motivated murders. She observed another man who has been convicted of assault 2 that carried a flag and wore a back the blue t-shirt.
 - Carolyn was advised her 2 minutes had expired.
- Gracelyn Barlowe – Lives in Springfield near Walterville. Commented that she is increasingly concerned with SPD’s lack of reckoning between SPD personnel and Springfield citizens. Incidents seem to be approached with an attitude of suppression. Recent lawsuits are forcing uncomfortable conversations. Upcoming litigation of two cases could cost 2.5 times more than the body camera program budget. The expense of police litigation is a substantial cost that can be prevented with reflection and change.
- Kevin Schaper – Ward 2. Would like a member of this committee to ask Chief Lewis about plans to respond if violent militia members show up to intimidate the community at ballot drop boxes in coming weeks.

5. Committee Response

AIC chair Jack Martin reminded the audience that SPAC members do not speak on behalf of City Council or City staff.

- Michael Bean – Was unaware there was an event last night. He is on Facebook and has not seen referenced video. He went to City Club today to hear a Black Unity member speak today. He reviewed Black Unity’s Facebook page and did not see any video footage there. He cannot comment on last night’s events, but thanked the public for their comments.
- Barry Lind – Also thanked those who shared. He went to Springfield City Club today to hear a Black Unity leader speak. The leader did not present any concerns from his perspective about last night. This is the first he is hearing of it.
- Joe Pishioneri – The City has fallen short for the volunteers on the committee regarding what their duty is. There were several comments that place pressure on committee members for policy change. This is not a police commission. The committee cannot issue discipline or get involved in personnel issues. The committee is representative of the community, just as much as those speaking tonight. He really appreciates hearing from many perspectives. As he is an elected official of the City, he can share that the City wants to do the right thing and make changes in the right way. Many people are frustrated that arrests have not been made in 24 hours, but sometimes cases take time and police cannot speak to active investigations. Concerns are not falling on deaf ears. He does take comments back to Council.
- Johnny Kirschenmann – Asked for clarification of Kevin Schaper’s questions.
 - Chief Lewis clarified question and advised that if people were situating themselves around a ballot box, SPD would respond. He has not heard that would be an issue and asks for people with specific information to let SPD know.
- Chief Lewis – Acknowledged what Councilor Pishioneri stated, that there is some limitation in information that can be shared on open investigations, but he would share some information on recent events that came up in public comment.

Last night there was a protest which began around 7pm. The march started at City Hall, traveled to Centennial Blvd, to Pioneer Parkway, to A Street (where there were some speakers), and returned to City Hall. There was a contingent of individuals identifying themselves as “We the People”, which SPD was aware of prior to the event by monitoring social media. To prepare for events with two competing groups, SPD had 45-50 officers available for the safety and security of everybody. SPD was aware We the People individuals were intermingling with other protesters. SPD did provide traffic control ahead of the march for safety. SPD got out of their cars several times to separate groups in minor arguments. SPD is very aware of one case that was mentioned multiple times this evening. It would be inappropriate to share why an arrest was not made immediately. Chief assured the public the case will be handled and there are specific reasons why it was not handled last night. SPD has not spoke with the victim yet and cannot comment on what the victim did or did not do in regards to talking to the police last night. We understand the frustration when the

incident is right there on video, but sometimes it takes a day or two or even weeks to investigate and resolve a case.

- Barry Lind asked the Chief regarding the status of the independent investigation. Chief Lewis advised the City Manager's Office is leading the investigation. SPD has been gathering and sharing information requested by the independent investigator.
 - Joe Pishioneri advised the investigator is now on the job and starting the investigation.
 - Michael Bean mentioned the City Manager was going to share the name of the investigator. Joe Pishioneri advised the City Manager would follow up on who the investigator is and when it would be shared with the public.

6. Business from the Chief – Information provided by Chief Lewis.

- a. Coordinating Community Dialogue – With encouragement of this committee, PD staff have discussed and researched options on how to support community dialogue. Barry Lind has also done some work on this.
 - i. Barry Lind – Community dialogue with folks with different backgrounds, thoughts and opinions, could help rebuild trust. He is not in charge of this effort, but attempting to facilitate discussion. He believes the discussion could start by gathering about 12 people of diverse background, and including representation from SPD. The initial goal would just be having a conversation and to listen and learn in a way that is helpful and respectful. Eventually specific goals could be developed. He has been approached by some community members on this topic.
 - ii. Chief Lewis - PD gathered examples of different community dialogue options that have been used to facilitate discussion with law enforcement agencies around the country. One topic that did come up is if it is appropriate for SPD to lead the coordination of the event (coordinate participants, pick the moderator, etc.). SPD looks for direction from this committee on the level of participation you suggest. SPD can provide support and participate in the discussion, but may not be the lead organizer. The COVID environment does create restrictions and the conversation may be best in person. Chief asked for thoughts from the committee.
 - iii. Michael Bean – Great idea and we should go for it. He has trained facilitators within his organization that can assist and be non-partial and balanced.
 - 1. Chief commented that SPD research noted that the right moderator is very important to the success of the dialogue. He would reach out for names of individuals in the future.
 - iv. Joe Pishioneri – Very supportive of the dialogue. It is difficult to get this organized and know where to start. He agrees SPD should not be the organizer, but be a partner in the conversation. Elected officials have a duty to be present

and he is interested in being a part of the conversation. People want to see something happen. The conversation has to be respectful and mutual, with defined and obtainable goals with outcomes.

- v. Chief Lewis – considerations include number of people involved, number of meetings and duration of effort, and who the representatives should be. There are a number of groups we would like participation from, who is also a citizen of Springfield or works in Springfield. How do you think we proceed if SPD isn't organizing?
 - vi. Michael Bean – He nominates Barry. COVID does create complication, but the conversation is important. There are a multitude of different groups that should be included. There needs to be some rules.
 - vii. Terri Dillon – Willing to help.
 - viii. Barry Lind – Open to help. Something in person would be helpful. Should include Springfield representatives, multiple groups. This is not his expertise, but willing to put in effort.
 - ix. Jen McCulley – Supportive of discussion and Barry. Noted a question regarding the point of order for Chief or Jessica before too much further organization is performed. Asked if SPAC has a concern around quorums, emails on the topic (as this would be public information), and as this is a Council appointed group, how we should proceed possibly as a subgroup of the committee.
 - 1. Joe Pishioneri – Very good point. Committee has the ability to create sub-committee. Organization should be coordinated through the City Manager's Office with communication to Council to ensure it is set up correctly.
 - 2. Jen McCulley – She would like the community to understand the direction this discussion is going and this conversation is great. The community should have the opportunity for feedback and make suggestions. She is willing to help Barry speak with the City Manager's Office for further direction.
 - x. Chief Lewis offered to have Jessica email list of dialogue options for input and begin a list of who would be represented. Difficult to make it perfect, but willing to try and learn from mistakes rather than not try at all.
 - xi. Joe Pishioneri – Update on earlier topic...the City Manager advised him that information regarding who will conduct the independent investigation of the Thurston protest will be put out to the public tomorrow.
- b. Diversity Training – Chief advised Michael Bean had posed a question on what diversity training had been provided to the officers. Chief shared that all officers received online anti-bias a few months ago. Due to COVID, it was provided online through PoliceOne,

which has Lexipol foundation. Officers are provided anti-bias and diversity training at academy. Some academy training topics include: community competency, community policing, emotional intelligence, ethics, implicit bias, legitimacy, problem oriented policing. The City has historically provided diversity training. In 2019 Chief attended a training that focused on implicit bias.

- i. Michael Bean – glad there is something. Going forward there needs to be more training. Online training is hard. In person training is more powerful.
 1. Chief advised he plans to work with Dr. Johnny Lake to coordinate future training, which is only available online at this time.
 2. Michael Bean advised his organization plans to coordinate training with Dr. Lake also, as he is “the best of the best”.
- c. Cultural Minority Community Position – vacant position is posted and application information is on the City’s website.
- d. Policy Update:
 - i. 26.1.1 Code of Conduct, regarding business cards – There was a request from City Council to hand out business cards at all traffic stops. SPD will update the policy to include this process. The idea behind it is the individual has the officer’s card if they want to make a complaint or a compliment. One consideration is that some agencies are removing officer names from their uniforms and using only their badge number due to doxing that is occurring by people trying to find police employee home information. All SPD officers currently have business cards, this would just change the process to actively offer business cards at traffic stops rather than on request.
 - ii. Use of Force, Status –Still under review because of changes that will be made due to the change in laws. Will formally include reference to de-escalation as the process is taught, but was not formally codified in policy.
- e. Case Review – Chief Lewis provided the following updates.
 - i. You may not have seen these in the news as they were suicidal incidents.
 1. 1.5 hour standoff with an intoxicated, suicidal veteran suffering from PTSD. Individual had an AR-15, handgun and alcohol bottle in his front yard. The individual asked to speak to the negotiator in Spanish, which the on-site negotiator accommodated. The individuals pointed the firearm and laser sight on officers and the officers showed notable restraint. The individual did eventually stand down and the situation resolved.
 2. A suicidal man cut his arm, had a knife in his hand and wanted the officers to shoot him. Officers were able to take the individual in to

custody without further escalation. The individual attempted to get away from medics when receiving treatment.

Chief wanted to highlight these situations as the public does not hear about the numerous times officers are able to provide service without use of force.

- ii. Incoming UO student and family had majority of her college items were stolen. Based on good investigation, SPD was able to identify a suspect and recover a majority of the stolen items.
- f. General Update – Springfield Elks club was nice and purchased hats and badges that are pink in honor of breast cancer awareness month. Patches are available for purchase and all proceeds go to breast cancer awareness efforts.

7. Business from the Committee

a. Structure of Public Comment at SPAC Meetings

- i. Jack Martin – Do we want to give people more time to talk or keep it the same?
- ii. Michael Bean – 30 minutes tonight got everyone on the list. In the future 20 minutes will probably be enough. Suggests stick with 20 minutes and extend if there is a glaring issue. Has been on the committee for years and the interest in public comment is new.
- iii. Terri Dillon – 20 minutes is good with some extension, as needed.
- iv. Joe Pishioneri – We need to have a structure and stick with it, unless there is a unique situation.
- v. Michael Bean – Recommends 20 minutes and believes the process will become more efficient on the technology side in the future.
- vi. Jack Martin – 20 minutes is plenty of time. Much of the information shared is the same.
 - 1. Michael Bean – It is important for all to be heard.
 - 2. Jack Martin – yes and there are other platforms to share information such as send written comment.
- vii. Joe Pishioneri – All should be heard and there is a platform for all to be heard. No one will be excluded. There are different forms of communication to be heard. Every email sent in is reviewed and reading is sometimes more effective. He thinks 20 minutes is fine and we should stick with that.
- viii. Johnny Kirschenmann – 20 minutes is good. He prefers the written communication so he can digest the information better.

b. Member Information Share –

- i. Jack – Nothing really to share.
- ii. Eric Ward – Unfortunate situation at Bob Kiefer Center just after Labor Day. Three activity buses were lost to an arsonist. Still looking in to the investigation with SPD and looking in to vehicle replacements. The damage could not have

come at a worse time regarding support to the community. Willamalane is doing their best to get back online. If anyone has information, please let SPD know. Other than that, they weathered the poor air quality due to wildfires.

- iii. Joe Pishioneri – Shared he has been researching the charge of this committee. There are certain parts of it that are behind the times, such as the committee was put together to meet quarterly. Information will be sent to committee members to make sure we all know expectations.

Adjourned 7:40pm