

11/5/20 Springfield Police Advisory Committee Minutes

Location: Remote GoToWebinar

Committee Members Attendance: Joe Pishioneri-Councilor, Barry Lind – Faith Community, Michael Bean – Local Business, Isa Aviad – Neighborhood At-Large (1), Jack Martin – Neighborhood At-Large (2), Teresa Dillon – Neighborhood At-Large (3), Johnny Kirschenmann – Neighborhood At-Large (4), Eric Adams – Willamalane Parks & Recreation

City Staff and Guest Attendance: Chief Lewis, Jessica Crawford, Michael Wargo, Willamalane Parks & Recreation

1. Welcome and Call to Order – 6:12pm
2. Roll Call - Completed
3. Minutes Approval for October 1, 2020 Meeting
 - Joe Pishioneri motioned to approve. Terri Dillon seconded approval. All in favor.
4. Business From the Audience
 - Public speakers:
 - Shaay Gallagher-Starr – Ward 6. Conveyed concern of current protocols and culture of current Springfield Police Department. Request committee address strategies to reduce inequities and violence, including 8 Can't Wait initiatives.
 - Thomas Kephart – Ward 6. Asked for clarification on Chief Lewis' comments regarding Use of Force policy at City Council, including situational response. Inquired about training given to officers and de-escalation.
 - Elizabeth Utterback – Ward 3. Concerned that SPAC long-range planning role not being utilized. Referenced communication sent to SPAC members after prior month's meeting and that she received no response. Provided topics she would like SPAC to discuss.
 - Marianne Senhouse – Former Springfield resident and works/shops in Springfield. Commented that community's request for change in SPD is met with resistance. Commented on black neighborhoods throughout the country are subjected to more police presence and asked how SPD will respond to this for the community.
 - Thomas Lawrence – Ward 1. Commented on City Council's Monday meeting and Use of Force policy information shared. Mentioned open carry of firearms and other weapons and commented about the threat they can create from a use of force perspective.
 - Angela Sellon – Ward 4. Posed question to Chief Lewis of how officers can reduce use of force and mentioned a particular scenario.
5. Committee Response
 - Michael Bean understood comment regarding committee's role in long-range planning. Proposed a work session to understand parameters of the committee. He has received many emails from the public and is unsure what he should and should not respond to. Clarifying SPAC bylaws and purpose would be helpful. Barry Lind and Isa Aviad

concluded. Chief advised he would reach out to the City Attorney's office to facilitate this request.

- Barry Lind asked for an update on what happened at Monday's City Council meeting, as it was referenced in multiple public comments this evening.

6. Business from the Chief

- "8 Can't Wait" Campaign – This topic was also discussed at the 11/2/20, Monday evening City Council Work Session. Chief discussed SPD's use of force and de-escalation training, as well as policy and procedure in consideration of the 8 Can't Wait national campaign. Content outlined in 10/26/20 "Use of Force 8 Can't Wait Campaign" Council Briefing Memorandum. SPAC member comments and questions included:
 - i. Joe Pishioneri suggested that a process for department use of force data and evaluations be routed to use of force instructors to evaluate approach to training.
 - ii. Michael Bean asked if a new Use of Force policy is being written. Chief confirmed that it is and will likely be finalized by the next meeting. It will incorporate recent law changes, as well as aspects related to the Kinney settlement.
 - iii. Isa Aviad asked if in the next year SPD could put together a community meeting to inform the community about use of force and include a video or other resource from the officer's point of view. Chief confirmed there is a system that provides simulations of use of force situations and could be valuable. In a virtual meeting environment it would be challenging.
 - iv. Michael Bean asked about the boundaries around open carry of firearms and shared a personal experience as a scenario. He asked if open carry makes officers nervous. Chief confirmed open carry is legal on public property and advised open carry does create a different dynamic and level of awareness for officers.
- General Update
 - i. Shared summary of employee hire and upcoming job opening processes.
 - ii. Two applicants for the open SPAC cultural minority community position will be interviewed by City Council at the November 9th Work Session.

7. Business from the Committee

- Member Information Share
 - i. Michael Bean shared that Chief Lewis has been under a microscope for several months, has a tough job and he has been doing very well.
 - ii. Michael Bean asked for an update on the City's independent investigation of the Thursday protest and if the investigator will speak with SPAC. Councilor Pishioneri shared that the investigator is contracted through January 2021 and anticipates community dialogue, that may include SPAC, to occur prior to the end of the contract.

- iii. Barry Lind shared an update regarding prior discussion on community dialogue. Barry spoke with Niel Laudati, Assistant City Manager, and learned the City Manager's Office intends to oversee that effort.
- iv. Eric Ward and Michael Wargo shared comments regarding a recent rally that occurred at Lively Park. They expressed appreciation for Springfield Police Department's support and involvement prior to and during the event to make sure it proceeded as peacefully as possible. Overall, the event was peaceful and orderly. Willamalane did receive some complaints after the event regarding concern of voter intimidation given there is a ballot box located at Lively Park. Safeguards had been put in place to address that potential concern, but there were still concerns raised.
 - 1. Michael Bean commented how impressive it was that Michael Wargo, Superintendent of Willamalane, was in attendance at the event.

Adjourned 1949.