

2/4/21 Springfield Police Advisory Committee Minutes

Location: GoToWebinar

Committee Members Present

Brittney de Alicante – Cultural Minority Community, 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

Absent: Joe Pishioneri, Isa Aviad.

1. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. New member Brittney de Alicante welcomed to the committee.
2. Roll Call – completed.
3. Minutes Approval for December 3, 2020 Meeting – Terri Dillon motioned to approve as written, Michael Bean seconded. Approved.
4. Business From the Audience
 - a. Holly Schaper – Ward 2. Asked for an update on policy for body-worn camera, use of force, and business cards.
 - b. Amy Cothron – Ward 5. Commented on November 2020 incident where an SPD officer did not enforce the facemask mandate and asked what the directive was from the Chief. Commented on white supremacy and active members in Springfield.
 - c. Elizabeth Utterback – Ward 3. Commented on local, regional and national activity since the December 2020 SPAC meeting and involvement of Springfield white nationalists. Asked if SPD officers attended 1/5/21 national capitol incident.
 - d. Xia Wang – Commented on pattern of white supremacy activity from specific Springfield community members and asked about SPD’s role in investigating white nationalist roles.
5. Committee Response
 - a. Chief Lewis responded to specific inquires:
 - i. The body-worn camera (BWC) policy is complete and waiting for Department of Justice grant staff approval, which is expected anytime. BWC initial project timeline will likely be revised.
 - ii. New business cards are being coordinated, including incorporation of Spanish content as per City Council comment. A business card policy should not take long to develop.
 1. In response to Brittney de Alicante’s follow up question regarding target date for business card policy, Chief Lewis commented that he anticipates it will be in place by the next SPAC meeting pending logistics of receiving the cards.

2. Brittney asked if State of Oregon’s bias reporting is available in Spanish. Chief was unsure without verifying, but asked her to email him and he would provide the contact information he has for that process.
 - iii. Use of force policy is still waiting on final version after attorney input.
 1. In response to Barry Lind’s follow up question regarding hard timeline for policy changes, Chief Lewis advised that the changes required by law are already in place via specific directives; there is no specific date that an updated policy must be finalized.
 2. Eric Ward suggested a standing agenda item of policy implementation updates.
 - iv. Regarding facemask enforcement, Chief advised SPD will provide education regarding facemask safety and requirements. Enforcement via citation for facemask requirements will be used in dire situations. SPD has been monitoring this topic via the Oregon Police Chief’s Association to be informed of how other agencies are handling facemask enforcement.
 - v. No SPD officers were at the referenced Washington D.C. event.
 - vi. One public speaker noted specific individuals. For clarification, this is not the forum for SPD to speak about specific individuals associated with open or active cases, or cases that have not been adjudicated.
 - vii. Regarding SPD’s activity towards extremists, specific techniques used to monitor any groups would not be shared. There are specific Oregon laws and related department policy regarding gathering intelligence on political groups, which will be adhered to.
 - b. Jack Martin stated he did not agree with some public comment.
 - c. Michael Bean stated he strongly appreciates everyone’s comments. He hears that there are populations in the community that feel unsafe and perceive there is favoritism to white nationalists. This is especially due to video that is online, which is edited to look like that. He hears the Chief state that it is not the case. Are there Proud Boys in Springfield?
 - i. Chief responded that there are Proud Boys in Springfield and likely in any community of a larger size. He understands it is a difficult situation and police find themselves in the middle of it. We do not take sides in the those situations.
 - d. Johnny Kirschenmann commented on Elizabeth Utterback’s comments regarding extremists being unlawful outside of their local area, like those from Canada. He agrees that individuals who are unlawful should be held accountable.
 - e. Brittney de Alicante thanked the individuals providing public comments.
6. Business from the Chief
- a. Public messaging –

- i. SPD policies have been posted online, except those marked confidential which typically contain tactical related information.
 - ii. Updated complaint related material has been prepared and will be online in both English and Spanish. Complaints can also be submitted online.
 - iii. Chris Solares, Community Outreach Coordinator, has left the City for a private sector opportunity. He was valued and will be missed.
 - iv. A Police Community Information Coordinator position will be hired soon to assist with public information related duties. The Community Outreach Coordinator position will also be filled in the future.
 - b. State of Oregon STOP Report – Summary and information on the 2020 report.
 - i. Report includes data gathered from officer self-initiated activity to identify potential disparity in service based on officer’s perception of race. Review of SPD data using the reports’ three analytical methods indicated there was no apparent disparity by SPD.
 - ii. SPD officers were provided clarification and reference material regarding how to report searches for STOP data (discretionary vs non-discretionary searches).
 - iii. Brittney de Alicante asked if SPD compared data in the State’s report to race percentages in Springfield population. Brittney shared a concern of the rate of black individuals were stopped in comparison to the population in the community. Chief Lewis advised local population was discussed and agreed that updated census information could provide information that can be looked at in the future, however Springfield only or Springfield and Eugene population may need to be considered due to proximity. Chief Lewis further advised the “veil of darkness” analytical approach within the State’s report did not note disparity and is used as a statistical indicator to identify racial disparity for stop initiation.
 - c. Fiscal year 2021-22 budget – To meet City budget targets, two positions will be proposed for elimination in the upcoming budget: one records and one patrol community service officer. The positions are vacant and have been for an extended period of time. The City budget committee makes the final determination on whether the positions are permanently removed.
 - d. General update
 - i. Michael Bean asked for an update on when independent Thurston incident investigation will be available to the public. Chief advised he is unsure on a timeline.
- 7. Business from the Committee
 - a. SPAC Officer Election of Chair/Vice-Chair – positions are two year appointments
 - i. Chair - Michael Bean nominated Barry Lind. Jen McCulley seconded. Barry Lind accepted and all voted to approve.

ii. Vice-chair –

1. Jack Martin nominated Michael Bean. Michael Bean declined.
2. Michael Bean nominated Johnny Kirschenmann. Terri Dillon seconded. Johnny accepted and all voted to approve.

b. Member Information Share

- i. Michael Bean inquired on the process to implement measure 110. Chief advised that SPD will adhere to the law and received direction from the District Attorney's office to do so. Officers were provided training in this regard.
- ii. Brittney de Alicante – Asked if there is a reason the patrol community service officer position was open for so long and is there a service delivery impact. Chief Lewis advised due to timing consideration as the meeting is about to conclude, we could discuss it in a future meeting or she could call him tomorrow to discuss.

Adjourned at 7:34pm.